

## Charges sought in fatal crash

■ Gerald and Barbara Gorzeck of Farmington Hills were almost home Friday night when their vehicle was struck by a Camaro that had been speeding on Orchard Lake Road. An investigation continues, and charges may be filed against the Camaro's 16-year-old driver.

BY PAUL R. PACE  
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The Farmington Hills Police Department continues to investigate a fatal traffic accident that occurred on Orchard Lake Road south of 14 Mile at about 11:30 p.m. Friday.

A Farmington Hills couple died as a result of the crash that shut down the road for several hours.

"They were highly respected in the community," said Police Chief William Dwyer of Barbara Gorzeck, 68 and her husband, Gerald Gorzeck, 78. "They were coming home from being volunteer ushers at the Fox Theatre."

■ The witness told police the Camaro was seen cutting into the other lane and reaching an estimated 100 miles per hour.

According to police, a witness told them the 16-year-old driver of the Camaro challenged him to a drag race at a red light on Orchard Lake at 14 Mile heading south.

The other driver declined, but the witness told police the boy accelerated at a high rate of speed after the light turned green. The witness told police the Camaro was seen cutting into the other lane and reaching an estimated 100 miles per hour.

The Camaro hit the passenger side of the Gorzecks' Cadillac, which was turning left into their private drive, according to witnesses. Both were pronounced dead at Botsford Hospital.

The Camaro driver and his 16-year-old passenger, a cousin, were treated and released.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Deadly wreck: Police are investigating a crash involving this Camaro Z28, which had been purchased just a few days for the accident that killed a Farmington Hills couple. It was driven by a 16 year old young man, who escaped with minor injuries.



Praise Mom with a poem

Celebrate your mother with a poem and win a prize for her courtesy of the Observer Newspapers.

We're inviting our young readers, 13 and under, to submit a poem in praise of their mother. The poem can take any form from haiku to sonnet to free verse. A panel of judges will select their favorite.

Seven winning poets will win a gift for mom. The prizes include an 11- by 14-inch portrait for up to 14 people from Focal Point Photography in Farmington and Canton (sitting fee is included), \$100 gift certificate to Ernesto's Restaurant in Plymouth Township, \$100 gift certificate to Antonio's Italian Cucina in Farmington Hills, \$100 gift certificate to Sandtraps in Livonia, and more.

We'll publish the winning entry and other entries on Mother's Day.

Entries are due to The Observer by Monday, May 6.

Send entries to Mother's Day Contest, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax to (734)591-7279 or e-mail to hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Film Fest: David Magidson's It Happened Here is one of many films being shown during the fourth annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival./B1

HOMETOWN LIFE

Walking: Men and woman toning up with one idea in mind - to walk 60 miles in the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day./C6

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLER

Sculpted: Farmington Hills artist Bernadette Marcos at work in her studio.

## Still life

### Sculptor sees art in her view of the world

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
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Sculptor Bernadette Zachara-Marcos sees the world a little differently than most people. She may watch her 13-year-old daughter, Andrea, reading a book and envision a potential statue. Or she may see Andrea and her sister Erica, 11, as faerie-like figures for a sculpture in her head. She may stare closely at a daughter's neck to study it for a bust, causing the daughter to protest, "Mommy...."

As a culmination of these talents, Zachara-Marcos, a 30-year sculptor, was recently named the 2002 Artist in Residence by the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

Her pieces can be seen in the Hills area, the Detroit area and even in Flint. Her statue of a child reading a book sits in front of O.E. Dunckel Middle School, 32800 W. 12 Mile. The child was modeled after Erica.

The piece was commissioned by the North Farmington Garden Club, which in turn nominated her as Artist in Residence.

"She really has a wonderful talent for making people come alive," said Jolene Markovich, vice president of the Garden Club and 12-year member.

They didn't realize the scope of her three-dimensional talents until they commissioned her — for what

Markovich said was a nominal fee — to do the Dunckel sculpture.

"Oh my God, she's really talented," she said, describing her reaction to seeing Zachara-Marcos' portfolio.

Over her sculpting career, she has immortalized the

Please see SCULPTOR, A6

## Festival opens April 27 with 'Starry Night' gala

The annual Festival of the Arts, a celebration of the many high-quality artistic offerings in the Farmington Hills/Farmington community, will be held April 27 through May 5 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. The gala begins with the Starry Night Gala on April 27, black-tie optional evening with live music, a gourmet dinner and silent and strolling auctions.

More than 100 paintings will be exhibited and for sale.

There will be live performances, displays and

Please see FESTIVAL, A6

## Center offers help for small businesses

■ Housed in the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber offices, the Small Business Development Center that opened recently in Farmington Hills.

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
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Small business owners or future small business owners in the Oakland County area will now be able to get a helping hand, thanks to a Small Business Development Center that opened recently in Farmington Hills.

The center, which will provide one-on-one counseling and low-cost training to new and existing Oakland County small businesses, celebrated a grand opening April 16 at its office at 30903 W. Ten Mile, the same site as the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Kay Reisen, satellite director, said small businesses need more of a helping hand than larger businesses. There are 25 million small businesses in the U.S., which represents more than 99 percent of all employers. Yet one-third of all new start-ups fail within the first six months and 75 percent shut down within five years.

Small businesses are defined as those employing 500 people or less.

"The purpose (of the center) is to build the local economy and to build jobs," Reisen said.

The center represents a partnership with Eastern Michigan University, Earl Potter, dean of the EMU College of Business, attended the grand opening Tuesday.

"We're excited to have the Farmington Hills Chamber as a partner. This is important to EMU (because) our students come from this region," Potter said.

A majority of EMU students hail from Washtenaw, Wayne and Oakland counties and tend to stay in the vicinity after graduation, according to Potter.

Please see CENTER, A6

## Board approves shared time guidelines

BY SUE BUCK  
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Farmington school board members approved a resolution Tuesday that supports the development of shared time plans with private and parochial schools in the district.

But the approval of such plans depends on a strong level of support from the requesting school community.

The board postponed action March 19 so that more discussion could take place between parents and administra-

tion at Our Lady of Sorrows parochial school, which had asked to have public school teachers take over art, music and physical education classes. No focus groups or public forums were held; however, OLS parish pastor Mr. Walter Hurley has publicly stated the agreement will move forward.

The board also authorized Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxfield to appoint a committee to work with Sorrows representatives to consider a shared time plan for possible implementation no sooner than the 2003-2004 school year.

Farmington Public Schools expects to receive between \$175,000-\$200,000 net revenue annually as a result of the agreement. Farmington public school teachers would bring art, music and physical education to grades 1-5 and physical education for grades 6-8.

Board members Jack Inch and Priscilla Brouillette opposed the measure, which passed with a 6-2 vote.

Done deal? Brouillette said she doesn't often vote against administrative recommendations but had many reasons to do so

this time. "I don't have confidence that the Monsignor (Walter A. Hurley) really understood what we were saying to you," Brouillette said.

An April 18 letter to parishioners from Monsignor Hurley made it sound like this is a done deal, Brouillette said. "I'm concerned about the use of our administration's time over the next year dealing with this."

She also cited a lack of dialogue at OLS. She was uncomfortable that a shared time decision may drive people

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