



Farmington Observer

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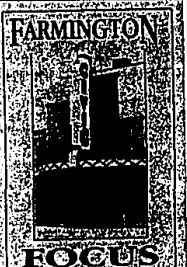
Monday, September 16, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Fifty Cents

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BUMPER STUCK ON THE back of a black 1980s Buick Wildcat, there will be prayer in the schools. The car was turning into a parking lot at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

DON'T DOUBT Danielle Patterson, a Farmington Hills resident and active 4-H Club member, when she says, "These are more scared of you than you are of them." She should know. Danielle, a 10-year-old Girl Scout, and fellow club members take care of their own lives at the Tollgate 4-H Education Center in Novi.

The young beekeepers put on veils and gloves about twice a month to check on the bees' health and clean up around the hive. They also make a peek at the honey they will soon enjoy. Beekeeper Brian Atkins, also of Farmington Hills, said he eagerly awaits this sweet treat. "It's sweeter than store-bought," he said. They work long hours collecting, processing and packaging during harvest time, but they say it's worth the effort.

RESIDENTS with questions about the community's current recycling program should mark Monday, Sept. 23, on their calendars. At 7:30 p.m. that evening, Karen Hirkko, recycling coordinator for Farmington and Farmington Hills, will speak in the sanctuary of the North Farmington Community Church, 32500 W. 13 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. Her topics will be recycling and pollution. Refreshments will be served after the talk and a nursery service will be provided.

ATTENTION all those interested in genealogy, a record or account of the descent of a family group or person from an ancestor.

The Farmington Genealogical Society at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the lower level of the Farmington Branch of the Community Library, State and Liberty streets. The public is invited to attend.

Members Harvey and Nancy Bonser will tell about their cruise on a Nantucket clipper with genealogy talks on board and in-person visits to libraries.

MEMORY LANE From the Sept. 20, 1991, Farmington Express:

• Frederick Elkin, 4-year-old son of Alan Elkin of Haynes Street, died as a result of injuries he suffered in an auto accident. A newspaper account said the youngster was hit by a car as he darted into Grand River at Haynes.

• Tom Schriber, a 1948 graduate of Farmington High School, was the newest member of the Farmington Police Department. His first traffic ticket was issued to a college student at 1:30 a.m.

• The American Association of University Women was to hold its inaugural meeting Sept. 27 in Farmington.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Farmington Hills police evidence technicians James Worthington and John Regorah process evidence at the Green Hill Apartments murder scene Thursday morning. The shattered car window shows where state police Det. Sgt. Janeece Vortman was shot and killed by Joseph Kresase, a retired state police detective, as she attempted to leave for work. Kresase, upset with the apparent ending of their relationship, is accused of laying in wait for her during the early morning hours.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

'Senseless' killing stuns troopers

Could happen anywhere — neighbors

By Casey Hans and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

Green Hill Apartments residents living near the scene of last week's parking lot murder/attempted suicide said the killing upset them, but that they understand such domestic problems can happen in any neighborhood, anywhere.

"It's a little unsettling to know this guy was here waiting to kill her," said Guy Burke, who moved to the Farmington Hills complex from Westland just two weeks ago. "It's pretty strange. You run into little family squabbles, but nothing like this."

Det. Sgt. Janeece Lee Vortman, 45, of Farmington Hills, a Michigan State Police trooper with the Ypsilanti Post, was shot and killed about 7:15 a.m. Thursday, by her ex-boyfriend, Joseph E. Kresase, 53, a retired state trooper and former head of the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force.

The Green Hill complex is located on the south side of the Hills between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads, between Gill and Halsted. The building where the shootings occurred was at the far south side of the complex — where residents normally hear nothing but birds and nature and look out over fields and trees.

Karen Peper, a Green Hill resident and nurse who was the first person at the scene after hearing the shots, said "It's sad — he was obviously waiting for her. It's such a tragedy to have life wasted like that."

"I just wish there was more I could have done for her," Peper HAS worked in trauma situations and said she was "used to these things, but not in your own neighborhood."

