

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**O**N the tube. Aldo Vagnozzi, echoing fellow councilman Paul Sowerby, wants the Farmington Hills City Council to reconsider not seeking bids to equip the council chambers so council meetings could be cablecast.

To combat the high estimated cost of \$80,000, Vagnozzi quipped: "I'm sure No-Nod would like to advertise."

**I**N the mail. Farmington City Council has gone on record supporting House Bill 2380, which would realign the postal service to conform with municipal boundaries.

The city believes realignment would be more efficient for the Farmington Post Office in mailing the city newsletter. Now, the city must specifically address each newsletter because the city ZIP code, 48024, takes in part of Farmington Hills.

U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, whose district includes Farmington, is sponsoring the bill.

### QUOTE of the week

"I think I'm more of a nervous wreck than she is."

— Laurie Butler, whose daughter, Ashley, 4, is entering kindergarten at Flanders Elementary School this fall. Story: 1A

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## Boys home renovation back on

State senator speaks out, 6A  
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By Noreen Flack  
staff writer

Boys Republic, a temporary home in Farmington Hills for juvenile offenders, can continue housing unit renovations. The home, on 80 acres on Nine Mile, west of I-75, has been the target of public scrutiny because of a perceived change in land use.

In lifting a stop-work order that Farmington Hills issued Aug. 15, Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper Tuesday said the facility wasn't "afford-

ed due process of the law," said David Chardavoyne, Boys Republic attorney.

The city took an illegal short-cut under the city charter by waiving a review of building renovations and of the new assessment program by

the city's board of zoning appeals, Chardavoyne said. "WE EXPECTED that (Cooper's ruling to lift the order)," said city councilwoman Jean Fox. "But we're going to come back with a strong strategy."

Boys Republic, for wards of the state ages 12-17, continued renovation work Wednesday on the second housing unit for the short-term assessment program. Work includes security window screens, door locks and an audio monitoring system. An

18-foot-high fence will be installed around the basketball court connected to the unit.

On July 26, the state Department of Social Services placed 20 boys in the first assessment program unit. The DSS plans to house 20 more boys requiring assessment in the second unit as soon as renovations are done, said Daniel Chaney, regional director of Wayne/Metro Regional Residential Services.

**RENOVATION OF** the third unit, now housing 22 boys in the long-term treatment program, is planned to begin at the end of September, when the second unit is done, said Phyllis Griffin, Boys Republic executive director.

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## Neighbors' complaints mount

By Noreen Flack  
staff writer

While Boys Republic tries to negotiate changes in the controversial assessment program that began in May, neighbors say the temporary home for delinquents has lost control over who is placed there under a contract with the state.

"The contractor shall not reject any such youth referred for placement (by the Department of Social Services)," said Floyd DuFrane, Olde Town Homeowners Association vice-president, as he read from the one-year contract at a packed Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday.

"They (Boys Republic) have no

control. The Department of Social Services now runs Boys Republic," DuFrane said. "At times, there seem to be people that feel it is necessary to continue to confound the situation rather than strive to clarify it," said James Grannan, Boys Republic board of directors president.

## Back to school

Students meet old friends, make new ones at Flanders

By Amy Rauch  
staff writer

The first day of school can be a traumatic experience for both the children and the parents leaving each other for the first time.

But most students, even first-timers, seemed quite happy when the bell rang at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at Flanders Elementary School in Farmington, marking the start of the new school year.

"I hope you have a wonderful first day," Linda Weh, a third grade teacher, called to two students she had last year.

"I love you, too," she said, hugging Linsey Fernholt, 9, and Maurice Corbin, 10, who said they are best friends.

"Flanders is such a happy place to be," Weh said. "What they get here is a lot of love, and they feel good about themselves."

Some students arrived by bus or car. Others walked hand-in-hand with their parents or ran ahead. "She's excited," Christine Starr said of her daughter, Kelly, starting the first grade. "She can't wait to get in the door. She ran all the way here. She couldn't wait to get dressed for school."

"I was excited for her to start. I just feel like this is a whole new step in her life. I feel really confident with this school system."

**MANY KIDS** posed in front of the school while their parents took pictures of the first day.

"I think I'm more of a nervous wreck than she is," said Laurie Butler, whose daughter, Ashley, 4, is en-

*'Flanders is such a happy place to be. What they get here is a lot of love, and they feel good about themselves.'*

— Linda Weh  
teacher at Flanders

tering kindergarten.

Ashley's father, Michael, videotaping the event, and her grandfather, James Lineker, also were there for the occasion.

"It's a big deal," Laurie Butler said. "We've had everyone over the house for pictures."

Kids and parents are adjusting better than they used to, said Dorothy Billing, a first grade teacher at Flanders.

