

There's a best seat  
in every 'house,' 1D



Baseball  
results, 1C

Downtown renovation  
right on schedule, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

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### TAKE your secretary to lunch.

"Yours Truly" columnist Tim Kiska of The Detroit News will be the guest speaker at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Secretaries Day lunch Thursday, April 21.

The noon luncheon will be at the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, 38123 10 Mile. Cost is \$12 per person.

Call the chamber for reservations, 474-3440.

### IN salute.

The Navy will be honored during this year's Memorial Day Parade in downtown Farmington.

The parade, co-sponsored by American Legion posts 346 and 190 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2259, will step off at 10 a.m. Monday, May 30.

"We must never forget those who did so much to uphold our American ideals," said parade chairman Walter Christensen of Farmington.

NOW that it's warm, watch where you park.

The Farmington public safety department is warning residents not to block sidewalks when parking vehicles in their driveways. Doing so is a violation of local and state laws.

"There are a lot of people out for walks this time of year," said director Frank Lauff.

"We're asking residents to keep the sidewalks open."

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — A Farmington Hills man was sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$500,000 for his conviction on charges of conspiring to buy 22 pounds of cocaine and selling it in the Detroit area.

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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

## Real baseball fan

Kerri Stander huddles under a blanket as she watches her boyfriend, Reid Gough, and his Farmington High School teammates play baseball against Walled Lake Western Friday. The weather conditions were almost winter-like, and many area games were postponed. The visiting Warriors won the game 5-4. See Page 1C for game details.

## Road vote means \$750,000 for Hills

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

Oakland County voters will be asked in the Aug. 2 primary to support a \$25 vehicle registration fee. Some families could pay as much as \$75 or \$100 annually if they have three or four vehicles — regardless of the amount of driving involved. Everyone with an Oakland County address would be affected.

It's the county road commission's latest attempt to get more money for road improvements and is expected to generate \$19.5 million annually. The secretary of state would get about 5 percent as a collection fee, or \$981,000.

The road commission made its pitch to the Farmington Hills City Council in a joint meeting Wednesday night, hoping for a resolution of support. But the council took a wait-and-see approach.

Farmington Hills would get \$750,000 for 10 years under the plan and possibly more from the road commission's \$10.8 million chunk.

"We know it's going to be a tough sell," said Brent

Bair, director of planning and development for the road commission.

IT WAS one of several plans suggested to state lawmakers, but the only proposal to get the nod in Lansing, Bair said.

"State lawmakers have told us Oakland County is the richest county in the state. They want to know how much we're spending locally on roads. Other counties are spending more, proportionately, than we are."

If voters snub the plan, Bair promised to "keep up efforts in Lansing (for more funding), or we won't be able to keep up our current level of service."

Oakland County commissioner John McDonald, R-Farmington Hills, one of three commissioners at the meeting, called the proposal "a political hot potato."

"We voted to put this on the ballot," he said. "If we didn't, the Legislature would say we're not doing anything (to raise funds)."

McDonald said chances are bleak for the favored proposal, a local option gas tax, which would levy two or three cents per gas purchase for road improvement.

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## Forums set for 'No Drug Week'

Two panel discussions with local authorities televised live Wednesday will highlight "Say No to Drugs" Week April 17-23 in Farmington Hills.

Discussion will focus on how to identify potential drug problems and how to obtain professional, confidential help in dealing with chemical dependency.

"Learn about the drug problems common to the teenagers of Farmington Hills and throughout the United States," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer and Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Graham Lewis wrote in a letter to parents in the 10,700-student school district.

The first TV program will be broadcast from the North Farmington High School auditorium before an audience of middle school and senior high students at 10 a.m. over Metrovision of Oakland County's educational access cable Channel 10.

"It will focus on what drugs can do — their effect on you in school and at home," said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department. "We'll also remind kids about our narcotics paraphernalia and host liability ordinances."

Panelists will be Betty Nicolay, Farmington Families in Action chairwoman; Jane Williams, a Farmington Hills resident and Huron Valley Schools student assistance program coordinator; Sgt. Charles Nebus, Farmington Hills Po-

lice officer. The second program will be broadcast from the North Farmington High School auditorium before an audience of middle school and senior high students at 10 a.m. over Metrovision of Oakland County's educational access cable Channel 10.

