

Spotlight put on college theater, 1C



Boys cage wrap, 2B

Harger House talks are continuing, 2A

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture to ship a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

SPRUCING UP

The staff at the Farmington YMCA will take on a new look for the holidays.

Their holiday gift from Y executive director Kevin Bush came via Mae Arvo, who put the staff through their color analysis and image paces to give them a special glow.

Arvo is a glamor-minded grandmother who heads up classes at Oakland Community College. The Novi resident teaches how to create "A Beautiful New You."

IT'S a special visit. "Santa and his elves" paid a holiday visit to EDS/CAMS in Farmington Hills Friday, one leg of a statewide, seven-city caravan.

Aboard a \$250,000 high-tech custom mobile office, they're taking more than a week to personally deliver Christmas baskets to every Contract Professionals Inc. employee. The elves are really CPI managers. Santa is CPI president Steve York.

It would be simpler to mail gifts or ship a Christmas turkey or ham. But that just isn't good enough for our employees, York said.

"I consider the staff of CPI as my extended family. Like many families, we're scattered throughout the country. Christmas is a time for families to reunite. It's impossible to bring our people to a single location, so we want to go to them."

CPI supplies temporary professional staffing to manufacturers, designers and engineering firms.

ON BOARD

Nine Farmington Hills probationary firefighters have completed state-certified recruit school for firefighters and have been assigned to fire stations. They are Frank Arbour, Edmer Barwick, Steven Crane, Peter Duncan, Paul Frayne, Linas Gilydas, Gregory Teller, Gregory Vargason and Alan Walters.

Three other previously certified firefighters also have joined the Farmington Hills Fire Department: Ronald Battani, Donald Sepanski and Paul Beale.

LOOKING for a way to unwind during the holidays?

The Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus Community Activities Building will open at 8 a.m. Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 2-4.

Facilities include an olympic-size pool, a weight/exercise room, a multipurpose room and racquetball courts. The campus is at 4-696 and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — State Sen. Jack Foxon, D-Farmington Hills, believes legislation limiting the rights of smokers in public and work places statewide has a "good chance" of passing in 1986.

Change in day care law urged

'If these cities determine we're running businesses in our homes, there'll be a lot of people who can't go to work.'

— Penny Mitchell
Oakland County Child Care Association

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Darlene Feldman is crusading to keep baby-sitting legal in Farmington Hills.

The Hills resident is one of 23 state-licensed home day care operators in the city and 955 in Oakland County who care for children in their homes, according to state and county child care officials. They face — or have faced — problems with local ordinances restricting such child care.

Many child care providers in Farmington Hills are breaking the law and could be subject to misdemeanor violations — 90 days in jail and \$500 fines — if laws are enforced by the city, Feldman said. This type of law requiring specific acreage and frontage on a major street "shouldn't be applicable to women in their homes."

Armed with a recently issued violation notice from the city's zoning department followed by a variance denial from the city's zoning board of appeals Tuesday, the former Oak

Park commissioner is taking action through city channels to change the current law.

The city council is scheduled to discuss the proposed change tonight as an item of new business during its regular meeting.

Her proposed ordinance change calls for "state-certified quality home day care" as a "permitted accessory use of land in an RA-1, or single family residential zone" and that "such use is not subject to special conditions."

FELDMAN WAS put on notice by

the city because of a neighbor's complaint last June regarding excessive traffic, according to Zoning Supervisor Hal Rowe. The city postponed action against Feldman until now because she was recuperating from a car accident, she said.

Areas in which Feldman was out of compliance with the current ordinance included, according to Rowe: requirements that a child care facility border on either a primary or secondary road, that the operator have

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Detective often carries cases home with her

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

When she goes home each day, Sandie Rochford strives to forget her caseload as a juvenile officer so she can enjoy her 10-month-old daughter, Kimberly.

But sometimes, no matter how hard she tries, she can't forget. Her sense of what's right won't let her.

"Sexual assault cases involving young children you don't leave at your desk," says the Farmington Hills Police Department Juvenile and Crime Prevention Section officer.

"The impact is tremendous. You feel for the families — for the victims and for their parents."

Rochford, a juvenile officer for six years, often receives calls from mothers of sexually assaulted children — from mothers fearing the worst because they can't measure the hurt their children now feel.

"I wish I could do more for them," said Rochford, 34. "But there's nothing I could say or do that would make their hurt go away. Time heals some of it, but being molested is a lot of hurt for a child to get over."

