

Black Market mixes  
rock with reggae, 3B



North girls  
win, 1B

New business owner  
is plaster master, 3A



# Farmington Observer

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## Judge orders families to stay apart



By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The families of two Detroit men shot to death in Farmington Hills May 31 and the family of the man accused of killing them have been ordered to stay away from each other.

Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court asked Oakland County assistant prosecutor Genevieve Mazur to instruct the families of the two slain men to stay away from the family of Edward P. Hopkins, 25, who is accused of killing both men at his mother's Farmington Hills house on Inkster Road.

Harris' request followed two hours of testimony Friday at Hopkins' preliminary examination on two counts of first-degree murder. He is charged in connection with the deaths of Leterrie Lee Carter, 19, and Ricardo Preston, 17, both of Detroit.

Amid a hail of protest, Harris ordered all three families removed from the courtroom Friday morning after Hopkins' defense attorney, Tom McGinnis of Birmingham, told the judge that threats had been made against the Hopkins family.

A member of one of the victims' families shouted a demand to know why they were being removed from the courtroom. "One more outburst like that and you'll find out," Harris shouted back as the families were ushered out by Farmington Hills detective Brian DeGrande and court officer Robert Mitchell.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Farmington Hills detective Brian DeGrande (left) and court officer Robert Mitchell (right) usher Maurice Carter — the father of 19-year-old slaying victim Leterrie Lee Carter — out of a courtroom at 47th District Court Friday. Family members were or-

dered out of the courtroom during the preliminary examination for Edward Hopkins, who is accused of killing Leterrie Carter and Ricardo Preston, 17, on May 31.

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## Court expansion concerns neighbors

See related letters on Page 8A

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Though they are not necessarily against expanding the 47th District Court, residents on Little Elizabeth Court have big concerns.

The property lines of a few houses on the small street about the local court property, and residents are concerned about what will happen to their property values and views from their back yards if an expansion of the courthouse is approved.

Resident Buzz Holzknecht said

last week he and his neighbors just want a say in how the project is handled — something which no one involved in the proposed court expansion had offered to date.

"I don't know that we're going to do anything to defeat the expansion," he explained. "They need a judge, they need room. But now it affects us is a concern."

NEIGHBOR FLOYD Miller, who has lived in his house at the corner of Elizabeth Court and 10 Mile for 30 years, said he just doesn't want to see a parking lot eat up all the green space between the court building and his property line.

"Let's just say they need a third



judge — do they really need an addition and do they really need such a big parking lot? Miller asked. "Personally, I can't see any reason to put a parking lot in that area."

Holzknecht and Miller appeared before the Farmington City Council last week airing their concerns. "It is an issue," Holzknecht told the council. "I guess two or three neighbors are not a big concern when

looking at something like this. "But we are the residents living next to it, and we are concerned." City manager Robert Deadman promised the two they would have a say in landscaping and other concerns if the bond issue is passed by voters Nov. 5.

DEADMAN TOLD the residents that the project has not been totally designed yet and that "we're going to try and accommodate you and make it as least obtrusive as we can." He said the architect for the project should meet with concerned residents even before the issue comes before the planning commission.

Holzknecht and Miller said they want to ensure that the neighborhood is appropriately buffered from a parking lot expansion on the west side of the building.

"There's a lot of stuff that goes on the driveway that we shouldn't be subjected to," Holzknecht added. Ideally, the neighbors would like to see a wall with some type of green barrier on the residential side.

Holzknecht estimated property values in the neighborhood could decline by 25 percent if the project is not handled properly.

Their concerns will be a moot

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## Candidates promise financial reports to city

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The seven candidates seeking election to the Farmington Hills City Council say they will voluntarily place a copy of their pre-election finance report with the city clerk.

Candidates were required by state law to file their pre-election reports by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, with the Oakland County Elections Clerk. The reports are supposed to include contributors, money received and spent to Oct. 20, according to an elections spokeswoman.

Candidates who spend more than

\$1,000 are required to file the reports. Those who do not spend that much can file a waiver. Candidates who did not file by the Oct. 25 deadline are subject to a \$25 fine per business day — with a \$500 maximum fee — that the reports are not filed.

In an Observer questionnaire, the seven candidates said they would also file their reports with the city clerk. As of Thursday afternoon, candidate Ron Oliverio and incumbent Terry Sever provided copies of their reports to the city clerk, according to Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dornan. Sever and incumbent Nancy Bates also provided



the Observer with copies of their reports.

INTERESTED VOTERS may take a peek at the reports in the clerk's office.

"I believe more citizens should be made aware of the tremendous costs of a campaign," candidate Joanne Smith said.

