



# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**BUDGET** talk. Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan started off last week's study session on Farmington Public Schools' 1989-90 operating budget by putting the forthcoming school board discussion in perspective. "If you can keep your head when all about you others are losing theirs, maybe you just don't understand the problem," he said, only half in jest.

**SCHOOL** bus safety. Superintendent Graham Lewis told the Farmington school board last week that bus garage supervisor Malet Terry has engineered a two-mirror configuration that will let bus drivers "see virtually around the front of the bus and all four wheels."

"We're finally figuring out a way by which you can see just about every aspect of that bus. It's definitely a safety factor... to see children coming and going from all directions," Lewis said.

## QUOTE of the week

Like our mouth is with us at all times, her mouth should be with her at all times.

— Liz Stamos-Busby, who began working with Nicole Chekan, a Harrison High student with limited vocal skills because of cerebral palsy, when she was 5 (see story, Page 3).

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## HOME garden



SPECIAL SECTION  
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

## Mayor defends closed-door talks

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever said he, the city council and the city administration have been trustworthy and working for the city's best interest in acquiring additional parkland.

Tuesday, Sever responded to concerns expressed last week by Farmington Hills resident Rosa Plum over city efforts and negotiations, particularly in closed session, to acquire parkland and possibly an 18-hole

golf course south of I-696, west of Farmington Road. She also criticized a possible land swap with developer Michael Horowitz and the Selective Group.

"I think this is a clear indication and best example of someone attempting to create mistrust in elected officials or city administrators in the portraying of information," Sever said.

"I feel disappointed from the standpoint that as mayor, my goal is to gain the trust of residents. Rosa (Plum) never asked me for any information."

But Plum said she isn't trying to create mistrust; it's already there, she said. "I was the only one quoted (in the story May 8). At this stage of the game, he is 60 percent correct (about mistrust), as far as I am concerned. He can't accuse the rest of Farmington Hills (of mistrust) because they didn't know (of the park plans)."

THE MAYOR defended the city council's discussions in closed session for the proposed \$600,000 purchase of 27 acres, owned by Jack

Peltz, south of I-696, immediately west of Farmington Road. As of Tuesday, the purchase was not yet completed.

"By having confidential meetings, we probably saved the city \$100,000," Sever said.

If negotiations had been publicized, the land price could have been higher, he said.

The 1976 Michigan Open Meetings Act allows a city council to discuss land acquisition in closed session. It must be made public when a purchase option is made on property.

WITH THE city council's knowledge, Sever and City Manager William Costick have been trying to buy or preferably swap the Selective Group's 40 acres, at I-696 and Drake, for part of the city-owned San Marino Golf Course on Halsted, just north of 11 Mile. If the Selective property isn't bought, the Peltz and MDOT property could be used for youth athletic facilities.

City officials also have been eye-

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## You've got a pal, Charlie Brown

### Orphaned raccoon now has an adopted brother

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Charlie Brown may be an orphan. But he won't be growing up alone.

Thanks to a Redford Township resident who read in the Observer about the 27-day-old raccoon's plight as an only child, Charlie Brown now has a brother, 34-day-old Linus.

"We're getting along well," said Farmington Hills resident Beverly Cornell, caring for the pair of baby raccoons. "They snuggle each other. And they sleep on top of each other."

Linus arrived at the Cornell household a week ago. Like Charlie, Linus was one of a number of siblings who lost their mother and was stranded alone.

CORNELL, LICENSED by the state Department of Natural Resources to care for wild orphan animals, had hoped Charlie could have a brother or sister so he wouldn't have to grow up alone.

"This way they learn to interact with another raccoon and learn how to be a raccoon," she said. "It will be interesting, however, to see what happens with two boys who are not siblings."

Both babies live in a 20-gallon aquarium equipped with lights, similar to an incubator. Without teeth, the pair still drinks milk — actually a puppy supplement and vitamins. Linus consumes approximately two ounces and Charlie, 1 1/4 ounces, every four hours.

BECAUSE THEIR eyes have

been open only a short time, the raccoons have learned to react with their noses.

"I've been experimenting to test their reactions," Cornell said.

The raccoons can be sound asleep, but if Cornell puts her hand in their incubator, they come to life. They know she means food, love and hugging.

Charlie clings to the baby receiving blanket wrapped around him.

He (Charlie) was a single for so long, he likes to snuggle," Cornell said.

WHEN THE pair kicks the bottle, the raccoons will be ready to begin their lessons outside, where Cornell will try to help them learn to do the things — climb, run and dig for food — raccoons must to survive in the wild.

"Once they are off the bottle, they will become more independent and they will explore," Cornell said about the pair, which instinctively reaches for a finger or knuckle to massage their teething gums.

Though the babies are cute and easy to fall in love with, Cornell keeps in mind they are not domesticated pets.

"I have to be concerned there is a difference. You want them to jump and be responsive to strange sounds. Their natural instinct is to hiss and growl," she said.

Because the babies must be fed so often, Charlie and Linus are making their first interstate trip to Cleveland for Mother's Day. Last week, they accompanied Cornell and a friend when they delivered Meals on Wheels.

