

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 15

Thursday, November 24, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

144 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 32503 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

TWO local police officers have graduated from the prestigious Northwestern University Traffic Institute School of Police Staff and Command. Deputy director Gary Goss of the Farmington Department of Public Safety and Lt. Martin Bledsoe of the Farmington Hills Police Department graduated Nov. 10 from the advanced management training program for command officers.

Classes were held one week per month for 10 months at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti.

The program is funded by a grant from the Michigan Law Enforcement Training Council. Goss, hired in 1978, is the first Farmington graduate. Bledsoe, hired in 1975, is the third Farmington Hills graduate.

SELF evaluation.

Farmington Hills Mayor Jody Soronen said she wouldn't be too surprised if only a handful of applicants emerge for newly elected state representative Jan Dolan's city council seat.

"It's not all tea and cookies, is it guys?" she said to fellow council members.

QUOTE of the week

It is my intention (Steven) Szeman will never breathe a breath of free air again.

— Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, talking about Oakland County serial rape suspect Steven A. Szeman Jr. (see chronology story this page).

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B
Business . . . 1C
Cable connection . . . 5C
Classifieds. Secs. C, E, F, G, H
Index . . . 5G
Auto . . . Sec. C, H
Real estate . . . 2E
Employment/Secs. C, G, H
Creative living . . . 1E
Crossword puzzle . . . 10E
Entertainment . . . 7-9C
Obituaries . . . 11C
Opinion . . . 14A
Points of view . . . 15A
Police/tire calls . . . 10A
Sports . . . 1D

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

GIFTING

Property recovered in rape case

For chronology on rape case see, 11A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

All but cash stolen from the three Farmington Hills victims of Oakland County's serial rapist has been recovered.

The stolen items, including a Casio musical keyboard, a stereo system, a camera and a ring were recovered after the arrest of former West Bloomfield resident Steven A. Szeman Jr., 25. He was arrested in connection with the rape of a suburban Cleveland woman Nov. 10.

When Oakland County investigators executed search warrants after Szeman's arrest, they found belongings of some of the Oakland County rape victims in Szeman's Rocky River, Ohio, townhouse.

"There was quite a lot found," Farmington Hills police chief William Dwyer said.

Victims gathered at Bloomfield Township police headquarters Nov. 16 to identify recovered belongings. "It was difficult for them when they saw the articles. They had to relive the night they were raped," Dwyer said.

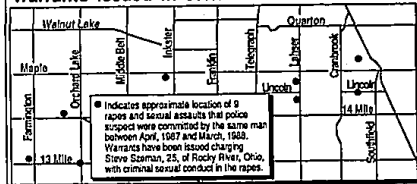
Szeman faces 36 sexual assault charges and nine charges of armed robbery in connection with sexual attacks on 10 Oakland County wom-

en. Warrants in two other attacks, a May 8, 1987 rape in West Bloomfield and a March 3 attempted rape in Farmington Hills, are pending.

THE WARRANTS issued by Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson charge Szeman in three sexual assaults in Bloomfield Township, three in Farmington Hills, two in Birmingham and one in Independence Township. In each rape case, there were several counts of criminal sexual conduct.

Ohio authorities are expected to return Szeman to Michigan in January to face charges as Oakland County's ski-masked, knife-wielding

Warrants issued in serial attacks



Please turn to Page 11



Dry day assured

Farmington Hills Harrison students Jennifer Killmer (left) and Cheryl Monahan wait in the rain at Atwood Stadium in Flint for the start of the Class B state football semifinal between Harrison and Avondale last Saturday. The wait was worth it as the

Hawks pounded Avondale to earn a berth in the championship round this Saturday. Despite wet weather in the playoffs, Harrison will be assured of dry weather for the title game. It'll be played in Pontiac's Silverdome. For the story, see Page 1C.

Sever, Fox to guide Hills

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Mayor-elect Terry Sever "sees a good team developing" and hopes the city council "can put together a game plan that will unite everyone and remind us . . . that the bottom line is, 'What is best for Farmington Hills'."

Fellow council members chose Sever and mayor pro tempore-elect Jean Fox by 6-0 votes Monday night. Councilman Joe Alkateeb was absent.

Sever, 38, and Fox, 71, move into the council leadership posts Jan. 1.

Sever is current mayor pro tempore. Traditionally in Farmington Hills, the mayor pro tempore moves to the mayor's chair the next year.

"We have developed well as a unit. We have appreciated the opportunity to disagree. But we have respected the opportunity to live in the community and look at one another afterwards," said Sever, a councilman since 1985 and a 23-year Hills resident.

Please turn to Page 8

Groups helping needy

By Susan Mahoney
staff writer

With the help of many charitable groups housed at Neighborhood House in the Farmington Hills Salvation Army Community Center, needy people will be enjoying the holiday spirit.