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Nurse Karen Peper was the first person on the scene to assist, after hearing gunshots fired in the parking lot of her apartment complex. "I just wish there was more I could have done for her," she said, of the victim Janeece Vortman.



Farmington Hills Fire Department emergency medical technician Tom Mitchell was one of a team of three to arrive at the murder scene Thursday morning. He is also a Green Hill resident.

By Casey Hans and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

Her smile. The way she always had something pleasant to say to her friends and co-workers.

That's the way fellow troopers at the Michigan State Police-Ypsilanti Post remember Det. Sgt. Janeece Lee Vortman, 45, of Farmington Hills, who was shot and killed early Thursday by her former lover, retired state trooper Joseph E. Kresase, at the Green Hill Apartments on Nine Mile, between Halsted and Gill roads.

"She was a good person who enjoyed life and her work. She's someone we will miss," said Ypsilanti Post Commander Garry Kregelka, Vortman's boss for the 6-8 months she served there.

Kresase's actions surprised former fellow troopers who recalled his days as leader of the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force in the 1970s. Kresase, who retired from the state police in July 1989, was most recently employed with Michigan Blue Cross-Blue Shield. He has three grown children.

KREASE AND Vortman met at the Northville Post where Kresase was her boss, said Ypsilanti Post Commander Garry Kregelka.

"This is sad. It is so senseless and tragic. Joe was the last person I would think would do something like that. It is sad for both families."

After "a very brief but loud exchange of words," Kresase shot Vortman about 7:15 a.m., after she had gotten into her unmarked state car, said Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police.

Kresase, who lived at a nearby Farmington Hills apartment complex, then put his 9mm semi-automatic pistol into his mouth and fired.



Janeece Lee Vortman

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Economist fires new blast at recycling 'fee'

By Casey Hans and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

A Farmington Hills economist who believes a fee for a new Farmington-Farmington Hills recycling program is unconstitutional says he's "outraged" that Farmington officials sent out the first recycling bill before either city council reviewed their recycling ordinances.

"I'm really outraged," said Patrick Anderson, assistant vice president for government affairs for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. in Farmington Hills. "It says to me they're out of line."

Anderson says the recycling fee, which all single-family homeowners are forced to pay, is really a tax. Anderson and Alexander Hamil-

ton chairman Richard Headlee, author of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, say the mandatory fee violates the amendment, which requires any new tax to be voted upon by the people.

Sending out bills before formal discussion of the issue by the city councils — requested by Anderson — "prejudices the whole thing," Anderson added.

BUT FARMINGTON and Farmington Hills officials disagree with Anderson's claims. City officials say they have legal opinions to support their position, which will be discussed by both city councils at their regular meetings tonight.

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Swingin' in the wind

Hills still divided on sign law change

By Casey Hans and Susan Buck staff writers

It's still swinging in the wind.

The issue of whether Farmington will amend its temporary sign law is still being debated by the city council, which has decided to hold a public hearing on the matter Monday, Oct. 7, prior to the regular council meeting.

The council voted 4-1 to hold the hearing, with councilman Richard Tupper voting "no" because he "sees no evidence to make changes at this time."

Tupper, along with fellow councilwoman Joanne McShane and Mayor Shirley Richardson, has spoken out against making the change, while councilmen Ralph Yoder and William Hartsock have supported it.

A new, proposed formula would use a tiered system determined by a ratio of wall space to window space. As proposed, the amendment would allow:

• Walls with windows covering 40 percent of more of the wall area to be limited to 25 percent temporary signage.

• Walls with windows covering 20 percent, but less than 39 percent

of wall area, to be limited to 33 percent signage.

• Walls with windows covering less than 20 percent of wall area to be limited to 50 percent signage.

The amendment would require businesses to remove such signs within 30 days. Product and service displays will be excluded from the requirements.

THE AMENDMENT was suggested after Maple Village Drugs owner Al Wander petitioned the council to change the portion of the new sign

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