

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## Contract dispute continues

# Are Hills police highest paid in country?

**FARMINGTON HILLS**—Although the police officers' association (FHPDA) and the City of Farmington Hills will soon be entering into discussions about the police officers' next contract, the current three-year contract is still unsettled.

The current contract calls for a board to be established to hear and rule on the grievances, according to Joe Valente, president of Teamsters Local 214, which represents the policemen.

When the current contract was negotiated it included a formula for cost-of-living raises for the patrolmen. If implemented, the clause could make the Farmington Hills officers the highest paid patrolmen in the country, city officials say.

The officers, he said, would accept mediators from any one of what he called the three established arbitration agencies: the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Board, the American Arbitration Association and the Michigan Employment Relations Committee.

City Attorney Joseph Brennan said the formula listed in the contract included a mistake which would allow the officers to collect the cost of living increases more than once during the term of the contract.

Valente said the city attorney would not accept arbitrators from any of the three agencies and wanted to appoint his own.

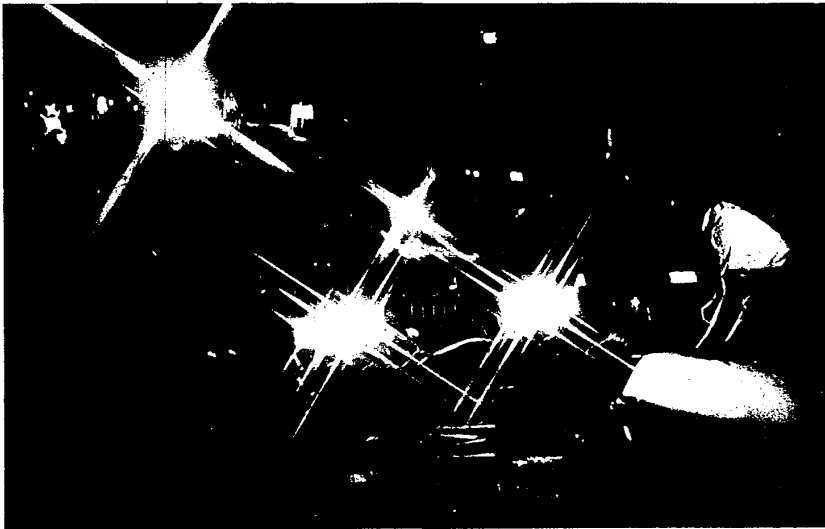
When the "mistake" became evident last April, the city filed suit in circuit court to have the contract amended. The association filed a counter-complaint against the city.

"We would like to see this board established to help ease the frustrations and grievances among the officers," he said.

Last week, the association amended its complaint, charging the city with stalling in settling grievances, including the cost-of-living issue.

"However, Brennan refuses to deal with any of the established boards. We told him we would take representatives from any of the three, but he said he wanted to appoint three

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### Three people hurt in accident

Attendants from County Ambulance Service prepare to move one of five people injured in an accident Friday night at Grand River and Halstead roads. All five people were taken to Botsford hospital, where they were treated and released. According to Farmington Hills police, the accident occurred when a car driven by Carol Nail, 39, of Walled

Lake, crossed over the center line while turning onto Halstead from Grand River. Her car hit a car driven by Anne Garth, 24, of Belleville. The other three injured, all Belleville residents, were: Doris Flanagan, 50; Annissa Garth, 4; and Gary Garth, 2. Ms. Nail was cited for hazardous driving.

Photographed by Craig Newman

## Chance meeting sprouts memorial

**FARMINGTON HILLS**—An accidental meeting between a student and an Oakland Community College record clerk meant the dream of a memorial tree for the Orchard Ridge campus could become a reality.

When Gunn heard of her plan, he told her he would include her trees in the group he was planning to move. The chance meeting of Gunn and Mrs. Tybinka culminated in not one, but five trees being moved to the area adjacent to the records office where Mrs. Tybinka works.

The student, John Gunn, the owner of a nursery in Novi, had become interested in the work of the campus development committee. And had offered to move some trees from a swampy, wooded area of the campus to a tree-less area.

"I am pleased that my special tree will serve as a living memorial to my son and can be enjoyed by thousands and thousands of students and visitors who come to Orchard Ridge in the future," Mrs. Tybinka said.

However, before the project began, Gunn happened to be in the records office when he overheard a clerk, Mrs. Betty Tybinka, discussing plans for a memorial for her son, Tim. Tybinka was killed in an accident in 1973.

Gunn also moved six maple trees which now line the boulevard, which visitors use as they enter the campus. Gunn graduated from the campus in June with a straight A average.

STAFF MEMBERS had contributed to a fund to help Mrs. Tybinka offset the cost of moving a tree from her home to the campus.

He is also an ordained minister of the Assembly of God Church in Walled Lake, and has attended Central Bible College in Springfield, Miss.

# Eagle School's 'Bucket Brigade' means individual attention

By JUDY OWEN

At first glance, the "Bucket Brigade" women carrying their green plastic pails through the Eagle School hallways look like zealous mothers concerned about school litter. Zealous? Maybe. Concerned? Definitely.

But their concerns are with children who have learning difficulties. The women, all volunteers, work with youngsters on a one-to-one basis to help them function better academically in the classroom.

THEY DRAW from their green plastic bag of tricks—a proverbial bottomless pail filled with games, cards and small candies. Coordinating the Eagle School program is Dingley Sharp, reading consultant. Working with Mrs. Sharp is Ruby Martin, Eagle's PTA president.

is a much more pleasant experience," she said. The volunteers have also been an important source of items used in the bucket.

The two women have recruited 30 volunteers for this year's program. Some of the volunteers have been involved with the program since it

Each student always has the same volunteer and meets twice a week in half-hour sessions. "There's no stigma about the bucket," Mrs. Martin said. "All of the children know who the bucket lady is. All the children know she's fun to be with. All the children

Each VOLUNTEER keeps a complete record which includes day-to-day activities with the child. The teachers can see this record, but it is not included in the child's permanent educational file. Concern, commitment, consistency and confidentiality are four important parts of the volunteer's role in the program.

Currently, volunteers are being trained. Persons interested in donating a half hour twice a week are asked to contact Mrs. Sharp or Mrs. Martin at Eagle School.

### For office use

## Farmington buys computer

By JUDY OWEN

**FARMINGTON**—A mini-computer will be purchased to aid the treasurer's office in its water billing, budgetary accounting, payroll and special assignments functions.

Buying a mini-computer would be a "more viable alternative" as it could handle more than one function, Deadman said.

The electronic computer manufactured by Philips Business Systems, Inc., will cost the city \$22,386. The city council approved a \$3,000 down payment with the balance to be financed at 6.5 percent through National Bank of Detroit over five years.

Deadman said his office had investigated the feasibility of hiring a computer service company to do the water billing. For this function alone, he said that start-up costs would be \$2,300, and the annual cost would be \$5,000.

IN OTHER action, the council rejected the state construction code and opted to establish its own by adopting a series of nationally-recognized model building codes. If the city were to accept the state building code, there would be no provisions for amendments, Deadman said. The city could receive only those

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JOHN W. CURRIE recently donated this 20-foot Colorado Blue Spruce to the City of Farmington. The city council accepted his gift Monday. (Evert photo)

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