

Musicians join  
for week of song, 1B



Baseball  
report, 2D

Growth areas want  
census money, 12A

# Farmington Observer

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## Farmington FOCUS

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**S**TRUCING up downtown. Funeral director Walter Sundquist is spearheading a drive to raise \$18,000 to build a gazebo on a pie-shaped piece of city-owned land in front of the Farmington Place senior citizens complex on Grand River.

The gazebo, patterned after the one in downtown Franklin, will be used for band concerts and choral groups and as a mini town square. A stone walk, plantings, lighting and benches are planned.

"It would bring people together in a community setting. After all, that's what the downtown is all about," Sundquist said.

Call the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce to contribute: 474-3440.

**REACHING out.** One purpose of "Say No To Drugs" week April 17-23 in Farmington Hills is "to make an impact on the adults of our community" because of their "influence on our young people," said Betty Nicolay of Farmington Families in Action.

"Until we have an attitudinal change among our adult generation, there's really little that we can do to help our young people."

**Quote of the week**

Despite our record (drug) seizures, we're still getting our butt kicked.

James King, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent in setting the stage for "Say No To Drugs" week in Farmington Hills April 17-23.

## what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B  
Cable connection . . . 14C  
Carrier of the month . . . 6D  
Classifieds . . . Secs. E-G  
Index . . . 7G  
Auto . . . 4H  
Real estate . . . 2E  
Employment . . . 7G  
Club circuit . . . 2B  
Creative living . . . Sec. E  
Crossword puzzle . . . 3F  
Entertainment . . . 7-11C  
Obituaries . . . 13C  
Opinion . . . 14A  
Points of view . . . 15A  
Police/fire calls . . . 12A  
Readers' forum . . . 14A  
Sports . . . Sec. 1-6D

## The CLASSIFIEDS

One call  
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## Limited open enrollment OK'd

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Two Farmington school trustees are concerned about possible criticism of the district because of a new "open enrollment" policy combined with Harrison High School's draw to area athletes.

The new policy, approved unanimously by the board Tuesday, allows "open enrollment," where any student in the district could enroll at a high school or middle school with low enrollment. A school's status would be determined by administrators.

But the policy focuses mainly on Harrison, which has lost enrollment

more quickly than the other two high schools in recent years. Harrison will be an open enrollment school this fall.

The change brought positive comments about its creative approach, but also warnings from trustees who have concerns about open enrollment at an athletic powerhouse like Harrison.

Possible criticism could come from other schools and the high school athletic league, because open enrollment may encourage behind-the-scenes recruitment for Harrison's football program. The team was runner-up in the state Class B championship just last year.

"I don't want us to approach this

naively," said trustee Jack Inch. "You're going to find every kind of chicanery among the parents and coaches. We will have to stand the slings and arrows. We're going to have to stand up to it."

"Our coaches better not ever be guilty of recruiting," he added.

**RETIRED FARMINGTON** athletic director and trustee Jack Cotton said he had faith the coaches "would not recruit," but added, "we're opening ourselves up for criticism from our league."

"I agonize over this," he added. "It becomes a pick and choose as far as sports are concerned."

Both Cotton and Inch voted to ap-

prove the policy, saying they recognize the need. "I think the program is a necessity and an outstanding idea," Inch said. "I said you have to be ready to take the flak — and it is coming. And it will not be nice."

But others spoke strongly in favor of the open enrollment idea, despite athletic concerns.

"The possible good . . . far exceeds the possible bad," said trustee Janice Roelnick. "If Harrison turns into a gifted athletic school, then so be it." She advocated open enrollment in all Farmington schools.

**"THERE'S MORE** to school than athletics," trustee Helen Prut added. "There is more to education

than athletics. I think it would be great to open the opportunity up."

Harrison English teacher Laura Sparrow spoke in favor of the policy, saying "it would bring us the students we need" to maintain the school's advanced placement English program. "Open school status can be very important for Harrison," she added.

Of the three high schools in the district, Harrison has the lowest enrollment and no opportunity for real estate growth in its boundaries, so was the obvious focus of discussion.

Harrison principal Clayton Graham requested the change to

Please turn to Page 2

## Hills, nation battling drugs' pervasiveness

Sara is 14 years old, a freshman at Farmington High. She loves to ski and be with friends. She also loves to drink wine.

Sara runs with an older crowd, including teenagers who drive. Two weeks ago, she was arrested for buying alcohol.

"After she and her friends were taken to the police department, a search revealed 20 vials of crack cocaine, a hunting knife and various kinds of drug paraphernalia.

Sara is facing a jail sentence and a life-long battle with substance abuse.

— a composite of real facts

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Crack cocaine, highly addictive and deadly, and marijuana, more socially acceptable but still dangerous, are the drugs of choice in Farmington Hills.

## Anti-smoking assault really begins to smoke

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A new legislative assault on smoking in Michigan is being readied by a state Senate committee.

It is supported by a Southeast Michigan citizens anti-smoking group with a Farmington connection.

The Senate Health Policy Committee opened hearings on a six-bill anti-smoking package April 12. Further testimony will be heard next week because of the many people who showed up to testify. State Sen. Jack Faxon, a Democrat whose district includes the Farmington and Southfield areas, said he expected the bills to be turned out of committee next week and taken before the full Senate with only minor modifications.

He is the chief sponsor of one of the bills, but supports them all.

"I'm behind all the bills," Faxon said. "Every one is designed to . . . advance our concerns on public health."

For a related opinion, 14A  
Drug action plan includes testing, 4A  
Alcohol, LSD said to gain, 4A  
"Twice pardoned" tickets available, 4A

Alcohol and prescription drugs are other favorites. PCP and LSD also are being abused.

