

### Attention: Romeos & Julietts

There's still time to enter our "Lessons in Love" contest. Just describe your idea of a romantic evening for two in 100 words or less. The winner receives a night out on the town!

Friday, Feb. 8, that includes two Rod Wing tickets, dinner for two at Cafe Cortina, limousine service, candy and flowers.

To enter, you must be at least 18 years old and very romantic. We must receive your entry by Jan. 25. The winner will be announced Jan. 31. Send entries to: Cathy Young, Lessons in Love Contest, Observer Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, phone: (734) 953-2155; fax: (734) 953-2232; e-mail: cyoung@oe.homecomm.net

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Special supplement: The Observer and Eccentric newspapers has published a special 24-page publication for the Oakland County Treasurer's Department, called "Notice of Foreclosure." This publication lists thousands of business and residential properties and the amount of back taxes owed on them. Copies of the supplement will be available for purchase at a cost of 75 cents each, at the Farmington Observer office, 33411 Grand River.

## FRIDAY

Americas Ballet: Farmington High School presents Dance of the Americas Ballet at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11 in the school auditorium. Call (248) 489-3412.

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Starting January 13th the deadlines for ALL lines will be:

SUNDAY PAPER ..... 5:00PM Friday  
THURSDAY PAPER ..... 5:30PM Tuesday

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## Districts vary in start time approach



**Farmington and West Bloomfield Schools appear to be at the forefront of a movement toward later school start times. Both have done significant studies of the impacts on busing and other areas of school life.**

BY SUE BUCK  
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The West Bloomfield and Farmington School Districts have made significant strides in both exploring and possibly implementing later start times for high schoolers, based on adolescent sleep time research.

Some research indicates that teens don't get enough sleep because they go to bed late and then get up early to catch buses for classes that start at 7:30 a.m. or earlier. Experts are concerned that excessive sleepiness contributes to decreased concentration, reduced short-term memory and learning ability, moodiness, inconsistent performance and poor productivity.

West Bloomfield school officials took their buses through a dry run before the holidays to see if the altered schedule would work, according to Steve Wasko, coordinator of information services. The school board has scheduled a public hearing 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at West Bloomfield High School. How the changes will impact logistics, athletics and co-op job appointments will be discussed.

"We may be closer than others," Wasko said. "There seems to be great support. There appears to be rejoicing in some quarters."  
High school start times there would be delayed by about an hour to 8:15 or 8:21 a.m.

Farmington Schools have gone so far as to organize groups of volunteers to examine the logistics of start time changes. Four subcommittees will deliver their reports at 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street.

The District has always been at the forefront of this issue. Last year, Superintendent Bob Maxfield put out an invitation to area school districts to determine which were interested in exploring later school start times. Besides Farmington and West Bloomfield, the consortium consists of:

Please see **START, A2**



Mists of Winter

Who goes there?: What looks like a mysterious scene is just cold weather and morning light at Super Carwash System's Orchard Lake and Grand River facility. Nearly a week of light snow left many vehicles salt-encrusted.

STAFF PHOTO BY HILL DRESLER

## City officials take a look at '02 goals

BY SUE BUCK  
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Farmington City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 7 to discuss 2002 goals and objectives, which will be considered for adoption at the regular 8 p.m. meeting.

The goals, last discussed in November, are to:

- Maintain public properties in good repair and in an aesthetically pleasing manner and manage the condition of aging infrastructure in the city;
- Maintain a program of community maintenance;
- Maintain the economic vitality of all commercial areas in the city and preserve the city's historical character and charm;
- Support incremental implementation of selected aspects of the major processes; This could include the master plan.
- Commit to environmental improvement and aesthetic enhancement of the community and to public recognition for individuals and organizations who demonstrate a special achievement in the community;
- Expand the productivity of the Downtown Development Authority;

Please see **GOALS, A2**

## Hills begins ALS transport service

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
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Most people don't want to be given shots of medication or an IV, strapped onto a stretcher, placed in an ambulance and rushed to the hospital.