Lt. Jonathan Rich of the Salvation Army, at Shiawassee and Inkster, said Neighborhood House, made up of Farmington-area churches and the Farmington Area Goodfellow, will help feed and cloth needy people.

The reason different charitable groups have merged is to cut down on duplicating aid, said Richard Tupper, Goodfellow executive director.

"We were finding one family might get five or six turkeys," Rich said. "Working together allows us to service people in the best way possible."

Kicking off the Thanksgiving spirit was a turkey dinner with all the yummy trimmings Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus St. Francis Council, 21900 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

"It's a hot meal," Rich said. "We are expecting about 120 people."

Neighborhood House also is offer-



At left is developer Peter Burton, in front of a model showing what the arboretum will look like when all the construction is completed. Seated from left are developers Ron Hughes and Robert Katzman and child care consultant Alva Dworkin.

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The crack of the assassin's bullet 25 years ago remains etched in the minds of Farmington Democratic Club members who recall John F. Kennedy's untimely death.

Time has not erased the emotion or devotion for the late 35th president of the United States, assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, by Lee Harvey Oswald during a Dallas motorcade.

Both Aldo Vagnoni, Farmington Democratic Club treasurer, and John J. Murphy, a Democratic club member, met Kennedy during his 1960 presidential campaign.

Vagnoni was an alternate convention delegate then and remembers the whistle-stop tour that took Kennedy through Michigan to Ann Arbor.

The Kennedy aura — charisma, that undefinable attribute cited by hundreds who met him — was also noted by Vagnoni and Murphy.

"He was very warm and very friendly. He genuinely wanted to know about you," Vagnoni said. "He wasn't like other politicians who shake your hand and all the time they are looking over your shoulder."

MURPHY RECALLS how he darted toward Kennedy, oblivious to security around him in downtown Detroit in 1960. "If I did that today, I probably would be shot," Murphy said. "The traffic cleared and I jumped in front of him and said, 'God bless you, son!'"

"Just to be close to him was exciting. He was the man for his time. America needed a shot in the arm."

Plans for day-care center are unveiled

By C.L. Rugenstein
staff writer

You could almost hear the parents in the room thinking, "Where was this when I needed it!"

The occasion was a press conference. Peter Burton, Robert Katzman and Ronald Hughes, developers of the Arboretum Office Park in Farmington Hills, announced plans for a day-care center to be a part of the park itself. And while the idea may not be revolutionary, many felt it was long overdue.

The child-care center will begin construction next year, with Phase 5 of the six-building complex. Three

buildings on the 52-acre property, on 12 Mile, west of Farmington Road, are already completed and fully occupied. The fourth will be ready for occupancy in spring 1989, when Phase 5 is scheduled to begin.

Cost for the entire project is estimated at \$100 million and will total nearly 1 million square feet of office space when completed.

The trapezoid-shaped child-care center building will be between phases four and six, facing a court. The building opens off the ground level from the parking lot but will have "a controlled entrance," said

Please turn to Page 3

Local Democrats recall Kennedy's death

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The crack of the assassin's bullet 25 years ago remains etched in the minds of Farmington Democratic Club members who recall John F. Kennedy's untimely death.

Time has not erased the emotion or devotion for the late 35th president of the United States, assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, by Lee Harvey Oswald during a Dallas motorcade.

Both Aldo Vagnoni, Farmington Democratic Club treasurer, and John J. Murphy, a Democratic club member, met Kennedy during his 1960 presidential campaign.

Vagnoni was an alternate convention delegate then and remembers the whistle-stop tour that took Kennedy through Michigan to Ann Arbor.

The Kennedy aura — charisma, that undefinable attribute cited by hundreds who met him — was also noted by Vagnoni and Murphy.

"He was very warm and very friendly. He genuinely wanted to know about you," Vagnoni said. "He wasn't like other politicians who shake your hand and all the time they are looking over your shoulder."

MURPHY RECALLS how he darted toward Kennedy, oblivious to security around him in downtown Detroit in 1960. "If I did that today, I probably would be shot," Murphy said. "The traffic cleared and I jumped in front of him and said, 'God bless you, son!'"

"Just to be close to him was exciting. He was the man for his time. America needed a shot in the arm."

Lyndon B. Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, followed through with the Kennedy agenda on civil rights, Murphy said. "He got every bit of it through Congress — which made everybody feel good."

Mike Breshgold, Farmington Democratic Club chairman, remembers that he learned of Kennedy's death when he was in the fifth grade in Livonia. "I remember they canceled school and I walked home talking about him."

Kennedy's press conferences are unrivaled by later presidents, said Breshgold. He bemoaned the use of political handlers and the way they have distanced candidates from the public.

BUT BRESHGOLD notes that Kennedy's press is still quoted often, even by Republicans.