"Narcotics are ingrained in our society," said police Chief William Dwyer, sporting a red anti-drug lapel ribbon Sunday at a press conference kicking off "Say No To Drugs" week in Farmington Hills.

"Every time you open your medicine cabinet, there are pills for your head, your back, your legs. About every 10th commercial on television involves taking a drug for something."

"I think the community is not only recognizing the drug problem but also responding to it," said Farmington High senior Drew McDougall, Student Round Table president, later Sunday.

Please turn to Page 4

Faxon has long been a proponent of anti-smoking legislation.

**THE PROPOSED bills would:**

• SB 637 — Prohibit the free distribution of tobacco products in public places, such as people handing out samples of cigarettes.

• SB 638 — Create smoke-free schools and child-care centers by prohibiting smoking, even by faculty and staff.

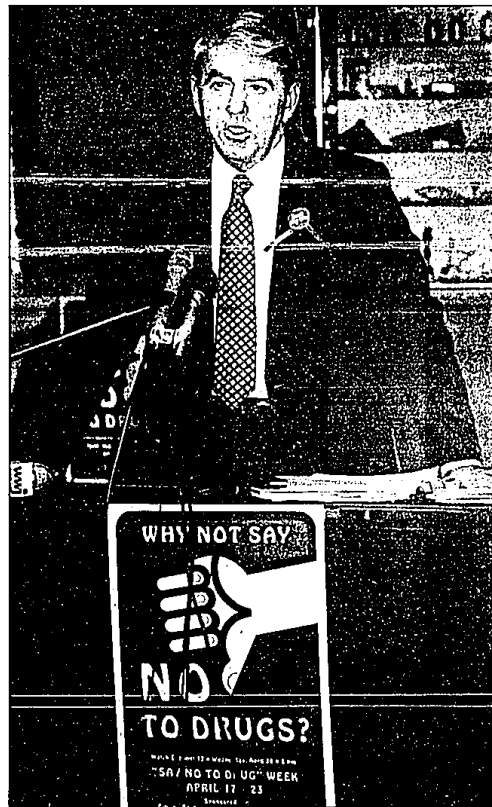
• SB 739 — Prohibit advertising and promotion of smokeless tobacco products — including chewing tobacco or snuff — on billboards and other signs, except at stores where it is sold.

• SB 740 — Strengthen existing laws regulating the sale and furnishing of tobacco products to minors.

• SB 741 — Offer cleanup amendments to the Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act.

• SB 742 — To create smokefree health facilities, such as clinical laboratories and county medical care facilities.

Please turn to Page 2



Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer Sunday unveiled details of "Say No To Drugs" week. A police department officer is in the background.

## Mind is the best weapon in repelling attack

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A Farmington Hills self-defense expert believes a woman's best defense against assault is her mind.

"Use your head. Be aware of what's been happening. It's been your brains. Be prepared to defend yourself," said Gary Daniels, manager of the American Karate School, Farmington Hills.

A yearlong series of rapes and attempted rapes in Oakland County has prompted some women to begin seeking ways to defend themselves. Daniels, for example, was recently asked to provide interested women with a one-day self-defense course.

Daniels echoes much of what Farmington Hills police have suggested for women to protect themselves. Women must remain aware and cautious, he said.

The man responsible for the rapes or attempted rapes knows his victims' habits and daily routines. "I firmly believe the person responsible

Rapists may switch to nearby communities, 8A

stalks his victim by perhaps observing her leave a shopping center, a place where she works or a place where she exercises," said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer, following the March 31 rape of a Farmington Hills woman.

**THE DELUGE** of news reports about the rapes as well as protection tips has touched public awareness. "Women are being more aware now," Dwyer said. "One woman called in and said she thought she was being followed."

The Farmington Hills police have available to interested women a checklist of protective tips they should keep in mind. "In light of what's been happening, it's been more widely circulated," Dwyer said.

The list is available at the department's command desk. The police

department is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, next to Farmington Hills City Hall.

"The most important thing to remember is to use caution and good common sense on a day-to-day basis," according to the list.

Daniels agreed. The best defense program is protecting yourself from ever being in a position to be assaulted, he said. That requires awareness and caution.

For example, Daniels said, women should have their car keys in hand before leaving a building, especially at night. Though sometimes difficult, women should avoid being out and alone late at night, especially in isolated areas.

**POLICE SUGGEST** the following tips:

• Lock your house doors even if you will be gone only a short time. Leave lights on if you will return after dark.

• Use a buddy system with a neighbor if you plan to return to an

empty house. Let a friend or neighbor know your schedule, when you will be leaving and returning.

• Be alert when you drive and notice if you are being followed.

• If you are being followed, do not drive home. Drive to the nearest police department or as an alternative, a public place.

• If you have an electronic garage door opener, look around the garage as you drive in. Leave the car doors locked until you are certain you are alone in the garage.

• Keep your garage uncluttered so no one can conceal themselves from you as you drive in.

• If you don't have an electronic garage door opener, use common sense as you get out of the car and open the door. Check if anyone is in the area.

**"THERE ARE** still people here who feel this is a township of 30 years ago and nothing will happen. It's not the same," Dwyer said.

The police chief said that self-de-

fense classes "don't hurt."

Daniels said he has found many women don't believe the techniques really will work. "Women are skeptical about it. They find it difficult to hit someone. They have been taught not to hit and fight."

But Daniels said women don't need to learn how "to beat someone up" as much as they need to learn how to cause immediate hurt to allow themselves to break free from an assailant. Vital target areas include the groin, throat and eyes, Daniels said.

"I can't guarantee that all techniques will work, but at least women can be prepared," he said.

If women notice something or someone suspicious or feel they are being watched or followed, they should call the police. Women also should vary their routes to and from work or other consistent stops, particularly on returning home. Women should become aware of their surroundings and the people in them, Dwyer said.