



# Farmlington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**STATE honors.**  
The Farmlington Hills Department of Special Services has won a Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan conservation award of excellence for Heritage Park.

Mayor Terry Sever accepted a certificate from the local Hill and Dale Garden Club, which nominated the city for the award.

**MAKE it safe.**  
The Farmlington Hills Police Department crime prevention section offers free home and business security surveys. The surveys evaluate potential security risks and recommend measures to reduce those risks. Call the crime prevention section at 473-9840 weekdays to schedule a survey.

**LUXURY prize.**  
Christine and Douglas Peterson of Farmlington Hills won free use of a Maserati, a luxury convertible, in a benefit auction for the Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills. They were high bidders.

### QUOTE of the week

Basically, everybody's a walking textbook. Equality of teachers tends to be pretty much the same — that's the single most important thing in any educational setting.

— Graham Lewis, Farmlington Public Schools superintendent (until resigning Tuesday). See story on Page 1A.

### what's inside

- Around Farmlington . . . 7B
- Business . . . . . Sec. C
- Cable connection . . . 10C
- Classifieds . . . Sec. C, E-H
- Index . . . . . 7G
- Auto . . . . . Sec. G-H
- Real estate . . . . . Sec. E-G
- Employment . . . Sec. G-H
- Creative living . . . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 4F
- Entertainment . . . . . 5C
- Obituaries . . . . . 12C
- Opinion . . . . . 16A
- Points of view . . . . . 17A
- Police/fire calls . . . . . 8A
- Sports . . . . . Sec. D
- Suburban life . . . . . Sec. B

**Reminder**

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Defense attorney Jack Bain (left) and defendant Dawood Toma Saroki appear before District Judge Fred Harris of Farmlington Monday. Saroki, 41, is charged with distributing obscene material to children and violating the state obscenity law.

## Pornography crackdown

### Police net store owner in sting operation

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A Farmlington Hills party store owner charged with selling hard-core pornographic magazines to a minor as part of an undercover crackdown on pornography was not singled out, police said.

The sting, announced Monday, was the first in a series of undercover crackdowns on pornography in Farmlington Hills, police Chief William Dwyer said.

"No. We are not singling any person or particular location out. The investigation is ongoing. We would expect additional people to be charged. We're not going to tip

our hand on how we will pursue this," Dwyer said.

Undercover pornography operations, similar to the city's undercover liquor operations, will be continued to help control the sale of obscene materials, particularly to minors, Dwyer said.

Not-guilty pleas were entered on behalf of Dawood Toma Saroki, 41, owner of the Grand Square Liquor Shop, 38441 Grand River, at his arraignment Monday before District Judge Fred Harris of Farmlington. A pre-exam conference was scheduled for Wednesday.

Saroki, a two-year Farmlington Hills resident, faces two counts of distributing obscene materials to children, a high mis-

demeanor, and two counts of violating the state obscenity law, a misdemeanor.

If convicted, he faces up to two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for each of the high misdemeanor counts and up to one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine for each of the two misdemeanor counts.

**THE FIRST** two counts stem from an undercover operation June 8 in which a 15-year-old son of a police officer from another city bought three hard-core pornographic magazines, visibly on display in the Grand Square Liquor Shop, Dwyer said.

Please turn to Page 6

## Parental awareness raised

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Awareness.

That's the least of what's expected to result from the arrest of a Farmlington Hills party store owner on charges of selling pornographic materials to a minor, said Betty Nicolay, member of the Farmlington Hills Police Department's Citizens Crime Advisory Committee.

"At least the committee has brought this to the awareness of the community. If

nothing else, it makes parents aware that minors are buying it, or at least reading it," said Nicolay, also a member of Farmlington Families In Action.

The 16-member committee, responsible for developing the year-long "Say No to Drugs" campaign in Farmlington Hills, prompted the police undercover investigation into party stores and bookstores to determine whether pornographic materials are being sold to minors.

"I can't say I recognized a problem," said committee member Jim Dorrell, who

raised the issue of pornography to his colleagues. "I thought, 'Well, we can see if there is anything here.'"

**THE OPERATION**, Nicolay said, puts parents on notice that pornographic material is available in Farmlington Hills and that their children may be buying and reading the magazines.

Nicolay suggested that parents file complaints with stores that sell both soft- and hard-core pornographic material.

Please turn to Page 2

## Floods wreak havoc

More storm coverage, 12A, 14A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Kendallwood subdivision resident Belle McKintrie kept her fingers crossed that the worst wouldn't happen in Wednesday's downpour. But it did. She watched as the water edged closer to her home and into basement windows.

"I got my Bible out and I've been praying for the rain to stop," McKintrie said. "There's no way we can get out of here. I'm 73 years old. But I think I can still swim to the corner."

Like McKintrie, Esther Gudum didn't know what to do when the front yard slipped beneath the murky water, or when the rain came through the basement windows, floor and walls. "It's about-

Please turn to Page 12



This house, on Nine Mile, south of Grand River in Farmlington Hills, was caught in the flood waters as the Rouge rose above its banks Wednesday.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## School chief leaves

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmlington Public Schools superintendent Graham Lewis left his \$100,000-per-year job Tuesday, half way through a two-year contract.

He tendered his resignation following an annual employment evaluation.

Lewis will continue as a consultant for the district through June 1990, receiving a reduced salary of \$38,000, according to an 11th-hour agreement reached with the school board Tuesday.

The announcement was made at the conclusion of Tuesday night's regular school board meeting by board president Jack Cotton. Lewis has held the post for three years. No reason was given for his resignation.

Deputy superintendent Michael Finanigan was directed by the board to handle all day-to-day affairs starting Wednesday until a procedure is set to replace the district's top administrator. The board is ex-

Please turn to Page 4

## How do our schools measure up?

Visual differences apparent in classrooms

**School Spending** bridging the gap

ban-urban gap, or the suburban-rural gap, envisioned by many legislators. There are vast differences among suburban districts as well.

While the state aid formula was long ago drafted to provide at least rough equality among Michigan's public school districts, it's difficult to find a district, whether rich, poor, or in the middle, that believes the formula doesn't need to be changed.

In this series, Observer & Eclectic reporters examine the problem of educational inequality.

Classroom observations, 3A

By Casey Hans staff writer

**I**N ONE Farmlington Hills elementary school, third graders learn their lessons in carpeted, central-air-conditioned quiet. All three rooms have computers. All the desks match.

In the bordering Clarenceville district — which educates approximately 540 students from Farmlington Hills — more traditional classrooms prevail, with the floors and windows open wide to the springtime air. The desks are worn with use and some chairs are not alike.

But teachers in four classrooms visited by the Observer — three at Wood Creek Elementary in Farmlington Hills and one at Clarence-

- What's inside.
- Lansing poses two solutions, 9A.
- Is money enough? 30A.
- A lesson money can't buy, 10A.
- Benefits of the 'haves', 11A.
- How a 'have not' copes, 11A.
- Problems of districts in the middle, 11A.
- What is needed, Opinion Page.

Please turn to Page 3

## Car goes in store; 1 injured

By Bob Sklar staff writer

An elderly woman looking at a sidewalk flower display was struck by wood skids knocked in the air by a car that lurched from a parking space through an open bay door into the Oak Farms Fruit Market Tuesday.

"It was unbelievable," said Jerry Lips, co-owner of the store in the Uptown Farmlington Plaza in Farmlington. "Shoppers stared in amazement."

Theresa Agnes McLoughlin, 70, was treated at Providence Hospital, Southfield, for leg fractures and a leg cut when wood skids, holding the flower display, fell on top of her.

Please turn to Page 8