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and . . . jousting, 1D



North grid  
preview, 1C

Senior center study  
gets under way, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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### HAPPY flushing.

At least one Farmington resident is pleased with improvements being made at Shawansee Park this summer. She called the Observer this week to compliment the city on improvements to the park's rest rooms. The facilities at the city-owned park, at Shawansee and Power roads, are being upgraded with new toilets and fixtures, according to administrative assistant Robert Schultz.

### SAFETY concerns.

Farmington school officials are taking special precautions to avoid possible lead contamination in the district's drinking water. At the suggestion of state health officials, the district will institute a routine procedure for morning flushing of all drinking fountains and faucets used for drinking and food preparation.

### Memory lane

#### 25 years ago:

School bells will be ringing next week calling 16,500 boys and girls in the Farmington area to their schools for the start of another school year.

North Farmington High will start printing its own student newspaper this year just as Farmington High does. The new Highmeadow Elementary School will be opened Sept. 5, as scheduled.

Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall informed the board Aug. 26 that his office had received a request from a citizen to review the regulations controlling fences around swimming pools.

— Farmington Enterprise, Aug. 29, 1963.

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RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

School employees Rob Terry (left) and Ken Luark prepare a bus for the new school year, which begins tomorrow for Farmington students. Terry is a summer co-op student who works as a mechanic and Luark is garage leader.

## School bells chime early in Farmington

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

very smooth year," he added.

Upgraded school facilities, new programs and hope for a proposed new elementary building face the Farmington community, as students head back to school this week.

This is the second year the Farmington district has started its school year before September's Labor Day holiday. Classes begin with a half-day Tuesday — including a morning orientation session for new middle school students — and a full day of school Wednesday for everyone.

There's so much happening in the district, Superintendent Graham Lewis said he wasn't sure which items to highlight.

"Everything seems to be moving really well," he said. "A lot of work has been done this summer . . . including paving, roofing." Generally, "it looks like a

A KEY thing this year, he said, will be a fall bond issue, which would allow the district to build a new elementary school, early childhood center, and do \$20 million in building improvements throughout the district.

Although officials are making tentative plans hoping for the bond issue's passage, voters will still have the final say during a special election Sept. 19.

Another, already approved project is a state-of-the-art media center for Farmington High School, which will eventually link the district electronically. Lewis said an architect for the project has been selected and a construction manager is in the process of being hired. No ground-breaking date has been set.

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## 6-town group seeks 'fair' waste plan

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium is looking for more equity for its six member communities, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, before more thought is given to joining the Oakland County solid waste disposal project.

"We opted not to join because of the operations laid out by the county," said Farmington city manager Robert Deadman, consortium chairman. "It's only acceptable to us if the county program is more equitable in how it's

operated. All we're really looking for is fairness."

The consortium unveiled its findings and alternatives in attacking the growing solid waste disposal problems and high costs Aug. 27 at Novi City Hall.

Whether the consortium may continue negotiating with Oakland County is one of many decisions the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils will be asked to make in September.

The two cities joined Southfield, Novi, Walled Lake and South Lyon last summer in forming the solid waste consortium to study

and develop alternatives to soaring solid waste disposal costs. When asked to join the Oakland County solid waste project, which currently includes 30 communities, the southwest communities declined.

Consortium members questioned the costs involved with the county project and opposed the project's governance and several other items which members felt were inequitable to the six communities.

"WE'RE NEARLY 50 percent of the waste stream and yet we were going to have less than 10 percent of the vote on whatever was to

be built and how it was to be run," Deadman said. "And that's further complicated by the fact that it was only a recommendatory vote. The county would have no financial risk yet make all the decisions."

The six communities have part of the state required Public Act 641 solid waste plan. It is the project that the consortium has opposed. The county is in the process of updating the solid waste plan with a January 1989 deadline. The consortium is hoping to complete negotiations by then.

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RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Kathryn Dornan, newly appointed city clerk for Farmington Hills.

