

OWls order up
Table for One, 1B



Harrison
in semis, 1D

Christmas walk
to start season, 2A

Farmington Observer

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100 Pages

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HOMETOWN thanks Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper last week presented a proclamation to the Farmington Observer in honor of the newspaper's 100th anniversary. The proclamation called "upon the citizens of the city of Farmington to recognize the many accomplishments of the Observer" and extended "appreciation to the owner, Mr. Philip Power, for preserving the hometown newspaper in Farmington."

40 YEARS OF SERVICE. District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington is among the Oakland County Bar Association members celebrating 40 years as in the association. They'll be honored at Old Times Night Dec. 8 at the Northfield Hilton, Troy.

HE'S HONORED. Robert McArthur of Farmington Hills was honored by the Detroit-Macomb Hospital Corp. for 20 years of service. He's corporate director of pharmacy.

Quote of the week

“It seems to me I would not likely nominate someone who's never been to a city council meeting...”

— Farmington Hills Mayor Jody Soronen, explaining why he feels whoever fills a council seat opening would likely be known to other council members (see story this page).

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EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the holiday, we will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24. To place your classified ad in our Thanksgiving issue, please call before 5:00 Friday, Nov. 18 or Mon., Nov. 21, 1988.

OAKLAND COUNTY
644-1070

Happy Thanksgiving

Ohio man suspect in Hills rapes

By Joanne Maliszewski and Dave Varga staff writers

A year after the Oakland County serial rapist first struck in Farmington Hills last Thanksgiving night, the prime suspect is behind bars following the rape of a woman in suburban Cleveland.

Brooks Patterson confirmed that former West Bloomfield resident Steve Szeman, 25, was arrested Nov. 10 in connection with the rape that night of a suburban Cleveland woman and that he is a prime suspect in 12 rapes or attempted rapes in Oakland County since April 1987.

"We are trying our damndest to tie him in," Patterson said at a press conference at Farmington Hills City Hall Tuesday.

But Patterson stressed that "we are terribly premature in that no warrants have been issued (locally) for the suspect in Ohio."

Police and prosecutors believe physical evidence — fingerprints and blood samples from personal belongings of the Oakland County rapist's last victim March 31 in Farmington Hills — links the Ohio suspect to the string of sexual assaults in Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield, Birmingham and Independence Township. Those

attacks sparked a wave of fear among local women.

A wallet, purse, undergarments and credit cards belonging to the last Farmington Hills victim were found by a man looking for cardboard boxes in a K mart dumpster in West Lake, a Cleveland suburb, two days after her rape. The dumpster is 3 1/2 miles from the Ohio suspect's house, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

At least six Oakland County arrest warrants are expected by Friday. Search warrants have been executed at Szeman's Rocky River, Ohio, townhouse. But other warrants will be delayed pending an estimated six-

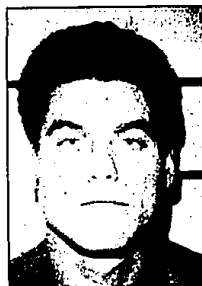
week analysis of physical evidence, Patterson said.

POLICE FOUND items in Szeman's townhouse that belonged to a woman robbed at her home in Birmingham near Lincoln and Cranbrook in April 1987, said Birmingham police Lt. Richard Dimock. The attacker wore a ski mask and carried a knife, but did not sexually assault the woman.

"The lady screamed and he ran away," Dimock said. "I'm inclined to think that was what he had in mind." Before the press conference, Dwyer said characteristics of the suspect in the Ohio rape were similar to those of the Oakland County rapist.

The ski-masked, knife-wielding rapist in Oakland County was described by his victims as soft spoken, almost apologetic. The victims were assaulted in their homes or garages after being randomly stalked, police said.

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Steve Szeman
prime suspect

Trail of terror covers a year

Below is a review of the 12 rapes or attempted rapes in Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, West Bloomfield Township and Independence Township that police allege were the work of a ski-masked, knife-wielding man dubbed Oakland County's serial rapist.

