

His work is really a laughing matter, 1D



Shootout in final, 2C

Ethnic extravaganza is a melting pot, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

## Man shot, is charged in holdup

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

A 23-year-old Detroit man who police believe was trying to flee after robbing a Farmington Hills convenience store was shot in the neck area by a Southfield officer Saturday night.

Under police guard Sunday at an area hospital, Robert Marion Cross Jr. was reported in stable condition.

In a bedside arraignment Sunday, Cross pleaded not guilty to one count of robbery armed. Magistrate Dennis Phenev of Farmington set cash bond at \$5,000 pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Conviction could bring a penalty of up to life in prison.

In the stickup, a man who pointed a fastener gun at the clerk took \$60 and a 12-pack of beer from the 7-Eleven, 29375 10 Mile, near Middlebelt. A customer walked in during the robbery and sensed trouble, but neither she nor the clerk were hurt, said Farmington Hills detective David Lee.

POLICE GAVE this account of the robbery:

At 10:15 p.m., a man put a 12-pack of beer on the counter and showed partial age identification. He then leaned over the counter, pulled what appeared to be a handgun from his jacket and demanded money. He left in a nearby car and headed east on 10 Mile.

After hearing a police broadcast about the robbery, a Southfield officer spotted a car matching the description of the getaway car at Eight Mile and Beech. The officer tried to stop the car but the driver continued.

At an apartment complex on the south side of Eight Mile, near Telegraph, in Detroit, the driver lost control and his car hit a curb.

When he got out and ran toward woods, officers followed on foot. In an attempt to prevent him from fleeing, an officer fired one round from his service revolver, striking the man in the right shoulder and neck.

THE MAN was arrested soon after. The suspected weapon used in the robbery, a fastener gun commonly used to drive fasteners, was found in Cross' car, Lee said.

Southfield police would not identify the officer involved in the shooting.

Money believed stolen from the 7-Eleven was found strewn along the ground. The beer that was believed stolen was found in Cross' car, Lee said.

## Hills sets '89 vote to allow pay board

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills City Council will ask voters in 1989 to amend the 15-year-old city charter and allow creation of a compensation commission to set council members' salaries.

The council's May 9 decision to put the issue before voters sparked conflict similar to what occurred in 1972, when charter commissioners debated the issue of council members' compensation.

Council members did not vote directly on the compensation issue, but instead on when the issue should go before voters.

The move to prompt a change in council members' salaries is one of two ballot proposals voters will face in the November 1989 city election.

The second proposal is a repeat of one previously defeated by voters in 1985. It seeks to amend the charter to allow boards and commission members to maintain their positions while seeking city council election.

If voters agree to amend the charter, the city council could establish a compensation commission by ordinance. The seven-member, mayor-appointed commission would recommend salaries in odd years for the council members and mayor.

Recommendations in odd years would provide voters with the opportunity to remove at least a portion of the council in the same year if they opposed the compensation.

Commission-recommended salaries must be approved by a two-thirds vote, or at least five city council members. After the council adopts an ordinance creat-

ing a commission, the public may seek a referendum to rescind the ordinance.

SINCE THE city's incorporation in 1973, council members' salaries have been cast in stone in the city charter at \$1,800 for council members and the mayor's at 150 percent of that, or \$2,700. Salaries can be changed only by asking voters to amend the charter with a specific dollar amount.

No particular council member has publicly taken responsibility for suggesting a compensation commission, which is widely used in larger communities and at the state level. But councilmen Ben Marks and Joe Alkateeb appear to be the proposal's strongest advocates. Among the proposal's foes are councilmen Terry Sever and Aldo Vagnozzi.

Both Marks and Alkateeb support the proposal for several reasons. It's a simpler way of setting salaries than the cost of an election to ask voters for a specific amount, they say. Also, both maintain that salaries should be reconsidered due to increased costs and because in comparison to other communities, Farmington Hills council members receive less, they said.

"... it is not fair to have these people put all this time and effort without proper compensation. I think the change is needed and should be made," said Alkateeb, adding that a council member earns about 80 cents an hour.

FORMER CHARTER commissioner Marks believes a commission provides voter participation. "I think it's a better way because it comes from a city group," he said.

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## Forced resignation issue for city council on ballot

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills voters will have a second chance to determine whether board and commission members should resign their posts before seeking city council election.

The proposal is one of two the city council will put before voters at the

next city council election in November 1989. The other proposal would amend the charter to allow the council to create a compensation commission to recommend council salaries.