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Baby raccoons Linus (left) and Charlie are where they most prefer to be — in Farmington Hills resident Beverly Cornell's arms. The two male, unrelated orphans will be raised by Cornell.

## Boy, 12, charged with rape

A 12-year-old boy is charged with raping a 12-year-old girl on the grounds of the Sarah Fisher Home for Children, 27400 12 Mile, where the Detroit youths have been living, Farmington Hills police said.

After being raped last week, the victim was examined at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, then released.

At a preliminary hearing Tuesday, Oakland County Probate Court Juvenile Intake Referee Gary Sabourin found probable cause to believe a crime had been committed and enough cause to continue detaining the boy, Farmington Hills Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

The boy was ordered held without bond at Oakland County Children's Village pending a pre-trial hearing in probate court May 22, Nebus said.

THE SUSPECT faces one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, involving penetration, and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, involving contact, Nebus said.

The charges stem from incidents that the girl said happened between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 3 in woods on the grounds of the home. Both the boy and the girl had been truant that day. The girl returned to her room that afternoon. The boy returned to his room the next morning, Nebus said.

The boy is a temporary ward of the state; the girl is a permanent ward of the state. Sarah Fisher Home's residential treatment program provides care and treatment for abused, neglected or emotionally disturbed children.



Chief William Dwyer

## Hills chief: Toughen DUI penalties

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer wants stiffer mandatory penalties, including fines and jail sentences, for drunken drivers.

"I don't see where there is a decrease in driving under the influence of liquor," Dwyer said.

Drunk driving arrests increased during the first three months of 1989 from the same period in 1988. Last year, drunk driving arrests totaled 398. Of those arrested, 76 had at least one prior conviction on alcohol-

related charges; 15 had two prior convictions.

Dwyer wants to see increased education and stronger enforcement not only for first and repeat offenders, but for licensees who sell alcoholic beverages.

The police chief is fairly optimistic some of his seven recommendations presented in mid-April to a task force of state Republican representatives, including state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, will be received favorably.

"I'm sure some of those recommendations are not new to the task force," Dwyer said.

Dolan said the task force is reviewing recommendations heard at the Farmington Hills public hearing and at others around the state. "We want to sit down and look where the laws are," she said. "We want to see what is needed. We have heard some interesting proposals."

DWYER WOULD like to further limit the number of hours a convicted drunk driver may operate a vehicle on a restricted license. He also would like to see restricted drivers, stopped for any violation, be required to submit to a breathalyzer test.

"If alcohol is again detected, the license restriction is violated, causing an immediate forfeiture of the license," Dwyer said.

The court, which issued the restricted license, would be required to remand the person to the county jail. "A lot of it is enforcement. People drive with no licenses," Dolan said. "Only one in 2,000 drunks get stopped."

Another alternative, Dwyer said, is to require, as a condition of probation, that a convicted drunk driver submit to a daily preliminary breath test. "They would be responsible for

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## Police overtime for April 29 protests: \$2,496

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Twenty-five Farmington Hills officers worked overtime at a cost of \$2,496 during simultaneous right-to-life and pro-choice protests outside an Orchard Lake Road abortion clinic April 29. Abortion foes had dubbed the protests Operation Rescue.

"Both sides were cooperative with the police," Farmington Hills Lt. Richard Murphy said. "They were there to voice their concerns in an orderly manner."

Farmington Hills doesn't have a history of right-to-life or pro-choice protests. But \$2,496 for overtime — 104 hours of overtime at an

average cost of \$24 an hour — "is a lot of money for any budget," Murphy said. "It could've been a heck of a lot more."

"That's why you have an emergency overtime account to handle situations like this," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

Forty-two officers from Farmington Hills, Farmington, Southfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department were assigned to the protests, held outside the Women's Center, located in a medical complex at 33700 Orchard Lake Road.

The Farmington Department of Public Safety logged \$330 in overtime to assist Farmington Hills police, Deputy Director Gary Cox said.

Police overtime costs for Operation Rescue protests the same day in Livonia, Sterling Heights and Lansing ranged from \$200 to \$10,000.

IN FARMINGTON Hills, no major skirmishes and no arrests were reported.

But there was one destructive act. While TV crews were interviewing National Organization for Women president Molly Yard and former Michigan NOW president Marian McCracken of Farmington, a right-to-life supporter threw a rock and ruined their signs.

When police arrived at 6:25 a.m., 150 abortion protesters blocked the front entrance to the Women's Center, while 50 more blocked the back entrance.

They said their goal was to stop abortions that day, by virtually any means short of violence. "In every abortion situation, there are two bodies involved: the mother's body and the body of the unborn child," said Barbara Listing, president of Right to Life of Michigan.

"The mother may have the right to make choices for her body, but she has no right to choose death for another human being."

"We call it Operation Bully, because they bully women," said Yard. She said banning abortion would only affect women too poor to travel outside the United States for a legal abortion. "A lot of them will get an illegal abortion, and they will die," she said.

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