

Whirling around  
the Windy City, 1D



Hockey star  
commits, 1C

Sorbet, ice cream  
are light treats, 1B

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2212; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

**P**ARTY time? James Abernethy, chairman of the Farmington school board's building and site committee, will consider ways to inspire students and staff to discourage acts of vandalism and thefts at their school.

District-hosted parties are one way to tell students and staff "they are doing such a good job taking care of their facility they are to be congratulated," he said.

The district logged \$17,800 in losses attributable to vandalism and theft last year, a 17 percent drop from the previous year. In 1987-88, the \$21,000 in losses represented a 25 percent increase from the year before. The number of incidents in 1988-89, 83, was 16 fewer than the year before. Of the \$17,800 in losses last year, \$11,600 was not covered by insurance.

## Memory lane

50 years ago:

• The Farmington City Commission voted to provide a site where children may skate, slide or enjoy other winter activities.

• Is a dog kennel near Gill and Oakland a public nuisance? The Farmington City Commission will consider the question in September.

• The Farmington A&P is advertising a dozen doughnuts for 10 cents.

— Farmington Enterprise, Aug. 17, 1939

## This week

**F**ROM today to Saturday, Aug. 26, 14 Mile, between Drake and Farmington Road, will be closed for resurfacing. A detour will be set up between Halsted and Farmington Road, south to 13 Mile.

## what's inside

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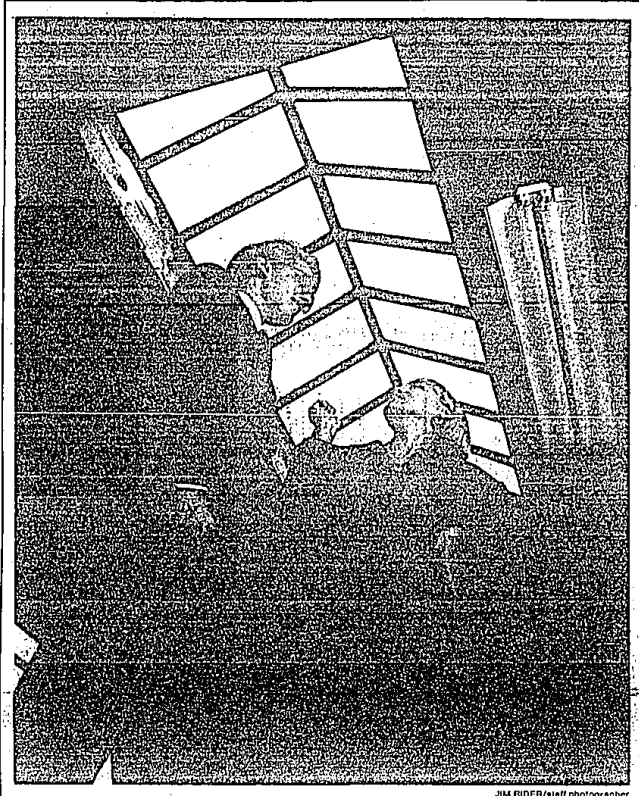
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## HOMES of the finest distinction

## CREATIVE LIVING

REAL ESTATE SECTION

IN EVERY MONDAY  
AND THURSDAY ISSUE



JIM RIDER/staff photographer

## Style — Fall '89

You'll see this kind of power dressing — for day and night — in the Observer & Eccentric's annual fall fashion preview, a special section in Thursday's newspaper. Here, Chanel's new suedo suit has quilted collar

and cuffs. The man's dark charcoal grey wool suit is by Burberry. The fashions were photographed at the former winery on Grand River in Farmington. Both are available at Jacobson's.

## Schools will replace leaky fuel tanks

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Leaking underground gasoline storage tanks at the Farmington Public Schools bus yard have been removed and will be replaced to prevent seepage into the groundwater, district officials said Wednesday.

"We decided we should replace the tanks immediately rather than try to repair them," said Beverly Hausman, purchasing and transportation supervisor for the school district.

"We've been pretty rigorous in taking care of environmental concerns, including asbestos and PCB," said Michael Flanagan, acting superintendent.

The \$100,000 project, spurred by tougher state standards on underground gasoline storage tanks, includes replacing 400 square yards of contaminated dirt with clean fill and installing two new gasoline pumps. The dirt must be disposed of at a state licensed hazardous waste landfill.

Tests confirmed that gasoline seepage had not reached the water table, Flanagan said.

Two new 10,000-gallon fiberglass tanks will replace the old steel tanks by this week. The old tanks, 10,000 and 9,000 gallons in size, dated back at least 20 years, Hausman said.

**'We've been pretty rigorous in taking care of environmental concerns, including asbestos and PCB.'**

— Michael Flanagan, acting superintendent

THE NEW tanks meet the tougher state standards, said Joe Schornack, Farmington Department of Public Safety fire marshal, who joined environmental engineers and analysts in monitoring the project.

