

Flight of fancy takes him sky high, 1D



Raiders perfect, 1C

Hills resident groups win zoning battles, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**A** reminder. The president of the Old Village homeowners association reminded Farmington City Council members about his group's proposal to form a traffic commission in the city and urged them to do so.

"We feel (the city) would benefit... by regular review of the conditions," said Frank Field. "The scope and breadth of traffic problems make the need acutely felt."

Field's comments received no feedback from the city council.

The Old Village Association has brought traffic congestion concerns to the council during the past two years.

**OPEN seat.** A seat will open on the Farmington Historical Commission in March, as Sara Warren has declined renomination.

Residents interested in serving on this or any other city board or commission should submit a letter of intent to the city manager's office, 23500 Liberty, Farmington.

## Memory lane

25 years ago:

• A delegation of parents from Kimberley subdivision and neighboring residential areas appeared before the Farmington Board of Education in a continuing effort to get improved walking safety conditions for their children to and from East Middle School.

• The Farmington Township Board approved the preliminary plan for the proposed Old Franklin Towne subdivision over the heated objection of residents from the Franklin Fairway subdivision. — Farmington Enterprise, Feb. 27, 1964

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Watch for these Special Sections Coming Soon!

**SPRING FASHION and BUILDER'S SHOW**  
March 16, 1989

**HEALTH & FITNESS**  
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# Officer cleared in fatal shooting

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills police officer Michael Farley will return to road patrol this week, following exoneration in the fatal shooting of an armed robbery suspect Feb. 11.

"I have reviewed the writup and agree with their findings," police Chief William Dwyer said Friday, after release of a board of inquiry report, which determined the shooting was justifiable and in self-defense.

Since the fatal shooting of Cecil Wilson, 42, of Marshall, Mo., Farley has been on restricted duty in administration. A five-year veteran, Farley never before fired a weapon in the line

of duty, Dwyer said.

Wilson shouted he wanted to die moments before he was shot and killed by Farley, 31, on a dead-end road flanked by five houses, police said. Wilson died of a gunshot wound to the chest, the Oakland County Medical Examiner said.

Farley feared for his life when Wilson drove toward him in a 1989 Pontiac Grand Am at 7:35 p.m. on Alton, a dirt road southwest of Grand River and Middlebelt, according to police reports.

**THE BOARD** of inquiry — Deputy Chief Mirt Spencer, Lt. Dennis Hochford and officer David Glowacki — determined that Farley's

actions are supported by the department's general orders on firearms use. The board found no impropriety in Farley's actions, Dwyer said.

Circumstances for authorized use of deadly force include an officer defending a civilian's life or an officer fearing for his own life; in either case, the officer must take reasonable and prudent actions, Dwyer said. "The threat must outweigh the risks involved in the use of deadly force," according to department policy.

The police chief intends to send board of inquiry findings to Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson. "It is my intent to send both reports — the board of inquiry and the

detective's report. It's entirely up to him whether he wants to review them," Dwyer said.

The board began its inquiry into the shooting Wednesday. Eight police officers were interviewed; statements and reports from police officers and civilians were reviewed.

A report by Inspector Thomas Godwin and Sgt. Charles Nebus, who headed the department's investigation of the shooting, also was reviewed. Photographs, Wilson's autopsy report and police recordings of the incident also were used in the board's deliberations, Dwyer said.

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## Schoolman finds the best of two worlds

By Casey Hans staff writer

This city boy from Brooklyn has found the perfect mix.

Challenges in the business world, setting educational policy and living on several wooded acres near Milford are all integral parts of Mike Flanagan's lifestyle.

The deputy superintendent for Farmington Public Schools can watch peaceful deer in his backyard in the morning, face the ultimate challenge of a changing education world during the day, and enjoy family life in the evening. His foray into education was no accident. After studying economics and finance, he soon moved into the education management field, which offered the best of both worlds.

"I've always considered myself a teacher in banker's clothes," he said. "You either really feel that the two are interrelated, or you don't. Everybody's got to keep in

## people

mind teaching and learning, teaching and learning — that's the whole ball of wax."

A YOUNG man for his position, Flanagan says he has "only one more year to say I'm in the 'thirty-something' generation."

He looks forward during the next decade to helping education over the hurdles it faces, introducing new technologies, then moving on to someday teach at the college level.

As deputy superintendent, Flanagan oversees all day-to-day operations of the district under the superintendent.

After completing a bachelor's from Notre Dame and a master's

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Farmington deputy superintendent Mike Flanagan meets with teachers to discuss aspects of the district's new westside elementary. Flanagan considers business and education aspects of his job a good mix.

## Woman hurt in crash

By Janice Brunson staff writer

Another personal injury accident at 14 Mile and Drake Wednesday occurred as West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills officials pledge they are "doing everything humanly possible" to expedite installation of a traffic signal at that intersection.

The intersection, which borders both communities, has become increasingly dangerous in recent years, with the incidence of traffic accidents jumping nearly fivefold since 1985.

It is where a 10-year-old West Bloomfield girl was killed in a car accident Feb. 14.

