

# Area author's novel gives wings to romance

By Ralph R. Echlin  
staff writer

Livonia native Shelly Thacker wrote the book on romance, or at least one of them.

Thacker is the proud author of "Falcon on the Wind," a thick medieval novel set in 13th century France and Scotland. It's expected to be in most book stores by Dec. 20.

She will be signing copies of her book from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, in the B. Dalton Bookseller in Wonderland Mall, Livonia, and from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at Dalton's in Livonia Mall.

"Falcon" is about a tough guy who kidnaps a high-class lady on her wedding day in order to use her as a pawn to prevent the invasion of Scotland. But of course the quasi-ruffian's coldly machivellian outlook gives way to hard-core affection for the woman as the two go nutzo for each other and ultimately live happily ever after, or at least until one of them dies.

**BORN IN LIVONIA** and a 1981 Northville High graduate, Thacker has always enjoyed writing. "I didn't choose writing. Writing chose me. I really feel I have to write. I think I'm honestly one of those people who was born to be a writer."

Perhaps she was. "Falcon on the Wind," her first book, was snapped up by Avon Books four days after submission. The book was one of six national finalists in the Romance Writers of America Golden Heart competition, and won four regional RWA awards.

Avon even gave Thacker a two-book contract, unusual for a nascent author.

Admitting to a love of history, writing and happy endings, Thacker is especially configured to write historical romance fiction, where pleasant finishes are as ubiquitous as



Shelly Thacker

drinks on New Year's Eve.

"Sometimes it's nice to have a little part of the world where you know everything is going to be OK," Thacker said. "In today's world, people need something that's uplifting."

**ALTHOUGH MEDIEVAL** fiction has traditionally been a poor sell, Thacker finds it fascinating.

"The Middle Ages has been my favorite time period since I was a little girl. A knight on a charging black warhorse makes my heart beat faster as countless cowboys never could."

But weren't the Middle Ages marked by a hopelessly poor existence for most of those involved? Weren't economic and intellectual endeavors stunted as the Catholic church and feudal lords exercised their awesome hegemony over Europe? Didn't the Black Plague wipe out half the population in two years? Well, yes, but hey, that stuff doesn't make good romantic fiction. "You just don't pay so much attention to the grim and the dirt that you know was there," Thacker said.

**WHILE THACKER** is a full-time author now as she works on her second book, she wrote "Falcon" on a part-time basis while free-lancing

articles for various magazines.

She doesn't expect the book to make a great deal of money or even generate an income greater than what she could earn with an ordinary job.

"I write for a living but I don't make a living writing. Right now it's more for love than for money."

With so many wanna-be authors out there, publishers can luxuriate in what's known as a buyer's market. "The average advance these days is between \$2,000 and \$5,000," Thacker said.

In fact, the author will get just 25 copies of "Falcon on the Wind" gratis. If she wants any more, she buys them just like anyone else.

Thacker is busy now with numerous book signings around metro Detroit but Avon has no plans to send her on a national tour. As she freely admits, she's no Stephen King.

While Thacker contemplates her success and wonders how many more autographs she'll be asked for, she continues to work on "Midnight Raider," her second book. Due at Avon next March, the book will probably be out sometime next year.

But for now, Thacker has "the best Christmas present I've ever given myself." She's encouraging everyone to buy a copy of "Falcon" for their favorite romance nut.

"It makes a great stocking stuffer, hey."

## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 26, 1990

Mayor Fox called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Mayor Fox, Mayor Pro-Tem Vagnozzi, Bates, Grant, Lichtman, Marks, and Sever. Others Present: City Manager Costik, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Manager Cull, Assistant to the City Manager Brock, Director of Finance Hensch, Director of Planning and Community Development Countegian and City Attorney Dobrow.

**COUNCIL:**  
- Proclaimed November 25 through December 1, 1990 as Winter Awareness Week.

- Elected Aldo Vagnozzi as Mayor and Jonathan Grant as Mayor Pro-Tem for 1991.

- Accepted Attorney's report on release of Executive Session information.

- Accepted audited financial report by Planie and Moran, P.C., for fiscal year ended June 30, 1990.

- Introduced Zoning Text Amendment 15, 1990, to amend the City Code relative to Toxic & Hazardous materials and uses in the ITO and LI-1 Districts.

- Enacted Ordinance C-29-90, amending the City Code relative to Historic District Preservation requirements.

**APPROVED:**  
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees labor contract.

- Meeting date of December 8, 1990 for City Council Study Session and Joint Study Session with Parks and Recreation Commission.

**AWARDED BID FOR:**  
- Brittany Drive bridge culvert clean out to State Wide Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$4,200.

- Storm sewer repair at Fourteen Mile Road and Ten Hill Road to South Hill Construction in the amount of \$12,460.

- Outdoor lighting improvements for Visitors Center at Heritage Park to Jet Electric Company in the amount of \$10,359.

Regular meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

JEAN FOX, Mayor  
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

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## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 1990  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall  
31555 Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

ITEM: Zoning Text Amendment 14, 1990

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Farmington Hills City Council will give formal consideration to a proposed text amendment of the Farmington Hills City Code, Chapter 24, Zoning Chapter, which amendment will amend Section 24-3 and Section 24-54. A summary of said amendment is as follows:

1. Changes to the zoning ordinance standards relating to wall signs in the business, industrial and expressway districts.
2. Changes to the zoning ordinance which will prohibit temporary signs unless permitted pursuant to other provisions of the code.
3. Changes to the definition section of certain types of signs.

Any person who is interested in this amendment is invited to attend and participate in the public hearing discussion. Complete Zoning Chapter and Text are available for public review and inspection during regular business hours at the Planning Department.

DALE A. COUNTEGIAN, Director  
Planning & Community Development  
City of Farmington Hills

Published November 29, 1990

## CITY OF FARMINGTON 1990 WINTER TAX PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Farmington tax statements are payable December 1, 1990 through February 14, 1991. A 3% penalty will be added on February 15, 1991. As of March 1, 1991, all 1990 taxes must be paid to C. Hugh Dobany, Oakland County Treasurer.

City Hall offices will be open for payment of taxes 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except for the following:

Monday, December 24, 1990  
Tuesday, December 25, 1990  
Monday, December 31, 1990  
Tuesday, January 1, 1991

For your convenience, a depository is located in the City Hall Lobby.

PATSY CANTRELL  
Treasurer

Published December 1, 1990

## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE C-29-90**, an Ordinance to amend Section 15-35, Work Affecting Exterior Appearance of Structures, etc. of Article II, Historic Districts and Historic District Commission, of Chapter 15, Historical Preservation of the Code of Ordinances of Farmington Hills, to add by reference the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

**TITLE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS ORDINANCES**

Section 1.

Section 15-35, Work Affecting Exterior Appearance of Structures, etc., of Article II, Historic District and Historic District Commission, of Chapter 15, Historical Preservation, of the City Code is hereby amended to add Subsection (e)(10), which subsection shall read as follows:

(e) Guidelines for Construction, Restoration, Etc.

(10) The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as presently promulgated in the Code of Federal Regulations or as they may be amended in the future. Copies of said Standards for Rehabilitation shall be maintained in the office of the City Clerk and the Community Development Department, and shall be subject to an examination by the public during normal business hours.

Section 2. Repealer  
Section 3. Severability  
Section 4. Savings  
Section 5. Effective Date: December 17, 1990  
Section 6. Enactment: November 26, 1990

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,  
City Clerk

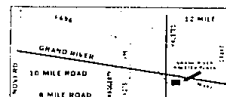
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