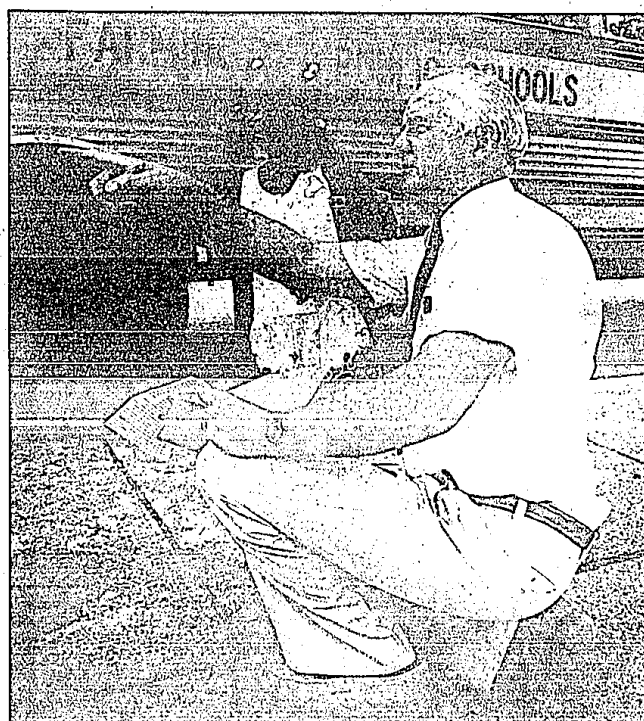
"Most of the kids I find today are pretty independent," said Billing, who has taught in the Farmington school district for 17 years.

"You do have one every now and then," she said as a handful of children came through a door at the end of the hallway.

Billing greeted them with hugs, pointed to their classrooms and told them where to hang up their backpacks.

"That's where you find most of the parents — at the kindergarten door," said Billing, who taught kindergarten for six years.

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Flanders principal Frank Delowsky helps first grader Ashley Linebarger find her way to the right door after she got off the school bus the first day of class Tuesday.

## Shooting victim 'not going to kick the bucket'

By Tom Henderson  
staff writer

The condition of a man who was shot after a rush-hour traffic argument Friday night has improved to good, a representative for Henry Ford Hospital-Detroit said Tuesday afternoon.

Donald Bruce Banks, 29, had been listed in serious but stable condition. According to Farmington Hills Police reports, Banks lived in Redford Township. But Banks said in an interview from his hospital bed

Tuesday afternoon that he lives in Farmington Hills. He said he is the son of Donald Banks Sr., a former member of the Redford Township Board of Trustees in the 1960s who still lives in Redford.

Banks drove himself to Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield after the incident but was transferred downtown because physicians there have more experience treating gunshot wounds.

**BANKS SAID** that while his condition may have been upgraded to

good, "I'm still pretty sick. I can't move without a lot of pain. No cartwheels today."

"I'm not going to kick the bucket, but it's going to be a long recovery."

He said doctors told him he will be out of work nine to 10 weeks. He said he is a sales representative at Puller Homes in Rochester Hills.

A .38-caliber bullet nicked his liver and is lodged in his chest wall, where doctors will leave it temporarily.

"This is a first for me, and I hope a last," said Banks, laughing weakly. **POLICE ALLEGED** he was shot by

*'The guy had a chip on his shoulder. I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was having a bad day, I guess, but that's a real weird way to end it.'*

— Donald Banks

David Goldapper, 45, a Farmington Hills resident who is a Novi jeweler. Goldapper was arraigned Saturday on two felony counts before

Magistrate James Brady of the 47th District Court in Farmington. He

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## Hills ethics code contemplates Dutch treat

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

City officials can let someone pick up the tab for lunch occasionally, and still accept pencils and small plants as gifts and candy if it's shared with the office, but nothing more extravagant.

In response to public concerns about ethics, Farmington Hills drafted a municipal code of ethics for its employees and members of boards and commissions.

A city council committee, of Mayor Terry Seaver and councilmen Aldo Vagnozzi and Philip Aronoff, researched the issue. City attorney Paul Bibben assisted.

Copies of the draft are available at the city clerk's office in the city hall, 31555 11 Mile, at Orchard Lake Road. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 10, said William Costick, city manager.

"Most other cities don't have them (in writing)," Costick said.

Northville is the closest, he said. Others in-

clude San Marcos, Calif., New York City and Reno, Nev.

Councilman Ben Marks' sewer tap-in incident in 1987-88 triggered research into drafting a code of ethics, city officials said.

While mayor, Marks arranged for late payment of a \$17,000 sewer tap-in fee for his new office building, across from the city hall, after he wrote a check that didn't clear. He wrote the check in anticipation of mortgage financing.

When the expected financing was delayed,

Costick chose to keep the debt as a receivable, with interest and penalties accruing, instead of putting it on Marks' 1987 tax bill, thereby placing a lien on the property.

Marks, who had led Costick to believe payment was at hand, paid the debt 1 1/2 years later, with full accrued interest and late charges. When paid in August 1989, the debt totaled \$22,528.

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**HOMEARAMA**  
SPECIAL SECTION  
IN TODAY'S ISSUE