



# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

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**I**T'S official. Farmington High graduate Melanie Churella Miss Farmington for 1986, was crowned acting Miss Michigan by Kaye Lani Rae Rafoof of Monroe Friday night in Muskegon. Rafoof, named Miss Michigan in June, was crowned Miss America Sept. 19. Churella, a Farmington Hills resident, finished first runner-up to Rafoof in the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant, held in Muskegon. Both are 24.

**BOOSTER** Day is nearing for North Farmington High. On Wednesday, Nov. 4, a percentage of total sales at the Great Scott! at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads will be donated to North Farmington to support academic, extracurricular, drama, music and sports programs. Students will provide free grocery carryout and entertainment.

**BACK** on board. Gov. James Blanchard has reappointed Millon Moss of Farmington Hills to the State Board of Boiler Rules. His new term expires June 30, 1991. The reappointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Farmington Public Schools officials don't plan to sue Farmington over the city's proposed multi-year tax increment financing plan to help revitalize downtown. But the school board did not formally offer a vote of confidence or support for Downtown Development Authority plans to establish a tax increment financing authority.

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**Reminder**

Your Observer Carrier will stop by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

## Overcrowded schools studied

By Casey Hans staff writer

**Graham Lewis, superintendent of schools, called the group a "talented array of people" representing the taxpaying community.**

A seven-member community panel organized last week will decide how to handle overcrowding and inequities in Farmington schools. Committee members will use feedback from larger parent and staff sub-groups at elementary, middle school and high schools, and formulate a recommendation for the school board by Jan. 19. They are expected to discuss a range of possibilities, from total

redistricting, to different uses for school buildings, to constructing one or more elementary schools on the district's west side. Of the seven community members, some have children in Farmington schools and others do not. Superintendent Graham Lewis called the group a "talented array of people" representing the taxpaying community. Each of the seven Farmington school board trustees chose a person to serve after formation of the committee earlier this month. Trustees

hoped to get a geographic cross-section of residents, representing all areas of the district. The panel met Tuesday to organize, according to school officials. **SERVING ON** the boundary study committee: • Warren-Brown is a 9-year resident of Farmington Hills who lives in Meadowbrook Hills. He has two sons and a background in mechanical engineering and business administration. Brown was nominated by school board President Helen Ditzhay.

• Gary Otsuji is a physician with a family practice in Southfield and lives on Larkspur in the city of Farmington. He has been a resident since 1973, has five children, and is currently the athletic team physician for Farmington High School. Otsuji was nominated by trustee Jack Colton. • Kathy Roeder is a speech pathologist at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, where she coordinates an in-patient services program. She lives on New Bedford in the city of

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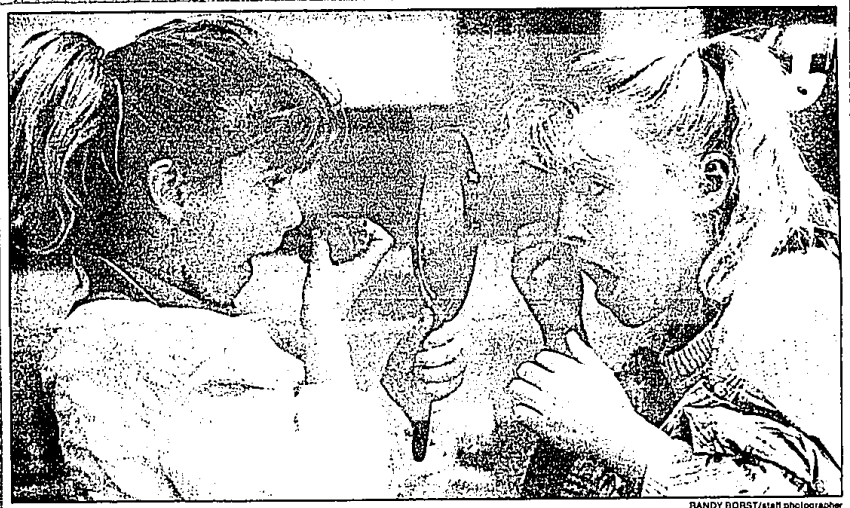
## 1 found guilty of murder

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A Detroit man Monday was found guilty of murder, his half-brother acquitted of murder and a third defendant convicted of conspiracy to rob in the 1986 robbery-slaying of a Farmington Hills chauffeur. The three were tried before Oakland County Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper in the death of Edward S. Chapman of Detroit on Feb. 28, 1986, in the parking area at Hunter's Ridge Apartments. Chapman was a chauffeur and handyman for an elderly resident of the exclusive apartment complex on 14 Mile, just west of Orchard Lake Road. He died of a gunshot wound to the head, the Oakland County Medical Examiner ruled. "We had two juries. They were all tried separately but at the same time," said Farmington Hills police detective Patrick Monti, about the weeklong trials. After deliberating more than four hours Monday, a jury found Jermal Edward Tipton, 17, guilty on three counts: first-degree felony murder, conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possessing a firearm in the commission of a felony. A second jury deliberated only 15 minutes before finding Nellie

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## Unmasking who's who



Wooddale Elementary students Courtney Batherson (left), 8, and Lisa Richardson, 9, clean their faces after having plaster of Paris masks removed. The masks, part of a class project at the Farmington Community Schools elementary, were applied wet and conformed to the features of the children's faces. Even the school principal got into the act. After they dried, the masks were painted and displayed in the classroom. For the story and more pictures, see Page 3A.