Victims have ranged in age from 13 to 33. Most were alone when attacked at night.

FARMINGTON HILLS
On Nov. 28, 1987, two women in their 20s were raped about 10:15 p.m. in a house near 13 Mile and Farmington Road. The rapist had

broken into the house earlier that night, lying in wait. After raping the women, he stole \$275 and a musical keyboard.

On March 3, 1988, a would-be rapist came up behind a woman in her 20s outside a house near Tuck and Nine Mile at 8:15 p.m. At knife-point, he ordered her to stop screaming but he ran off when her roommate appeared at the side door.

On March 31, 1988, a woman in her 30s was raped about 9 p.m. in a house near 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. The rapist was waiting

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Farmington Hills police chief William Dwyer and Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson face the press Tuesday afternoon in Farmington Hills City Hall about the Oakland County serial rapist case.

Hangups mark 9-1-1 start

□ When to call 9-1-1, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Believe it or not, some Farmington Hills residents have been testing the new 9-1-1 emergency dialing system.

"We are experiencing some hangups. Some people are testing it to see if it works on their phones," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

Farmington hasn't had that problem. "It's been without incident," said Farmington public safety director Frank Lauff. On Friday, Farmington received three 9-1-1 calls. On Monday, the official 9-1-1 starting day, the department received some emergency calls, but not on 9-1-1. "It's coming into use slowly," Lauff added.

Dwyer is concerned about residents testing the new emergency system. "It causes us a real problem."

According to the Hills department procedures, dispatchers must call back if the caller hangs up. If there is no answer, police will respond.

"Obviously, we don't know whether they're testing the system or there's a real emergency," Dwyer said.

The new enhanced emergency dialing system means that in Oakland County, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, there is only one telephone number for police, fire and medical emergencies: 9-1-1.



Farmington Department of Public Safety dispatcher Colleen Lane is one of the people responsible for handling emergency calls at department headquarters.

"IT'S NEEDED because it provides one, simple, easy-to-remember number," said Gail Christie, who heads the county's emergency management division.

"It's called 'enhanced 9-1-1' because it sends your call to your jurisdiction automatically," she said. But Dwyer and Lauff urge residents to remember that the new 9-1-1 number is for emergencies only.

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Man charged in patient's death

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A Farmington Hills physician faces murder and poisoning charges in the suspected mercy killing of a 78-year-old terminally ill patient in Detroit's Northwest Grace Hospital last May.

Dr. Donald A. Caraccio, 33, is accused of injecting Juliette Cherry-Sapp with two 40-milligram doses of potassium chloride. He was arraigned Nov. 9 in Detroit before 38th District Court Magistrate Vesta Svenson on one count of open murder and one count of mingling a poisonous substance with food, drink or medicine with the intent to injure or kill.

Caraccio was released on \$100,000 personal bond pending a preliminary examination Nov. 21, said Dick Padzieski, chief of operations for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Originally, Juliette Cherry-Sapp's death was listed as natural and attributed to heart and lung failure resulting from a blood infection, with diabetes and heart and kidney failure as contributing factors.

An innocent plea was entered in Caraccio's behalf.

Caraccio, who has been suspended from the hospital since the investigation began, faces a maximum life

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Door still open for council applicants

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The murmurs in the audience were simple confusion and concern that the replacement for 14-year Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jan Dolan, newly elected to the state House, is a foregone conclusion.

Some of their confusion may have come from some council members' lack of interest in seeking more applications for the position.

"As far as I'm concerned, I have no interest in anyone other than those who have already expressed an interest in the job," councilman Joe Alkatech said.

Mayor Jody Soronen said Monday she hopes no one is discouraged from

applying. But she said "it seems to me the individual selected will probably be known to most of us. It seems to me I would not likely nominate someone who's never been to a city council meeting..."

Though city attorney Paul Ribean suggested a legal advertisement to draw applications, the idea died. "It just wouldn't be my preference," Soronen said.

The appointment process was hashed out, and the replacement will be nominated and selected publicly by the city council at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12.

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