But the thinking in Farmington Hills is that it's better to have these services immediately available, rather than call someone else to provide them. The city began transporting advanced life support or "ALS" patients this week. This means patients requiring invasive emergency care such as shots, medicines and IVs can be transported to a hospital by Hills emergency workers.

Kevin Bersche, Hills' EMS coordina-

tor, said so far the service is going well.

"Our transporting (patients) is a new service," Bersche said. "On Jan. 2, we took on the responsibility of transporting patients to the hospital in fire department vehicles rather than turning them over to Community EMS (a Southfield ambulance firm)."

In March, 1998, Farmington Hills began providing first response ALS treatment, but continued turning over transport services to Community EMS.

Having to depend upon an outside company for patient transport proved problematic at times.

"The downside was that if (ambulances) were in another part of the district, that didn't do us a whole lot of good," Bersche said.

A few years ago, Hills city council members decided to look into providing full ALS service and transport.

Councilman Jerry Ellis said that though council took its time to approve the measure, it was very worthwhile.

"We can operate in a more efficient and productive manner," he said.

Bersche agreed.

"We feel that it provides the best service to the community," he said. "We can provide any invasive procedure, place (patients) in our units and take them to an appropriate hospital."

Invasive procedures include administering IVs, medications and shots — basically any medical procedure that "invades" the body, according to Bersche. Stabilization procedures such

as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and splinting fractured limbs are not considered invasive services.

Extensive training was required. Fire department personnel received 550 hours of classroom and clinical time. Career staffers were trained, as well as the paid on-call staffers, who receive an hourly wage for weekend and after-hours calls.

Patients who don't need ALS service will still be transported by Community EMS. City Manager Steve Brock said that not only will patients benefit, but the city will, too.

"We will be able to collect revenue from the transports ourselves," Brock said.

## Seeing Christ in everyone was 'her real work'

### Former Madonna president remembered at funeral

Family, friends, area religious and governmental leaders joined the Felician Sisters and the Madonna University community Friday in celebrating the life and spirit of Sister Mary Francilene Van de Vyver at a Mass of the Resurrection.

More than 600 people packed the Felician Sisters Chapel on Chalico Drive to say goodbye and honor the former Madonna University president who died surrounded by her personal family and Felician family shortly before midnight Dec. 31 of pancreatic and liver cancer.

The religious community was led by Cardinal Adam Maida and four bishops

representing the Detroit Archdiocese and Sister Mary Renetta, provincial minister and president of the Felician Sisters of Livonia.

Sister Francilene was remembered for her strong faith, devotion to religious life, her passion for service and leadership and her love for all people. She was praised and eulogized by her fellow Felician, the Rev. Kenneth McKenna, who officiated at the Mass and Cardinal Maida.

The service was signed for the hearing impaired at Sister Francilene's request.

"She selected the readings for today and asked that I not speak of her but of

the readings," said McKenna, expounding on the theme of the liturgy: "There is only Christ. He is everything and He is in everything."

"To see Christ in everyone and everything was her real work," said McKenna.

"She embraced religious life — poverty, chastity and obedience. She was focused in life on her vocation. She had a wonderful way of connecting with people and loving people," he said, adding, "She was able to love the good in everyone."

Cardinal Maida spoke of his last visit with her a week ago in which they talked, laughed and prayed. He called

her "a friend" and a woman of "extraordinary goodness."

Sister Renetta, leader of the Felician, told those present, "Sister Francilene's spirit lives on in all of us."

Friends and colleagues came from throughout the country to say goodbye. Sister Marcella Marie and two other Felician colleagues drove from Buffalo, N.Y., for the funeral. They navigated through more than seven feet of snow and left at 2:30 a.m.

Thursday to attend the service. "We were colleagues and she was very special," said Sister Marcella



Sister Francilene

Please see **FUNERAL, A2**