

## Farmington Focus

To write the Observer, 3203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 977-5450; sports line, 591-2311; home delivery, 591-0509. Classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2500; fax line, 977-9722.

### LATIN alive

Farmington Public Schools Latin teacher Patricia Tompkins will teach a Latin I class that will last a three-year Latin program in the senior highs.

The language is taught at Farmington High but serves interested students from all three senior highs.

"I wasn't going to be offered this fall because of declining student interest. This fall, a school board committee will begin a fall study of language offerings in the district."

### ON board

Farmington Hills City Council has appointed Lana Street resident Deborah DeLong to the planning commission to complete the unexpired term of Jonathan Grant, who resigned.

DeLong will serve to Feb. 1, 1991.

The six-year Farmington Hills resident is president of the Heritage Village Homeowners Association and serves on the city's 2000 beautification commission.

She has held administrative positions at IBM in Southfield for 10 years.

## Memory lane

Rapid progress is being made in the construction of the new high school building. Due to the ideal weather, workers have had just one day barring unexpected delays. It will be ready when school opens in September.

A report of Farmington's Welfare Relief, turned in to the city commission, shows that the city spent \$5,178 over a period from July 1, 1988, to Dec. 31, 1988.

Farmington Enterprise, July 6, 1989.

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## The CLASSIFIEDS

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# Vote set on library tax, bonds

By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters will be asked Nov. 7 to support a \$14.5-million bond proposal to build a new 80,000-square-foot main library and a maximum 1.5-mill operating levy for the two-branch library system. Both requests are for 20 years.

The Farmington Hills City Council June 28 gave its support to the library trustees' request. Farmington Community Library director Beverly Papal expects to present the request and ballot language to the Farmington City Council soon.

Though library trustees are seeking both council's support, a law enacted in late May allows the library autonomy. The new district library law also gives library officials financing options other than relying on annual budget allocations from municipalities. The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills financially support the library system.

With the bond proposal's wording, "you can allow whatever is necessary to retire the debt," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

Based on the combined state equalized values of Farmington and Farmington Hills, and assuming bonds can be issued at 8 percent,

Costick said he would expect that a half-mill would be sufficient to pay the debt.

IF VOTERS support the two library requests, both Farmington and Farmington Hills are expected to roll back the annual city budgets by the amount usually allocated to the library.

Farmington Hills councilwoman Jean Fox insisted that the council make a commitment to reduce the city tax rate should the library proposals pass. She urged the council, "don't double dip."

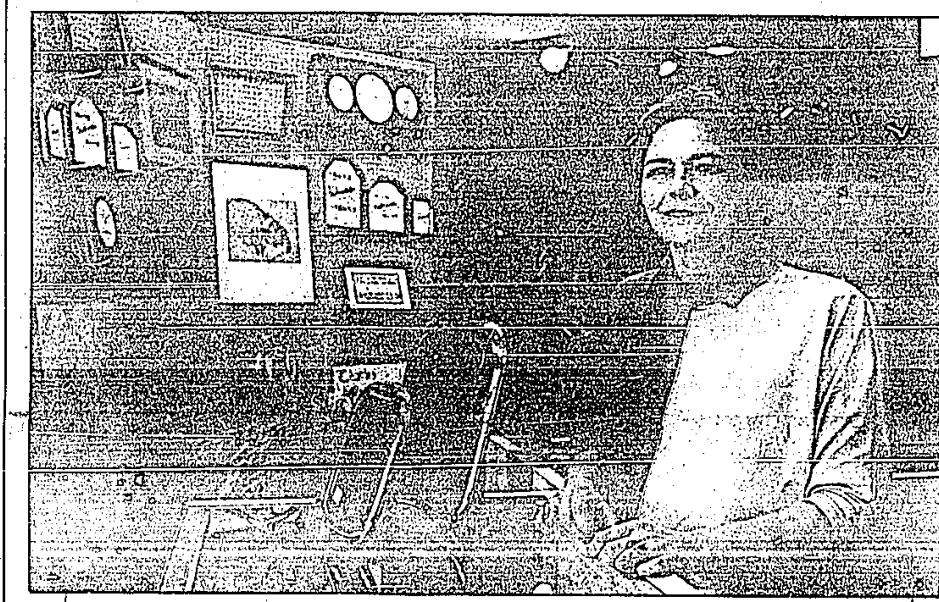
But councilman Philip Arnold disagreed. "I don't think this council should make a commit-

ment in reducing the budget."

Money in the budget not used for the library should be used to finance necessary drain improvements, in light of residential damage from the June 21 downpour. "There's too many ramifications to say here we're going to reduce the budget a year from now," Arnold added.

In a letter to the council, library board president Charlotte Yaverski requested a reduction in tax levies if voters approve the library proposals. Such a commitment, she said, is necessary for voter support.

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RAINDY BORSI/staff photographer

Joan Nusley owns Framery One in the Uptown Farmington Plaza.