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## Combating substance abuse

Provide enforcement targeted at narcotics dealers and distributors at all levels.

Establish an anonymous drug analysis program run by the police department.

Develop educational programs relating to substance abuse for students in the elementary, middle and high schools.

Establish training programs for school athletic coaches, focusing on drug abuse by athletes.

Organize panels of drug abuse experts to inform residents about the cause and effect of narcotics on the individual, family and community.

Provide in-depth training for police officers on drug enforcement, education and referral programs.

## Slain nurse was giving person

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Michelle Rougeau is remembered as "a good student, fluent in French and a very giving person."

"She was very warm and outgoing. She was involved in all kinds of reaching-out-to-people sorts of activities," said Sister Marjorie Allen, Farmington Hills Mercy High School Alumnae Office director.

A 1970 Mercy High graduate and dues-paying member of the Alumnae Association, Rougeau often wrote to Sister Marjorie.

It was in her eastside Detroit apartment — close to the Church of the Messiah, where she did much of her humanitarian work and where she was eulogized April 11 — that the 35-year-old Harper Hospital neurological nurse was slain April 7.

No one has been arrested.

The fifth of 11 children, Rougeau moved from her family's Southfield home to the east side of Detroit about 10 years ago so she could be

closer to those who needed her help, said her father, Vernon.

In 1966, Rougeau moved into St. Paul's Manor Apartments and became president of the cooperative, owned by the Church of the Messiah, an Episcopal parish on East Grand Boulevard. "She truly wanted to help these people — something typical of Michelle," Sister Marjorie said.

SET TO start a new job last week at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit's Medical Center, Rougeau

may have let her assailant in through the front door, family members believe.

"She would have been secure in the knowledge that not everybody is running through the building (St. Paul's Manor)," her father said. "She opened the apartment door expecting it to be someone she would trust."

In 1983, Rougeau went to Nigeria with an Episcopal church group to

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Michelle Rougeau  
Mercy High graduate



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

## He's hooked on cycling

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Between busy times at school, at work and with friends, North Farmington High School senior Chuck Williams always makes time for the excitement of cycling.

Despite skinned knees and elbows as a child, "he always had a fascination with it," his mother said.

Williams goes over hill and dale on streets and roadways with the dedication of a future Olympian. He spends some 30 hours a week and puts between 150-200 miles on his custom-made, self-designed 12-speed.

He also enjoys off-road riding, he said, recalling a recent trip to Michigan's Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes, which were "nice and muddy — it's a lot of fun."

Regardless of type, the sport of cycling remains at the top of his list, where it has been most of his life.

"Everyone develops their own style and preference" in riding, said the West Bloomfield Township resident, who is a combination student, cyclist, bicycle sales-

## people

man and mechanic and has been an avid bike riding fan since the age of 4.

"BICYCLE RIDING is one of the most expensive sports to get into, but it's one of the best all-around sports."

"It's the second best cardiovascular sport there is after swimming."

The native Texan has attended North Farmington High School since the middle of his freshman year. He will graduate this June before returning to Dallas with his parents and two sisters this summer.

The warmer weather will offer him a longer training season, and allow him to stay in better shape year-round.

Generally, Williams enjoys being around friends and meeting new people — especially when he's selling bikes at the Easy Rider Bike Shop in Farmington Hills.

"I really like sales," he added, having

recently moved from the job as head mechanic to the sales floor.

BUT WHEN he's riding, he's on his own. Riding in a group, he tends to lose concentration, said Williams, who considers himself an intermediate racer.

"I personally, just get on my bike and take off," he said. "But you have to know your roads."

He looks for quiet places to ride, which allow for better concentration. Part one of his workout includes a low, easy ride, then he works up to a sort of bicycle "sprinting" at fast and slow speeds. The final workout includes long rides in an average gear.

"I've got my own schedule of what I need to get done," he added.

Williams is an advocate of bicycle safety, suggesting to all his customers that they use safety helmets and other gear when riding. Bicycle accidents can be serious, and an awareness of them "makes me a little leery, a little more cautious," Williams added.

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HOME IS  
WHERE THE  
HEART IS

CREATIVE  
LIVING REAL ESTATE  
CHECK

NOW IN EVERY MONDAY  
AND THURSDAY ISSUE