## August is sweet month for new Hills city clerk

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

August has been a red-letter month for Kathryn "Kathy" Dornan, 36.

Aug. 4, she assumed duties as the newly appointed Farmington Hills city clerk. Aug. 22, she celebrated one year of marriage to Walled Lake's city manager, Michael Dornan.

The career move came after 13 years experience as deputy clerk, first for the city of Walled Lake, where she worked 10 years, and then for the city of Farmington Hills, where she hired in as deputy clerk in February 1985.

As Dornan talked about the new job during a recent city hall interview, she was flanked by a dozen red roses, an anniversary gift from husband Michael.

"THE CLERK's office is the heartbeat of the city's offices. Our main function is elections and voter registration. Our other main duty is keeping records, official documents, resolutions, proclamations and minutes of meetings.

"We are the keeper of records for the city," Dornan said.

### people

The clerk's office also issues business licenses, maintains subdivision plots and site plans, lists births and deaths and answers the multitude of questions asked daily by inquiring citizens. Repetitive questions don't seem to unsettle Dornan or her staff of nine at all.

"We get calls all the time about what form of government the city has, who our state or national representatives are," Dornan said. "We have a pretty good reputation for being friendly and helpful."

DORNAN WAS appointed clerk by the Hills City Council following the retirement earlier this summer of clerk JoAnn Reynolds. Reynolds retired after 22 years of service.

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## Boys home youth held in murder

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

A 15-year-old ward of the state, who was truant from Boys Republic in Farmington Hills at the time an elderly River Rouge woman was murdered, has been charged with the crime.

First-degree murder charges were filed Tuesday in Wayne County Probate Court, juvenile division, charging the boy in the death of 80-year-old Anna Heine. She died in late July or early August of a skull fracture after being struck with a blunt instrument.

The youth and a companion were both reported missing from Boys Republic, a minimum security youth home on Nine Mile, July 29. They were apprehended in Oscoda, Mich., and returned to Boys' Republic Aug. 5.

The investigation is continuing into charges against the second youth.

HEINE was reported missing to police on Aug. 12 by neighbors who said she had not been seen for several weeks.

"A son who called his mother regularly became concerned and got hold of neighbors after he was not able to get hold of her on the phone for over a week," said River Rouge police Detective William Cooper. Cooper is in charge of the case.

Heine's body was found lying on the floor of the living room in the modest home where she had lived for nearly 50 years.

The Wayne County medical examiner attributed death to a skull fracture from a single blow to the head by a blunt object. Police have the suspected object.

Neighbors provided police with descriptions of two youths who were seen in the neighborhood during the time Heine was missing.

*'There is no record of violence in his background. There seemed to be no propensity for violence whatever. The murder charges are a total surprise. We are shocked.'*

— Phyllis Griffin  
Boys Republic director

The boy who has been charged with the murder was convicted earlier of burglarizing Heine's home, Cooper said.

THE YOUTH, an only child of a River Rouge couple, was made a ward of the state and placed at Boys Republic last May, after a series of convictions for breaking and entering.

Phyllis Griffin, director of Boys Republic, confirmed the boy's previous criminal record.

"The reason for his being here was a number of B and E's (breaking and entering), larceny over \$100, not attending school and breaking probation," she said; however, "there is no record of violence in his background. There seemed to be no propensity for violence whatever. The murder charges are a total surprise. We are shocked," Griffin said late last week.

The boy was arrested at the youth home Aug. 19 and arraigned Aug. 23. He is being held without bail in the Wayne County Youth Home. The Wayne County prosecutor is expected to file a waiver to try the youth as an adult, Cooper said.

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## Inkster rezoning rejected

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

Farmington Hills and Southfield homeowners along the 11 Mile-Inkster area are celebrating Southfield's turnaround of a disputed \$20 million apartment plan for land owned by the school district. But the final round of the battle may be fought in court.

Residents from Southfield and Farmington Hills in large numbers spoke in opposition to the proposed project. The Southfield City Council Aug. 23, without comment, unanimously rejected the apartment rezoning bid.

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