# Uptown is upbeat

## Area rejuvenation lures grass roots support

By Casey Hens staff writer

On the east side of Farmington is an area that merchants, businesspeople and residents have labeled "uptown."

They hope the revitalization movement will carry an upbeat message.

Springing from a handful of merchants in the area who formed the Uptown Farmington Business Association, the idea has blossomed over the past year and is growing stronger, according to UFBA president and businesswoman Joan Nusley.

Much of the momentum came after the city began sprucing up the downtown business district — what uptown people call their "alter area" down the street.

"It's a real grass-roots movement and we're here to stay," Nusley said.

The main thrust was a neighborly one, she said: everyone getting to know each other, offer help and referrals. "You're doing your customers a disservice, the community a disservice and your fellow businesses a disservice if you don't know what's around you," she said, adding that the new uptown area is giving everyone a sense of pride.

"If you have something to live up to, it develops and it starts to mushroom and it starts to snowball," she added. "If I walk through the center and see a piece of paper . . . I bend down and pick it up. And I'm not the only one."

"You just make the community a better place. If one person doesn't succeed, no one succeeds."

AFTER THE 1988 Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival, a handful of organizers picked up the ball and began the groundwork for starting the UFBA. Proposed by-laws were distributed and adopted last fall, and the association has since grown to include 21 Uptown-area businesses. Businesses include those in the newly named Uptown Farmington Plaza and others in the area surrounding Grand River, Mooney, Silwassee and Orchard Lake Road.

In addition to getting support from the Uptown Plaza landlord — who allowed a change in the name of the shopping center — the city council recently offered its support by allowing the association to pursue the installation of decorative banners for their area.

"This is not a plaza endeavor, it's an uptown endeavor," said local veterinarian, longtime community activist and UFBA board member John Richardson when the association made its banner request. "It's a geographical area where we're trying to create an identity."

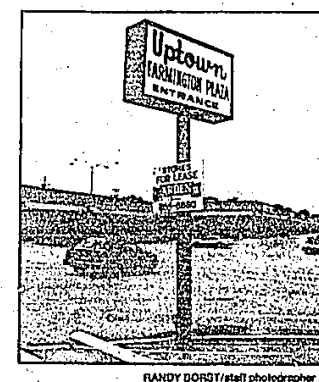
Richardson's practice is in the uptown area.

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RAINDY BORSI/staff photographer

This is the Grand River entrance to the Uptown Farmington Plaza.

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# Flanagan takes reins as school chief

By Casey Hens staff writer

Michael Flanagan expects to be an active superintendent for the better part of one year, until Farmington school board members select a new leader for the district.

Once that is accomplished, he hopes to simply step back into his role as deputy chief. But in the meantime, Flanagan stressed, he won't be a lame duck or caretaker.

"The feeling I have at this point, is that I can't be an active superintendent in the next year and be an effective (superintendent's) candidate. I probably won't be a candidate," said the 49-year-old deputy chief. "There's no such thing as an 'interim' or 'interim,' anyway. You just take the job and do it."

"And I'm looking forward to it."

Flanagan was appointed as acting superintendent June 23, following the resignation of Graham Lewis, who had led the district for the

past 3 1/2 years, both as an interim and permanent chief.

His resignation followed his annual review, as required by his contract, which was done by the board in an executive session at Lewis' request. No reason was given for his resignation.

IN HIS new role, Flanagan plans to carry the Farmington Public Schools through the coming year, with one of the most full agendas he has seen in his 18 years in education. Expired contracts with most of the school unions,

keeping track of the progress and developments at the elementary school being built on the west side, and monitoring on-going programs such as the Highmeadow Common Campus pilot are all on his priority list.

He hopes to start on-going discussions with the school board at their next meeting, July 10, so he can both get direction and offer opinions on where the district should go during his tenure.

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# Exam waived in porn case

By Joanna Maliszewski staff writer

A Farmington Hills party store owner will stand trial in Oakland County Circuit on charges of selling hard-core pornographic magazines to a minor.

Dawood Torna Soroki, 41, owner of the Grand Square Liquor Shop, 3844 Grand River, waived his right to a preliminary examination Thursday before 47th District Court Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington.

He will be arraigned Friday, July 14, before Circuit Judge Fred Mester.



Soroki, a two-year Farmington Hills resident, faces two counts of distributing obscene materials to children, a high misdemeanor, and two counts of violating the state obscenity law, a misdemeanor.

Soroki It is the two faces trial high misdemeanor counts that may be tried in a circuit court, but the two misdemeanors "will ride with the waiver," Schaeffer said.

The judge continued Soroki's \$1,000 personal recognizance bond pending his circuit court arraignment.

Not-guilty pleas were entered on behalf of Soroki at his June 19 district court arraignment before Judge Fred Harris of Farmington.

If convicted, Soroki 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 TWO high misdemeanor counts stem from a Farmington Hills police 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 Shoppe, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

The state obscenity law charges stem from an early June investigation of party stores and book stores by an undercover police officer.

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