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1,000 jobs in '91, 3B



What are you doing  
New Year's Eve? 5,6C

# Farmington Observer

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## School chief: Cuts due if millage fails

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

At least 100 teachers and staff, plus a laundry list of programs, will be cut if a Feb. 5 millage election is defeated, Farmington school superintendent Michael Flanagan said Tuesday.

Proposed program cuts include: some visual and performing arts, physical education and athletics, extracurricular programs, staff devel-

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opment and gifted programs, decreased elective classes for secondary students, low enrollment classes, and any plans for building improvements and equipment upgrades. Bus transportation would also be impacted.

These programs would be "either

reduced or eliminated," Flanagan said, although he did not detail how much each program would be impacted.

The largest cutback would be in staffing, he said. He said reducing the student-teacher ratio by one would mean \$1.5 million for the district, or 35 teachers. Cutbacks in teacher aides, middle school reading specialists, and maintenance and custodial staffs were also noted as possibilities.

"I BRING this news to you, not as holiday cheer," Flanagan told the school board. "It's meant as a factual representation of what our options are. We are personnel intensive and have large maintenance costs."

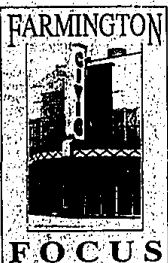
"When you pool back all that, there's not a large area of cuts that can be made."

He said he made the report because he felt the community really did not understand the impact of state cutbacks in categorical aid to

the district. The state has taken \$5.8 million from the district and more cuts are expected.

The school board will ask voters during a Feb. 5 special election for money in two different ballot proposals. The first proposal will ask for 2.7 mills for operations to continue the same program in the district for the 1991-92 school year, and the second will request one mill for capital

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**THE CHRISTMAS** spirit didn't bypass David Schmeitz and the rest of his Motor City Mudders this year.

Schmeitz, an elevator maintenance man and Milford resident, is the leader of the Mudders, an informal club for off-road vehicle owners, including some from the Farmington area.

Apparently moved by the spirit of the season, the group bought more than \$100 worth of food and donated it to the area's needy.

The food, 40 cases worth, was given to a food bank sponsored by radio station WLLZ-FM in Farmington Hills.

**TRASH COLLECTION** will be on a holiday schedule in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Under a joint contract, the trash hauler, collects on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but not on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Trash collection on those weeks will be delayed one day.

**CROSS COUNTRY** skiing, anyone?

A seminar to introduce residents to the winter world of cross country skiing will be held 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, at the Visitors Center in Heritage Park on Farmington Road.

Where to ski, what type of equipment to purchase and how to care for it, and what to wear are some of the topics to be covered. Preregistration is required. Call the Farmington Hills Recreation Department at 473-9578.

**HERITAGE PARK'S** Visitors Center will be the site of another recreation activity, one that should go over with a big bang.

An astronomy program will explore the theories on how the universe got started, including, presumably, the Big Bang Theory. Participants also will learn the ways the universe might die.

The program will be held 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11. The fee is \$4 per person and \$12 per family. No special equipment is needed, but preregistration is required. Call 473-9578 for additional information.

**MEMORY LANE:** From the Dec. 21, 1950 Farmington Enterprise.

Bob Goddett scored 18 points in Clarenceville High School's 40-27 basketball loss to Northville. A Buick Roadmaster, 1951 model, could be bought for \$2,779 at Buster Buick Sales on Grand River in Farmington.

Tom Mix cowboy boots were available at the Hocking-Gillies shoe store on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

Paul Butts described his trip to Jamaica at the annual Christmas party/turkey dinner of the West Farmington Farm Bureau at the Salem Evangelical Church. Ray Howard was the master of ceremonies for the event, which attracted about 100.

Short item: "Anyone can have a white Christmas" who has exited hate from his heart and put envy and jealousy to flight."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 2188 Farmington Road, Farmington 4833, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



### An emotional moment

Dusty Kornbacher of Westland is comforted by Cheryl Catchings of Ann Arbor during a recent stress seminar for family members of service people in Saudi Arabia. Kornbacher's only son, Alex, and Catchings' fiancé, Earl Williams, are both on

desert duty. The seminar, held at the Guest Quarters Hotel in Troy, was directed by three Farmington Hills psychologists. For a story and more photographs, see Page 3A.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## Cops close probe of shooting of dog

Farmington Hills police have completed an internal investigation of a dog shooting in the city's southeast quadrant, and stand by the actions of their officer, saying he "feared for his safety."

The late afternoon incident which occurred on Wednesday, Dec. 12, on Rockwell Street, drew considerable publicity to the neighborhood north of Grand River and east of Middlebelt Road.

"After an intensive investigation, we feel that it is unfortunate that this situation occurred, however, it appears that the officer, fearing for his safety, took the action that was necessary and proper under the cir-

cumstances at that instant," said police Chief William Dwyer and Inspector Richard Niemisto in a written report to the Farmington Hills City Council Monday.

The investigation has been turned over to the city attorney, who will consider whether the dog's owners will be prosecuted for letting their dog run loose, the report said. The dog was an 80-pound Malamute-Shepherd mix, about 4 1/2 years old.

The Stone family, owners of the dog, have said they will file suit against the city for killing their dog needlessly. The Stones could not be reached for comment on the status of their complaint.

ACCORDING TO the report, police had received a complaint from a resident of nearby Whittington Street about a loose dog which was threatening and growling. When officers attempted to confine the dog in its back yard, the dog lunged at the officer and the officer fired.

"When the dog was one to two feet away, he fired one round into the dog however, it continued its attack. He (the officer) immediately fired a second round into the dog, stopped the attack and disabled the animal," the report said. The officer fired a third shot "to put it out of its misery."

Dwyer has not released the name of the officer.

The police investigation showed there were no eyewitnesses to the actual shooting, but one 11-year-old boy who told police his back was turned until he heard the first shot fired.

Police also interviewed another

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## Sewer upgrading going as planned

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A \$12 million sewer improvement project in Farmington remains pretty much on schedule, with one portion delayed because of "tough ground conditions."

City officials are optimistic the 18-month project, the largest infrastructure change in the city's history, will continue without a hitch.

"It hasn't been a perfect project — anytime roads are torn up it's going to rile some people," said City Manager Robert Deadman. "But so far, I think they're doing a very good job."

Nearly half the new sewer line work is done on the project, which was started in late September to improve the city's system and separate older, combined sewer lines. It also includes building a new 3.2-million retention basin, which is behind 2-3 weeks because of unforeseen ground condition problems, Deadman said.

VOTERS APPROVED a special bond issue last May to pay for the project; the tax revenues will be used to repay a low interest state loan.

Deadman said there were many

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**EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES**  
Please call your advertising representative today for early deadline information for our holiday issues.  
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### Some real good fellows

Jeff Hakala of the North Farmington Varsity Club loads Goodfellows supplies into a Paddock Pools truck for distribution to the area's needy. Also helping are Andrew Campbell (left) of Farmington and Colleen Harrison (back), also of the North Varsity Club. Paddock Pools has donated truck and drivers for the past eight years.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer