**FARMINGTON FOCUS**


THE SECRETARY of State branch office on W. 10 Mile Road is moving... to another Farmington-area location.

The office, now located at 38478 W. 10 Mile, will close for relocation at the close of business on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

It will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 25-26, and will reopen for business on Friday, Sept. 27, at 35578 Grand River between Drake and Halsted roads in Farmington Hills. The phone number will remain 477-7684.

Residents with Secretary of State business on Wednesday and Thursday may use offices at: 4301 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; 19229 Newburgh Road, Livonia; or 236 Summit, Milford.

Items for Farmington focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21808 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

**Loraine McClish**

Loraine McClish dies at 66

Loraine McClish, longtime editor of the Farmington Observer Suburban Life section, died yesterday at Detroit Osteopathic Hospital following a two-year battle with breast cancer. She was 66.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete for Mrs. McClish, a 20-year employee of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Before coming to Farmington, she worked for the Southfield edition as suburban life editor.

McClish of Clarkston was recognized throughout the community as she covered local events and wrote about social issues. She recently completed a special project on women coping with breast cancer.

Observer & Eccentric managing editor Steve Barnaby remembered McClish as "an eternal optimist who never spoke ill of anyone."

"Loraine loved the community and the community loved her right back. We all will miss her, even more so as the weeks and months pass," Barnaby said.

She is survived by her mother, Myra Larson of Carrie, Ill.; six children: Greg of Chicago, Jude of Clarkston, Paula Hickey of Blue Springs, Mo., Debra Kalush of Davison, Mich., Kara Anderson of Detroit, and Marsha McClish of Wheaton, Ill.; seven grandchildren; sisters Marjorie Bauschke of Mundelein, Ill., and Marion Zamotin of Miami Springs, Fla.; and a brother, Wallace Larson of Carrie, Ill.



An experienced team

Five Farmington High School teachers with a combined 104 years of classroom experience have embarked on a new "team teaching" concept this year. Pictured holding History and English texts are John Barrett (left), Margie Gagnluk, Jerry Young, Bruce Brown and Bob Rodger. All say it is more work but worth the effort. For a story on team teaching, please see Page 3A.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Krease dies after killing ex-girlfriend

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When retired Michigan State Police trooper Joe Krease shot and killed his state trooper ex-girlfriend outside her Farmington Hills apartment early Sept. 12, he wasn't the man many knew and respected.

"This whole thing was not in character. He must have been emotionally overcharged," said friend Jerry Tobin, director of the Southfield Public Safety Department.

Krease, 53, a resident of Fairmont Park Apartments on Nine Mile, died at 9:36 p.m. Thursday in Botsford General Hospital, a week after he shot and killed his ex-girlfriend, Junece Lee Vortman, 45, and then fired a .38-caliber pistol into his mouth. Krease was the father of two grown sons.

"He was not violent. He was a dedicated person who had done a lot of good. He was caring and sensitive," said Tobin, who worked with Krease on the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force in the 1970s.

The murder-suicide shocked neighbors at the sprawling Green Hill Apartments complex on Nine Mile between Gill and Halsted, where Vortman was shot after she got into her car to leave for work.

"No charges were presented or drawn against him (Krease)," said Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department. An autopsy was expected.

WITNESSES HEARD Krease shouting at Vortman before he opened fire into the side driver's window of her car, where she was sitting. Vortman did not roll down the window when Krease tried to talk with her.

While Vortman's roommate, George Ann Stom, watched, Krease

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Plan commission: Help seasonal business

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Hesano said, "I contribute to the economy of Farmington Hills. I pay my dues to Farmington Hills. I feel I'm being railroaded out of Farmington Hills."

The planning commission Thursday did what they could to not let that happen. After a public hearing, commissioners recommended denying an amendment to zoning ordinances that would prohibit temporary businesses, such as Hesano's flower stand. The issue will now go before the Farmington Hills City Council for consideration.

The request to prohibit such temporary businesses came from the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce in April on behalf of some of its members. Chamber representatives were not present at the public hearing Thursday night. But chamber past president Bob Heinrich sent a letter to commissioners.

"WE FEEL it is important that temporary businesses not be given an advantage over those that are established, who must meet a myriad of regulations not imposed on temporary ones."

Two Farmington Hills business owners came forward to urge planning commissioners to put a stop to temporary businesses. A majority of residents who spoke Thursday, however, supported Hesano and temporary businesses, such as flower and fruit-vegetable stands.

"We are not trying to put Mr. Hesano out of business," said Shari

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Money man sees less school aid

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Although Farmington schools are rebounding from a multi-million dollar budget hit one year ago, planning and recent budget cuts have stabilized the district, said the district's newly appointed finance chief.

"This school district addressed the problem when they had to," said Bruce Barrett, assistant superintendent for finance. Barrett appointed to his post in June.

"They reduced positions, made modifications to expenditures and were able to maintain a high quality program and still be fiscally responsible."

"Last year it was a crisis — this year we're in a position to measure and predict."

Barrett, 39, replaced retiring assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele. He comes from the East Lansing Public Schools and a decade of dealing with school finance issues in the heart of state politics. He left a similar situation with the state

taking back three times as much from wealthier districts.

That one action cut Farmington Schools' budget by \$5.8 million.

"RECAPTURE WAS a bombshell for this district. We heard that with the transportation issue raised by parents at the last board meeting. That's the real impact."

Barrett referred to 150 parents who attended a recent school board meeting, upset with \$1 million in cuts to the transportation program and the safety of their children. The district went to voters in February to try to get more taxes to cover the loss but failed, so it cut spending.

Although the issue of statewide school finance reform has been discussed for many years, the issue remained abstract until there was a direct effect, Barrett said. "People kept saying, 'The sky is falling' Well, this year it fell."

AS HE did in East Lansing, Barrett

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Hot stuff!

Paul Huyck of Farmington Hills displays his pleasure at winning the 13th annual Michigan Championship Chili Cookoff Sept. 15. Huyck is part-owner of Carter Technology in Farmington Hills. For a story and more photographs, please see the Taste section of today's Farmington Observer.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

C'ville schools find out tonight whether voters OK tax increase

Voters today will decide whether the Clarencville School District gets to spend \$19 million in the next few years to fix up school buildings and bring technology into its classrooms.

Clarencville officials expect up to 1,000 voters will decide the fate of the first bond issue sought by the district since 1971.

There are 6,930 registered voters in the district, which serves southeast Farmington Hills, northeast Livonia and northwest Redford Township.

The Clarencville electorate includes about 2,000 voters in Farmington Hills.

If approved, the bond issue will lead to a 4-mill tax increase for taxpayers. The increase will show up for the first time on the December tax bills.

Polls at Clarencville Middle School and Clarencville High open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

If approved, the bond issue will cost a homeowner with a \$100,000 house an extra \$200 a year.

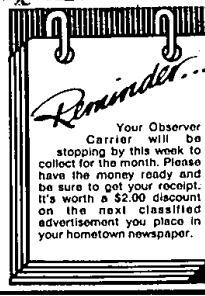
If approved, \$3 million of the bond issue will be spent to improve each of the district's four school buildings with the technology needed for the workplace of the 21st Century.

The remaining \$16 million will be used to renovate buildings, remove asbestos, improve heating and water systems, bring schools up to code and make buildings more energy efficient.

If approved, the bond issue will cost a homeowner with a \$60,000 house an extra \$120 a year, a homeowner with an \$80,000 house an extra \$160 a year and a homeowner with a \$100,000 house an extra \$200 a year.

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