She said the costly printing, graphics, signs, postage and photos are the items used to make a candidate visible to the voters. "Not everyone has cable television where the incumbents have the edge, or has newspaper delivery or purchases the same."

"Therefore, it might be more prudent to send a candidate whatever amount of money one would deem appropriate rather than place a kind of stigma on the raising and spending of funds demanded to get elected," Smith continued.

Ronald Oliverio says he believes in full disclosure of campaign finances. "The public has a right to know who is financing a candidate

and to ask why." Write-in candidate Andrew Raczkowski says his is a grassroots campaign without contributions from political action committees or special interest groups. "I'll be responsible to the entire community — I'm in nobody's pocket."

Sever says he, too, believes in full disclosure.

Paul Sowerby also agreed to provide the city clerk with a copy of his finance report. But he said the list of contributors — not just amounts raised and spent — are key.

Larry Lichtman was very succinct

Please turn to Page 4

## School seniors take voting lesson

Seniors at Farmington High School, North Farmington and Harrison will choose their candidates for the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils in a mock election 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29.

"They are going to vote the same exact ballot (as voters)," said Farmington Hills city clerk Kathy Dornan.

Seniors at Farmington High will cast ballots for the Farmington City Council, while North Farmington and Harrison will cast ballots for the Farmington Hills City Council.

Ballots at all three schools also will include the Oakland County bond proposal for a proposed incinerator, as well as the Farmington-Farmington Hills \$1.8 million bond proposal for an expanded 47th District Court.

Dornan's office will handle the North Farmington and Harrison's mock election, including set-up, processing, voting and tabulation of results. Farmington City Clerk

Josephine Bushey will do the same for Farmington.

FARMINGTON HIGH students will vote by machine and those at North Farmington and Harrison will use punch cards. Dornan said.

Shelley Paros, a member of the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation has recruited some League of Women Voters members to help students during their mock election day.

Results of the mock election will be released Wednesday, Nov. 6, the day after the official Nov. 5 election.

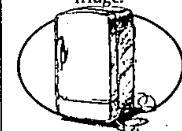
"They (Farmington Hills City Council) feel it (mock election results) will have some kind of effect on the outcome (of the official election)," Dornan said, explaining the reason for the release date of the results.

Farmington Hills councilwoman Jean Fox suggested the mock elections in the high schools last year for the gubernatorial race. It was the first ever held in the Farmington schools.

## what's inside

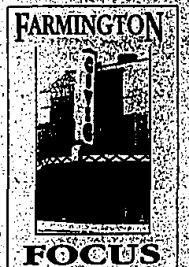
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HEY! HE HERE! What's  
here? Why? The  
sweatshirts — with the  
symbols of the Farm-  
ington community on them.

They're available for \$20 at the Farmington Hills City Hall and at Wild Birds Unlimited and Backyard Birds. Earlier this year, T-shirts bearing the same community symbols were sold.

What symbols? Well, if you're a Farmington-phile, then your tree is an oak, your flower a day lily, your bird a cardinal and your butterfly a giant swallowtail.

By popular acclaim, they are the symbols of the community, and that goes for those in Farmington (city of) or Farmington Hills.

JUST BY chance . . . might you be interested in "An Evening of Chance?" That's the question, the people who are running the Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Center's second annual raffle are asking the community. It will be Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Novi Hilton.

This year's theme is "An Evening of Chance" with a grand prize of \$5,000. Other cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded as well.

Tickets are \$100 per couple and include dinner, live entertainment and the raffle. Only 200 tickets will be sold. Proceeds will benefit the Community Center.

For more information, call the Community Center at 477-8404.

STATE REP. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, will meet her constituents from 5-6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, in the lower level conference room of the Farmington Community Library, 32727 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Residents of Dolan's 69th District, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills, are invited to attend.

JUST A NOTE to anyone who might want to send a letter of a political nature to the Farmington Observer: Get your missive to the newspaper by Monday, Oct. 28, for inclusion in the Thursday, Oct. 31, issue. Endorsements and other election-related letters will appear that last Thursday before the Tuesday, Nov. 5, city council elections. As in past election years, no letters or endorsements will appear in the Monday issue before the election.

MEMORY LANE — From the Oct. 25, 1991 Farmington Observer:

Classified ad: "If the dark-haired person seen entering house at 43400 10 Mile Road last Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 17, between 2 and 3 o'clock, will please return money to house or put in mail box, so police action will be taken."

Vince Banonis, center for the Detroit Lions, and his wife Marilyn were featured in a Detroit Edison advertisement for an electric range.

Two hunters paid fines of \$10 each on violations — shooting from a car and hunting in the city limits — in Justice of the Peace John J. Schulte's court.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.