It's the innocence and helplessness of the victims that drives

people

'Sexual assault cases involving young children you don't leave at your desk.'

— Sandie Rochford
juvenile detective

Rochford to do her damndest in search of justice. "I have a hard time understanding how a youngster can become a victim of a crime, let alone a sexual assault."

IT'S NO surprise many parents, fearing publicity, shy away from calling the police if their child is molested.

But that fear is almost always unfounded. "I've only had one case where a child had to testify in court. Usually, the accused pleads guilty to the charge or to a lesser

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Police officer Sandie Rochford, at home with daughter, Kimberly.

More spas raided

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Five women who were arrested in a raid Thursday of two Southfield Oriental health spas — one owned by a woman who is suing the city of Farmington Hills — are free on \$500 bond each pending a Dec. 29 arraignment in 46th District Court.

Three women were arrested at the Kimono Health Spa, 24445 Telegraph, and two at the Shogun Oriental Health Spa, 23100 Telegraph.

The women's names and nationalities were not released pending arraignment, said Lt. Ronald Palmquist, supervisor of the vice and narcotics division of the Southfield Police Department.

The five women, ranging in age from 25 to 40, are charged with accosting and soliciting, a misdemeanor that, upon conviction, carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail, Palmquist said.

The owner of the Shogun spa, Un Chia Shinn, also is the owner of the Tokyo Oriental Health Spa on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. She was not among the women arrested in the Thursday raids.

Southfield police, working in conjunction with the Michigan State Police and the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service at 2:30 p.m. Thursday conducted simultaneous raids at the two spas.

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Stronger voice

Community involvement in schools urged

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Parent groups should be more than "cookie and tea parties," according to the head of the Farmington Area PTA Council.

Roxanne Fitzpatrick thinks parents should be an active policy-making force in Farmington Public Schools, and it's time for parents at all levels to rally and organize.

Her PTA council is proposing a Community Coordinating Council involving parents from all grades and all schools. Such a group would possibly involve Parent/Teacher Association locals, Independent Parent/Teacher Organizations, high school band booster groups and even the Student Round Table group representing high school students, she said.

Although the Farmington elementary schools have strong PTA and PTO groups, and the high school parents work for older students as band boosters, the middle school parents have nothing, she said. "That's one of the crucial times," she said. "The peer pressures are very obvious."

"WHO'S TO say that everything we're doing is right?" she said about Farmington schools and the involvement of current parent groups. "I want to see more of us working together."

"The PTA is not the main crux,"

'If we're going to do anything this year, it's to make people more aware of their own district and effects (on education) at the state level. We haven't done it in years gone by — and now we are.'

— Roxanne Fitzpatrick
Farmington Hills



she added, although as a PTA proponent, she admits she would like to see all schools PTA affiliated. "This is the next best thing."

Fitzpatrick has discussed the plan with representatives from the six PTA member elementary schools, including Flinders, Longacre, Gill, Eagle, Kenbrook and Lakeshire and plans to approach parent groups from other schools soon to coordinate a community meeting, possibly as soon as January.

If plans progress, she hopes to have the group active by the end of this school year.

She also met during the past year with members of the school administration to garner support for the Coordinating Council concept. "The number-one thing . . . is that we must get support from administration at the top," she said. "They must feel what you're doing will benefit the district."

FITZPATRICK SAID she feels the district will welcome parental efforts.

School board members, administrators and principals will receive a packet with the group's proposal before the coordinating meeting is scheduled.

"I know we'll have obstacles," she said. "We still have a little ways to go. I want to get them (the ideas) all concrete."

"If we're going to do anything this year, it's to make people more aware of their own district and effects (on education) at the state level," she said. "We haven't done it in years gone by — and now we are. It's a good idea that we all work together."

AND SHE is committed to leading such a group.

The changes were prompted not only by a personal goal Fitzpatrick set for herself and her group, but by the changes going on in the administrative and curriculum structure of Farmington Public Schools.

With a new superintendent and executive administrative group, the district is looking at a kindergarten through 12th grade approach — the same goal facing a Coordinating Council if it is formed.

Fitzpatrick said such a coordinated effort will work to help students — the main goal of any parents group.

She said most parent groups haven't separated themselves from fund-raising activities to move into the crux of educational issues occurring on a local and state level.

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