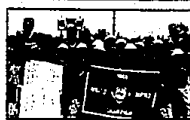


At 76, swimmer's dream realized, 1B



SF boasts champ, 1D

Sanders may reopen downtown, 4A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**C**ALLING it "the central place of Farmington," traffic engineer Tapan Datta of Southfield-based Goodell-Grivas Inc. testified to the city council last week that the Grand River-Farmington Road intersection "is the highest priced land you can find (in Farmington) because everybody's trying to use that piece of property."

**S**Aying goodbye. Fellow employees and friends will bid farewell to Farmington Hills city clerk Joan Reynolds this afternoon at a reception in recognition of her 24 years of dedicated service.

Reynolds is retiring after more than three years as clerk. Her last day on the job is next Wednesday, the day after the primary. She joined the clerk's staff in 1965.

She and her husband, Dan, will move to Cedarville on Prentiss Bay in the Upper Peninsula.

## Quote of the week

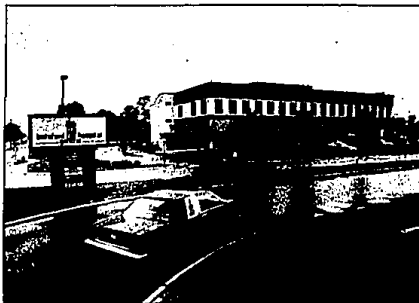
"I just resent the government telling us how to run the city. I'm not against day care. I think (home day care) is needed. But I don't think the state should tell us where they should go."

— Ben Marks, Farmington Hills councilman in reaction to Senate Bill 687 (see story this page).

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## Botsford expects greater profits



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Botsford General Hospital's Professional Building-South on Grand River was completed in January.

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Botsford General Hospital officials remain optimistic despite profits dipping from \$3 million in 1986 to little more than \$500,000 last year.

"We'll do better this year because of our cost restoration program," said Gerson Cooper, president and administrator of the Farmington Hills osteopathic hospital.

"We frankly expect to end up the year with \$2 million to \$3 million in profits."

Of 27 Michigan hospitals reporting their 1987 net income and revenues to the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration, Botsford was one of the 22 reporting net income losses last year compared to 1986.

In 1986, Botsford had a \$3 million net income or profit — after expenses of \$58.8 million in patient care and services. Profits in 1987 dipped to \$532,000 after expenses of \$62 million. The profits or income

for the hospital is what the institution is reimbursed through insurance programs, Cooper said.

In reaction to the hospital industry's changing fortunes, Botsford in late 1987 retained consultants to perform an operations review to reduce costs and diversify services to keep pace with a changing health care industry, Cooper said.

**THE DECISION** to begin a review of hospital operations was accompanied by a hiring freeze in August 1987. Layoffs have taken place in certain departments and a review of each of the hospital's departments continues.

The hospital cut \$500,000 in expenses by eliminating the dietary department and contracting with an outside service for food services, for example.

Botsford's financial difficulties don't surprise Cooper or state hospi-

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Gerson Cooper

## Council against state control in day care issue

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills home day care advocate Darlene Feldman considers child home day care a woman's and a children's issue, not a land-use issue.

But the Farmington Hills City Council doesn't see things that way. It's taking a public stand opposing a state effort to override local zoning ordinances to permit child day care with a maximum 12 children in residential areas.

That means the Farmington Hills City Council, for example, would have no say in determining where in the city home day care is located. The city currently allows home day care in residential areas for a maximum six children. Homes offering day care for a maximum 12 children must be on major roads, according to a Farmington Hills ordinance.

"Senate Bill 687 provides no protection from the unreasonable and unlimited number of the density that day care centers might achieve affecting residential neighborhoods," according to a resolution adopted by the city council Monday.

Councilman Ben Marks, who brought the Senate bill to the council's attention, said he's opposed to "Big Brother," not child day care. "I just resent the government telling us how to run the city. I'm not against day care. I think they're needed. But I don't think the state should tell us where they should go," Marks said.

**FELDMAN BELIEVES** state control "would eliminate the heartache any control that's been going on for more than 15 years. When it goes to the city council, it's not about nurturing (children), it's about land use."

