

New teacher fills  
vacant dance shoes, 1B



Volleyball  
upset, 1D

Man mounts search  
for missing son, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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Fifty Cents



**W**ELCOME ABOARD, says the city of Farmington to Timothy Zajaros.

Zajaros, a 12-year city resident, is the newest member of the Farmington Planning Commission.

Zajaros was appointed to the board by the city council March 4, when several re-appointments to other non-partisan boards were also made. He fills the unexpired term of Tony Smolek, who recently resigned his seat. The term expires in June.

Zajaros works for Jack Morton Products in Farmington Hills, a corporate communications and consulting company, where he is an automotive market specialist. Also active in the community, he is involved with the School/Community Forum through the Farmington Public Schools and is active in various sporting activities. "I wanted to get involved with the city... so I applied," he said.

**THE CITY STILL** has an opening on the Historical Commission, since member Nancy Brado declined reappointment due to a move out of the community. An opening also exists on the city's partisan Board of Canvassers, where a Republican representative is sought.

Reappointed by the council were:

• Judith Cook and Barbara Butler to the Historical Commission with terms to expire March 13, 1994.

• Dorothy Stoutjesdyk to the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees with a term expiring in March of 1995.

Residents interested in serving on the Historical Commission or the Board of Canvassers should contact the city manager's office at 474-5500 weekdays.



Farmington Hills police, including Detective Patrick Monti (right), and federal agents enter a house owned by Jamal and Mary Abro on Lake Park Drive in the Colony Park West subdivision in Farmington Hills Wednesday morning. The house, suspected of being the site of illegal gambling, was seized by authorities.

## Cops seize suspected gambling den

By Joanne Maliszowski  
Staff writer

A parade of law enforcement agencies said the media drove into Colony Park West subdivision Wednesday morning as Farmington Hills police, the U.S. Marshal and FBI agents seized a house owned by Jamal Abro, who faces federal gambling charges.

Police knocked several times before Abro's wife, Mary, opened the door of her house, 28834 Lake Park Drive, south of 13 Mile between Farmington and Drake roads.

Police and federal authorities walked in, seized the house and handed Mary Abro a stipulation agreement for occupancy. Police did not give the Abros advance warning.

"We told her the house is now in custody of the U.S. Marshal's office and that they can live here only if they sign the stipulation agreement," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

Dwyer said Abro's attorney, Richard Lustig of Southfield, was to be notified of the seizure Wednesday. Lustig was unavailable for comment.

The Abros have 48 hours in which to sign the stipulation agreement. Mary Abro also has given interrogatories or a list of written questions she and her husband must answer and file within 20 days.

**IF THE ABROS** fail to respond, the house will be "defaulted to the federal government." If they respond, a forfeiture hearing will be scheduled, Dwyer said.

If the house is forfeited, the lion's share of the (value) house — 80 percent — will go to the city of Farmington Hills and 20 percent for litigation purposes, Dwyer said.

The Abro's house was to be appraised Wednesday by a real estate agent who works with the U.S. Marshal's office. An inventory of the house's contents also was to be completed.

U.S. Magistrate Lynn V. Hise Jr. signed the seizure warrant March 6 that police and federal authorities served on Mary Abro Wednesday.



Official notices were placed on the door — the house is seized by authorities.

morning. Assistant U.S. Attorney George Best, who assisted in the seizure process, did not return the Observer's phone calls.

The seizure stems from a Farmington Hills police raid on the Abros' house on Jan. 28. In the raid, police seized about \$60,000 cash, as well as gambling equipment, such as dice, cards and a blackjack table.

The raid also resulted in the arrest of Abro and his wife, Mary, on felony gambling charges. They are suspected of operating a monthly high-stakes casino — a dice table operation for the past three years.

**ABRO AND THE** three other men stood mute to charges of conspiracy to maintain a gambling house and conspiracy to keep a gambling house. Both charges are five-year felonies.

They also were charged with

## Parks levy gets big endorsements

By Joanne Maliszowski  
Staff writer

Farmington Hills tax cutter Rich and Headlee and economist Patrick Anderson have given their blessings to the city's proposed half-mill levy for parks and recreation.

Despite these blessings, some residents remain opposed to the special eight-year tax proposal scheduled to go before voters May 7.

Anderson and Headlee, both Farmington Hills residents, gave the

tax proposal their support Monday in a letter to Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission. "I'm hooked to death," Fitzgerald said. "I think this says something it's telling anyone... they (Headlee and Anderson) are a fair group of people."

The tax-cutters lauded the city's use of revenue from the previous five-year half-mill parks and recreation tax approved by voters in 1985, which expired in 1990.

"We believe the taxpayers have gotten their money's worth from the previous five-year parks and recreation millage," Headlee wrote. "The new eight-year plan... will enable our community to acquire and develop more land for both passive and active recreation."

**ANDERSON** is an economist at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of American and Headlee is the company's CEO.

Headlee and Anderson's support is a turnaround from their public skepticism about the two Farmington Public Schools millage proposals that were defeated overwhelmingly Feb. 5.

The pair financed advertisements for what they called an "informa-

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## Assessment review sometimes pays off

By Susan Buck  
Staff writer

Warren Dolan, a Greenbriar condominium owner, was one of many Farmington residents upset with their property assessments.

Instead of sitting on his hands, though, Dolan approached his assessment increase of \$1,600.

In return, the board of review, Mary Bush, William Bliss and Rae Rockefeller, reduced Dolan's assessment increase some. Dolan's assessment last year was \$61,600; this

year it was \$63,200. The board lowered the assessment to \$62,000.

"We did a sales analysis and we also did a reassessment of the area," assessor John Miller told the Observer. "We have to use a couple of years of sales."

Property tax assessments in the city of Farmington rose 1.5 percent last year but not to the levels of 1989 and 1990.

Residential property assessments increased an average of 1.5 percent

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## Slain family mourned

By Susan Buck  
Staff writer

For those saddened by the shooting deaths of three former Farmington Hills residents during a robbery at their Detroit butcher shop March 8, a minister predicted an "ache that will last forever."

The Reiney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington was packed with mourners Wednesday for Robert Roberts, 62, his wife Linnea, 43, and her son, Jack Cantrell, 20.

"These you loved are part of your bones and your heartbeat," said the Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack of First United Methodist Church of Brighton who delivered the eulogy.

Linnea's daughter, Lisa Cantrell, also delivered a short eulogy punctuated with sob. She called her family gifts of life.

There were bumps in the road that I didn't think I could make, but with the love of my family they were so easy to take," she said. "We must remember that they are in a better place than us and for now, we say goodbye."

Bohnsack disputed the notion that death is inevitable.

"God did not choose this moment," Bohnsack said. "This was an accidental and evil act of human will, a result of inadequate love and caring. Someone acted out that destructive capacity that is part of us all. God

forbid. We are free to love and to miss up the lives of those around us. But this is a horrible consequence of that freedom. It's freedom and compassion only breeds more of what killed them."

**BOHNSACK** reminisced briefly about each family member. He recalled how the married couple would burst into a refrain of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" as they worked.

Robert Roberts looked on the positive side, making his left-handedness an asset by teaching leathercraft among the Boy Scouts and while doing carpentry, Bohnsack said. Lin-

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