"We expected to find leaks in both tanks," Flanagan said. "But we didn't know we'd have to replace both tanks nor did we expect it to cost \$100,000."

The money will come from the district's capital improvement fund, he said.

On Aug. 4, Parks Installation Co. of Milford tested the tanks and pressurized the lines. It reaffirmed leaks detected three weeks ago in testing done by Hawkins Equipment Co. of Pontiac.

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## Presidential letter honors graduate, 70

By Loraine McElish  
staff writer

Nellie Patrello graduated from Clarenceville High School last June. A few weeks later, she was back before the Clarenceville Board of Education to receive a framed congratulatory letter from President George Bush.

"I have to brag about that," said the 70-year-old Farmington resident. "There were 17 of us who got our diplomas through the adult education program (this spring) and I got the highest competency scores of them all."

She attained those high competency scores in SHARP (Sharp High Assessment of Reading Performance)

## people

and TOPICS (Test of Performance in Computational Skills), both given just before graduation to adults whose high school education was interrupted.

Patrello began completing her high school education when she heard Yvonne Singer, a staff member of the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center, make an announcement about graduate equivalency diploma classes one day in 1985.

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## Hotel says: not us No halfway house for felons

□ Typical halfway house services explained, 4A

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

A federal halfway house for white-collar criminals will not operate out of a Farmington Hills hotel, city officials were relieved to learn earlier this month.

Apparently, Bannum, Inc. — a for-profit Florida-based company — submitted a bid proposing to locate a corrections center, under contract with the U.S. Department of Justice, at the Travelodge, 21100 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, in Farmington Hills.

But in an Aug. 1 letter to William Costick, city manager, Denis Benford, regional manager for the Ohio-based Trusthouse Forte Hotels, flat-

**'In reference to the letter from Bannum, Inc., please rest assured that the Travelodge Hotel on Haggerty has no intention of participating in any arrangements to house criminals of any type.'**

— Denis Benford regional manager

ly denies any intention to allow such a center to be housed in the Travelodge.

In reference to the letter from Bannum, Inc., please rest assured that the Travelodge Hotel on Haggerty has no intention of participating in any arrangements to house

criminals of any type," wrote Benford.

"As a corporation, we are constantly looking into working with many government agencies, including the Department of Justice. Apparently, Bannum, Inc. felt that they could initiate procedures with local governments prior to Travelodge making a decision on whether or not we would commit to participating in this type of program. Travelodge in Farmington Hills is definitely not going to participate in any contractual agreement with Bannum, Inc."

THE DEPARTMENT OF Justice's Bureau of Prisons in Washington solicited bids for halfway houses in the Detroit area via a nationally distributed advertisement in April. The bid has yet to be awarded. Teresa

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## Store pulls realistic toy gun

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

The Farmington Hills drugstore that sold a plastic squirt gun to a teenager who waved it at a shopping center and a nearby apartment complex on Aug. 4 has pulled the toy guns from stock.

"An officer who came in Tuesday showed me a picture of the gun and in the picture, it looks real," said Howard Ertos of Ertos Drugs in the Mulwood Square shopping center, Grand River and Drake.

When right next to it, the gun looks like plastic. But if somebody was pointing it at me, it may not look so much like plastic. So we decided to pull it anyway. It just seemed like a good idea."

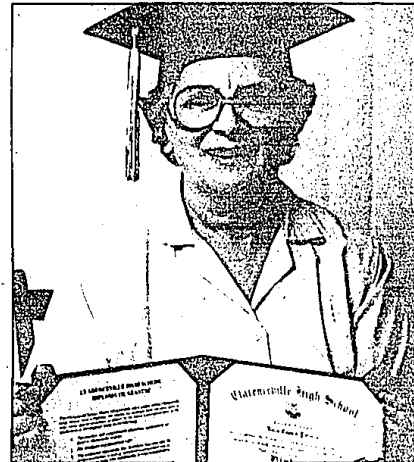
From four feet, the \$2 gun looks just like a .357 magnum revolver, said officer Duane Fox of the Farmington Hills Police Department Juvenile Section.

After the gun-waving incident and subsequent investigation, police released the youth, a 14-year-old Farmington Hills resident, to his parents. No charges will be filed, Fox said.

The boy and his father visited the drugstore the night of Aug. 4 to relate the gun-waving incident to Ertos. But even after their visit, Ertos said he wasn't fully aware of what happened until Fox stopped by Tuesday.

AT 3 P.M. Aug. 4, a worker in a Mulwood Square business told police a youth wearing a black leather jacket, a black beretta and sunglasses was outside, waving a gun in the air.

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JAWDY BORG/staff photographer

Nellie Patrello proudly displays her high school diploma, which was a long time coming. She graduated this spring, at age 70, from Clarenceville High.