## Keeping tabs on a rebounding market

□ Slumping market's effect, 15A

**Panic** over the slumping stock market has not invaded the Farmington or Farmington Hills city halls or the Farmington Public Schools. But officials are keeping their eyes on the overall state of the nation's economy. "I'm concerned about what will happen over the mid-term, short-term . . . about the psychology of what happened and how people perceive this drop in the market," said Charles Rosch, Farmington Hills finance director. "I also hope there is no effort to increase interest rates (which is done to tighten the money supply). That could affect the financing of construction and home purchases, and then that would affect the local construction industry and the local community," Rosch continued.

Jack Inch, Farmington Board of Education treasurer, shares the same concern. Like Rosch and Farmington city manager Robert Deadman, Inch doesn't believe there is any need yet to become overly concerned. "The real key is that we should see what's going to happen. It should be better investigated," he said. Though Deadman said he is concerned about how the market slump will affect the economy, "It looks like all indicators indicate a strong economy. The stock market operates on emotion. When it cools over time, it will reflect the true state of the economy," he said.

**BECAUSE** THE cities are prohibited from investing operating and capital money in the stock market, Farmington's and Farmington Hills' general funds have not been affected by the slumping market. Out of a need to retrieve cash when necessary, the cities generally invest in short-term investments, such as certificates of deposit, Deadman said.

What would affect the cities' general funds are the type of things that concern Rosch. If perception and fear leads the public to restrict buying and building, state sales taxes will drop, for example. That means the cities will receive less in state shared revenues. "It all filters down," Rosch said. "If people plan on converting their investments to actual dollars, that

could affect their decisions to buy. They will either delay or downsize. Or people could be worried about their jobs, so they'll tighten up," he said.

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## Follow election tallying on TV

**By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer**

Television networks, move over. Cable television is getting ready for election night. Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi viewers can receive up-to-the-minute precinct returns on their city council races beginning at 8:30

p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, on Southwestern Oakland Cable Community's community access Channel 12. Election returns and candidate interviews — moderated by SWOCC executive director Lark Samouelian Reid — will be aired from community access studios at MetroVision of Oakland County in Farmington Hills.

"Each city will have a production setup in the studio with hosts representing each city," Samouelian Reid said. "We'll have a remote out at each city hall. The staff will be keying in precinct results as they happen." The coverage format will include interviews with candidates as the election returns are shown on a graph. Two hosts representing each city will conduct candidate interviews.

Community access staff at the city halls will not be on camera. They will be responsible for providing correct precinct results that will be aired from the studio while interviews are conducted, Samouelian Reid said. **COMMUNITY ACCESS** staff sent letters to candidates in the three cities informing them that they can be interviewed at the Channel 12 studio while returns are coming in. "We think it's important that they take two minutes of their time to talk to the people who voted for them," Samouelian Reid said. This is not the first time that election night coverage has aired on Channel 12. In the past, however,

candidate interviews and results were aired from the city halls. With that format, "we felt there was too much dead time," Samouelian Reid said. Under the new format and a central location, Samouelian Reid will be able to switch from one city council race to another to maintain the program's continuity, he said. Three incumbents in Farmington are running unopposed for three seats on the city council. They are Mayor William Hartscock, Mayor pro tempore Ralph Yoder and Councilman Richard Tupper. The two top vote-getters will receive four-year terms. The last-place finisher will receive a two-year term. In Farmington Hills, the nine candidates represent the largest field voters have had to choose from in a decade. Three incumbents, Joe Alkateeb, 48, Joan Dudley, 44, and Terry Seaver, 47, are running for re-election. Those opposing the incumbents are veteran council watcher Aldo Vagnozzi, 61, local historian and city activist Joan Fox, 70, and political newcomers Vernon Klepinski, 33, Raymond Cassar, 28, Richard Litywniuk, 46, and John Hrenan, 59.

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## Reps differ on use of war act

**By Jackie Klein and Janice Brunson staff writers**

U.S. congressional representatives from Detroit's northern suburbs differ on whether President Ronald Reagan should invoke the War Powers Act following the president's order Monday for "measured" military action in the Persian Gulf. Reagan ordered the attack on Iranian oil platforms in retaliation for

an Iranian missile attack on a U.S.-registered oil tanker last week. The action was moderately praised by Senate and House leaders who also questioned why the War Powers Act had not been invoked. The Act, passed in 1973 in reaction to the Vietnam War, requires that a president seek congressional approval for any long-term commitment of troops in a foreign region where host

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