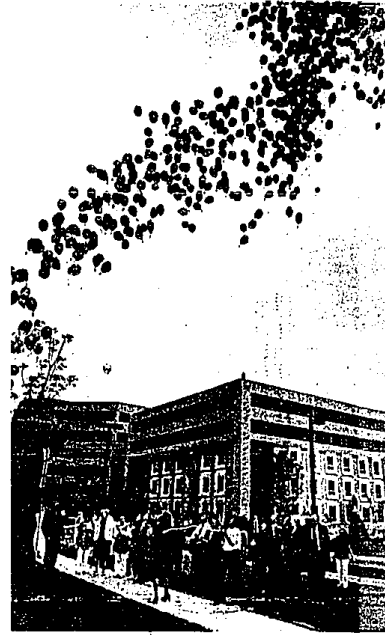
Under the current charter provision, members of any city-appointed board or commission must resign that position to run for city council.

Voters soundly defeated attempts to change the charter provision in 1985. The proposal was the only proposal defeated out of five before voters in 1985. The proposal lost in a vote of 3,203 to 2,793.

The charter provision has forced several city council candidates since

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## Awash with color



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

In honor of National Hospital Week May 8-14, Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills released hundreds of tagged helium balloons at its second annual balloon launch Tuesday. The recipient of the balloon that travels the farthest will receive a prize. Last year's winner was from Hamilton, Ont. Theme for National Hospital Week is "You're Our Specialty." Other events for the week include an information booth in the hospital lobby, "You're Our Specialty" buttons for visitors and an employee luncheon on the hospital grounds.

## Fall victim died from head injury

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A Farmington Hills man who fell 50 feet from an Upper Peninsula waterfall nearly three weeks ago died after hitting his head on the rocks below, according to Luce County officials.

College student Christopher Reinke, 21, was discovered Tuesday morning by state park employees near the churning waters of the Upper Tahquamenon Falls, said Luce County Undersheriff Michel Jago.



Christopher Reinke loved nature

An autopsy was conducted at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie Wednesday; results show Reinke

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## Slaying suspect riled by delays

By Rich Perlberg  
and Casey Hans  
staff writers

Defense motions claiming "spousal immunity" have delayed the trial of a Farmington Hills man accused of killing his wife 2½ years ago.

But Jon Allen Vermeulen, 42, says he wants his trial to begin, that he doesn't mind if his ex-wife testifies, and he blames former legal counsel for many of the delays.

Vermeulen is being held, without bond, in the Oakland County Jail on first degree murder and weapons

charges. He has been in the jail for 28 months.

He made his feelings known through his new attorney, Lawrence Kalumy of Birmingham. Kalumy filed a motion in March to waive Vermeulen's right to the state's "spousal immunity" statute. Vermeulen sent letters to everyone involved with the case, advising them of his feelings, one attorney said.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Fred Mester ruled against the motion, saying he will wait for a state Supreme Court ruling on the issue before beginning the trial. Oakland County assistant prosecutor John Slewin said the judge also con-



Jon Allen Vermeulen finds delays frustrating

sidered Vermeulen's plea not voluntary, or made under duress.

"He (Mester) felt it was not a

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills teenager Susan Gunderson (left) with foreign exchange student Janet Bolton of Ireland.

## Irish student gets a taste of America

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Janet Bolton sported a woven friendship bracelet on her left wrist, a visible sign of an American friend.

"They don't have these at home," she said. "It was a gift from Susan."

Except for her lilted accent, Bolton, a 19-year-old exchange student from Belfast in Northern Ireland, could be any Detroit area teen.

Since January, Bolton has been a guest at the home of the Gundersons in Farmington Hills.

Bolton's visit was arranged via the English-Speaking Union Secondary School Exchange Program. Scholarships, given by participating British and American schools to students they receive from overseas, are viewed as a means of building future Anglo-American understanding.

Bolton attends Cranbrook Kingswood School

## people

in Bloomfield Hills with Susan Gunderson. The school has participated in the exchange program for more than 15 years. According to Bolton, Winston Churchill also took part in the program.

ABOUT 30 participating students were placed in America's September-to-June program; another 30 students, including Bolton, were placed in the January-to-June program.

Understanding cultural differences was a prerequisite to Bolton's visit.

"They (the English-Speaking Union) said that the classes in America are a lot more undisciplined but not to take that the wrong way," Bolton said.

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