Wednesday, a 24-year-old Pontiac woman was hurt when she stopped for the stop sign while northbound, then pulled into the intersection in front of an eastbound car at 4:20 p.m., said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section supervisor.

JANICE LYNN BENSON'S car was struck on the driver's side. The West Bloomfield Fire Department took her to Henry Ford Hospital, West Bloomfield, for treatment.

The other driver, Margaret Mary Kuzmanovich, 28, of Southfield, was not hurt, Cranston said.

Both drivers were wearing seatbelts. Benson was ticketed for failing to yield after a stop. "She said she didn't see anyone on 14 Mile," Cranston said.

**TUESDAY**, THE WEST Bloomfield Township Board approved an order from the Oakland County Road Commission to "regulate, warn and guide traffic" at the intersection. The Farmington Hills City Council is expected to award contracts tonight for installation of a traffic signal

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## Guardrail did job — engineers

By Bob Sklar staff writer

The guardrail on I-275 at Nine Mile did its job in keeping a runaway truck from plummeting down a steep embankment Tuesday, spokespeople for the Michigan Department of Transportation said Friday.

"In this case, Nine Mile is lower. Had there been no guardrail, the truck would've gone down a very steep embankment," said Sandy Montes, MDOT design transportation engineer.

"The whole idea of any type of guardrail protection is contingent on the driver of an out-of-control vehicle that leaves the roadway taking

some type of braking action," said Desi Strakovits, MDOT traffic and safety field operation engineer. "If that doesn't happen, no amount of recovery area will be of any use."

The tractor-trailer truck was northbound on I-275 when it struck the concrete overpass wall at Nine Mile just before 8 a.m. Tuesday. The impact threw three big nuts from the front right wheel, Michigan State Police said.

The truck continued north 20 feet along the guardrail. When the guardrail ended, the truck veered down an embankment, then went up a rise and through a wire fence onto the Polo Club Apartments grounds. It snapped a tree before slamming into the resident manager's garage and

kitchen at 39352 Polo Club Drive, two-tenths of a mile to the east, police said.

Four maintenance men were in the area and two people were in the apartment but, miraculously, no one was seriously hurt. The 41-year-old truck driver, from Windsor, Ontario, was treated for cuts and pain. He faces a misdemeanor charge of operating under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

A HISTORIC farmhouse that's 155 years old sits 130 feet from the freeway roadbed — northeast of where the guardrail ends.

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## Clash of ideas

### Area scholars, Muslims see opposites in book

By Mary Rodrigue staff writer

Death threats against "The Satanic Verses" author Salman Rushdie pit the medieval-like Islamic religious fervor against the cherished Western value of freedom of speech, according to area scholars and Muslims who generally — but not universally — deplore its censorship.

"I'm reading it now. If it wasn't for this controversy, I would have left it long ago," said Aleya Rouchdy, a Muslim who lives in Bloomfield Hills and teaches Near Eastern and Asian studies at Wayne State University.

Rouchdy was one of 40 professors who signed a petition to boycott a university bookstore that had halted sales of the book. The bookstore has since ended that ban.

"Particularly at a university, you don't prevent someone from reading," she said. The otherwise obscure book has enraged Islamic fanatics in countries such as Pakistan and Iran where the Ayatollah Khomeini

**'Particularly at a university, you don't prevent someone from reading.'**

— Aleya Rouchdy  
Wayne State professor

has called for the death of Rushdie, the Indian-born British citizen who wrote the book. The death threat doesn't surprise Rouchdy, who said the author likely would have been put to death had he lived in a Muslim country. He feels the book should be pulled from area shelves.

"IT ATTACKS our faith — it attacks all faiths," said Yamini, a member of the Dawoodi Bohra sect of the Muslims which meets at a Farmington Hills mosque.

Yamini, who had not been able to get a copy of the book, said the work is a stinging attack on Islam. He bases his opinions on

press coverage and word-of-mouth.

"It's the same thing as if someone had attacked the U.S.A., you'd want to defend it," he said.

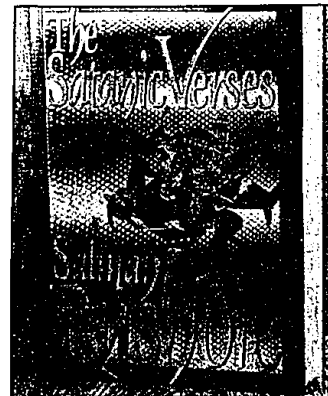
Carlo Coppola, an Islamic authority and a linguistics professor at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, said that "we in the West cannot comprehend what is happening."

"When we want to condemn this as outrageous, we are dealing with a different mindset."

"The Islamic world has not gone through the Renaissance, the Reformation or the Enlightenment which are three of the things we in the West have gone through. Life in medieval Europe is as life in most Muslim countries. If Salman Rushdie had written this book in the Middle Ages he'd be burned at the stake. He'd be a heretic."

Coppola also noted the political significance of this controversy as fundamentalist Muslims resist liberal movements such as the election of a female head of state in Pakistan. The Ayatollah also needs a rally

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BILL BREWSTER/staff photographer

Threats against the author of the controversial book have spurred sales and inspired debate over First Amendment rights.