Feldman and home day care gained attention in Farmington Hills in late 1986 when the home day care

operator fought the city's zoning ordinances, which then prohibited home day care in residential areas. The ordinance was later changed to allow home care for a maximum of six children and a maximum 12 on major roads.

But Feldman is one of two licensed operators who cares for 12 children but doesn't live on a major road. The two are operating on a city council two-year extension. A city ordinance requires home day care operators to register with the city. Only seven are registered but city officials believe many more home day care services are operating in residential areas.

Feldman supports the Senate bill, particularly in light of her position that the state created the problem in the first place by requiring licensing and registration of home care operators.

"It's a problem between the state and local governments, but the children are caught in the middle," she said, adding that she supports licensing because guidelines are provided that benefit children.

**THE CITY COUNCIL** had little to say about the resolution it plans to ask other communities to endorse. It says:

"... the enactment of Senate Bill 687 would be a further infringement upon the authority of local units of government to reasonably regulate various land and business uses within local communities and would be a further erosion of the 'home rule tradition' so well entrenched and established in Michigan."

The city council also opposes the Senate bill's prohibition on local government's current authority to issue special use permits and conditional use permits for home day care.

According to information attached

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## Higher penalties, paybacks part of anti-shoplifting law

Opinion, 13A

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Light-fingered thieves, beware. Lifting something from a store shelf without paying for it now costs more than a slap on the wrist. Michigan's Anti-Shoplifting Act, which took effect in June, makes shoplifting a separate crime called "retail fraud."

The new combination of laws calls for stiffer criminal penalties and provides merchants an avenue for financial restitution.

"A tremendous amount of every consumer's dollar goes to shoplift-

ing prevention and losses," explained Christian Kindsvatter,

president of the Lansing-based

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## Highlights of the new law

**R**ECENTLY ENACTED state laws add more weight to shoplifting penalties in Michigan.

The new laws include both criminal and civil penalties. Several items fall under the new heading of "retail fraud," including larceny, attempting to steal, price switching, misrepresenting the "for sale" price and obtaining fraudulent refunds.

In addition, legislation sponsored by Sen. Jack Farn, D-Farmington Hills, addresses fraudulent cash and credit transactions and use of electronic bank cards.

Criminal penalties for the shoplifting laws include:

• Stolen items worth more than \$100 constitute retail fraud in the first degree, a felony with a maxi-

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## Education a top issue in 69th District

Opinion, 13A

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Education has become a major issue in this year's 69th district state House race, with one Democratic candidate calling for strong state control in graduation and curriculum areas.

"There is too much incentive for local districts to inflate grades and pass students along, creating a good impression for themselves," said Democratic candidate John DeLeon of Brighton Farms.



He also called for mandatory minimums for major subjects and emphasis on the computer sciences. "We must become more responsive as a nation to foreign competition," he added. "This is where it starts."

Republican candidate Dan DeLeon, who serves on the Michigan House of Representatives, said he would not

state has a responsibility to set guidelines, but local districts should have control in setting curriculum.

Democratic challenger Ken Murray of Farmington said the state already sets appropriate standards for graduation, and he called for broad-stroke guidelines bringing in "people that can read and write." He did not elaborate on the issue of state vs. local control.

**THE SIX** candidates all face a run-off next Tuesday in the primary election, when the field will be narrowed to two candidates, one Republican and one Democrat. Voters must select a party in the primary. The runoff cannot be won by voters

will face off in the Nov. 8 general election.

The general election winner will replace longtime state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, who has held his post for 14 years and is not running for re-election. He will serve until December.

Most of the candidates have holed in on education as the current state Legislature battles with reforming the state aid formula and how schools are financed. School districts worldwide property taxes, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, have higher property values and fall out of the state formula. They receive most of their revenue from local property taxes.

This may change with school finance reform.

**CONCERN HAS** also been raised throughout the campaign about the quality of education, curriculum requirements and other related issues.

Welday called the situation "intolerable."

"We must demand accountability from our education system. We must get back to the basics and insist on creating a discipline of strong study habits for students at all levels," he said.

Also, Borchard said, input from local districts when setting state standards is "critical."

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