

Band makes sound  
for the cosmos. 5B



Marlins go  
to state. 3B

Wrap up shortbread  
for holiday gifts. 1C



# Farmington Observer

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Fifty Cents

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## Center granted adoption license

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

For the first time, the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center will handle its own adoptions beginning in January.

Following a lengthy process complicated by Gov. John Engler's budget cuts, the Farmington Hills center's new adoption program recently was licensed and is pretty much raring to go.

"We have found that a lot of foster parents are willing to adopt," said Kathie Spratt, program director for

the treatment foster care program.

At this point, the center's adoption program will not involve babies born to young women in the center's maternity care program at Marillac Hall.

The primary purpose of the new program is to provide adoption services for children in the center's treatment programs for abused, neglected and emotionally troubled children, from birth to 18 years of age, Spratt said.

"We figured gee, it would be a nice continuum of care if we could do our own adoptions," Spratt said.

THE KIDS in the center's residential treatment program have been removed from their family homes and receive treatment while living at the center. Following the residential program, some children need additional help before returning to their own families. That's where the foster care program steps in.

The goal is to reunite the children with their families. But when that's not the case, another permanent family must be found for the children.

According to state law, permanent places must be found for these chil-

dren. In many cases, foster parents adopt their foster child. But they have always had to go through outside agencies. That means "a whole new set of faces the kids have to deal with," Spratt said.

Linda Brook, a treatment foster care therapist, will be the new adoption worker. And that suits her fine. The kids in the treatment program already know her. "That way it's not such a difficult transition for them," she said. "We're really excited about being able to do this."

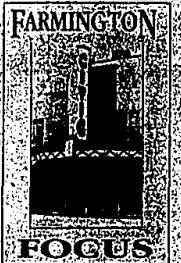
Though the center's adoption program is not expected to reduce a

family's adoption costs, it may reduce the waiting time, Brook said.

As the adoption worker, Brook will conduct the child and family assessments, as well as train parents for adoption. Even foster parents who are licensed and have undergone extensive assessments and training must go through training to be adoptive parents, Brook said.

"It's a whole new set of issues. Foster parenting is temporary. When I'm talking adoption with a family, I'm talking about a lifetime

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**FOCUS**  
THE FOOD was great, but the atmosphere was setting the mood, something to remember.

That's what Farmington Hills resident Lesary Kaplan had to say after attending a luncheon hosted by Barbara Bush in the White House Nov. 22.

Kaplan, a professor of education at Wayne State University, was one of about 40 to attend the luncheon, where grants for the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy were passed out.

On the menu: filet of sole, "It (the luncheon) was for people who are involved in the literacy issue in one way or another," said Kaplan, who is president-elect of the Association of Teachers and Educators. His book, "Concussion and the Family," will be available in February.

Kaplan's wife, Beverly, is a second-grade teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School in the Farmington Hills District.

THE MESSYNESS is falling fast, the weather forecasters are talking about snow. Clearly, winter is on its way.

Local Post Office officials have some thoughts on the subject. Mark A. Bate, officer-in-charge of the Farmington Post Office, reminds residents with mailboxes on posts along the roads that they should keep those areas clear of snow. The carrier should be able to drive up to the mailbox to deposit and collect the mail without leaving his/her vehicle.

Failure to keep mail box area free from snow may prevent carriers from making deliveries, Bate said.

Bate also said that postal regulations require that walks, steps and porches be cleared of snow and ice.

People with questions or a special situation should contact the post office at 553-3910.

SOME SOUND advice for those who were planning to attend the open house at the 47th District Court on Tuesday: Don't go.

The date's been changed to Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The court will host an open house to commemorate the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights. A short program will be presented in Judge Fred Harris' courtroom. Refreshments will be available and those on hand will receive a copy of the Bill of Rights.

Sponsoring the event are the District Court Committee, the Oakland County Bar Association and the League of Women Voters. Other groups taking part are Farmington Families in Action and the Council of Homeowners Association.

MEMORY LANE — From the Nov. 29, 1991 Farmington Enterprise:

• Lyman Bush, who lived on Haggerty Road in Farmington Township, displayed an eight-point buck he brought down near Atlanta, Mich., during deer hunting season.

• Albertine Domperre, who lost several hundred parakeets when a fire swept through her Farmington Township aviary, had a happy Thanksgiving. A party was given to help her rebuild her business. Some 51 birds and a large cash donation were the result.

• Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 2188 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the underground office.



SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

### Hawks are state champs

Farmington Hills Harrison players (from left) Mike Peaci, Dan Hight and Greg Plascink celebrate with their teammates Saturday night after the Hawks defeated Cheboygan 34-7 in the

Silverdome to win the Class BB state football championship. See Page 1B for game coverage.



SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

Gail Roberts, a young adult librarian at the Farmington Community Library's Farmington Hills branch, is the recipient of the 1991 Frances H. Pietz Award for creative and innovative library services for young adults.

## Honored Hills librarian receives award

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Gail Roberts had found out she had been nominated, but was no less surprised when she was honored with a Michigan Library Association award recently.

The award, to be exact, is the Frances H. Pietz award, named after a former director of the state library association. It's given to young adult librarians — which Roberts has been since March 1990 — for a creative and innovative approach to

library services for 6th-12th graders. "Not everyone has a young adult librarian. And it's important because young adults are big users of the library. But sometimes they are overlooked. We try not to do that, and our administration deserves a lot of credit for it," said Roberts, a member of the Michigan Library Association's Young Adult Services Division Board.

In fact, Frances Pietz is a former executive director of the Michigan Library Association who encouraged young adult librarians to form a sep-

arate division within the association for their specialty.

And it is a specialty. "MS. ROBERTS' enthusiasm and expertise is well-respected by her peers, by other community service providers and educators. Her positive innovative approach, understanding of youth, and sense of professionalism well-represent the Farmington Community Library," library director Beverly Papai said.

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## Group names spokesman

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

It's official: Mark Davis will speak — to city officials and the media — for the ad hoc Peltz-MDOT committee.

"This is no gag order. No censoring of anyone. It's not a matter of censoring anyone," ad hoc chairman Davis told the Farmington Hills City Council Nov. 25.

In that capacity, Davis explained the two actions committee members took the previous week — the first meeting of the full committee since disclosure of plans to perhaps replace wetlands from the 12 Mile boulevard construction project on MDOT acreage.

Committee members — two did

not vote — agreed that Davis should officially represent and speak for the committee. But Davis told the council that individual committee members are nonetheless free to speak for themselves about the committee and proposed wetlands plan.

The chairman also gave the council a brief description of his reaction to the plan to put two wetlands — one on either side of an existing drainage course — on the flat area of MDOT, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road.

"Looking at the plan initially and what it entails surprised me," Davis said. With the need to move 60,000 cubic yards of dirt, the proposed project "will require a lot of work."

that a consultant should be hired to help assess the Peltz-MDOT land and how the proposed wetlands replacement plan will affect the land and the wildlife and vegetation there.

Davis also told the committee that he was surprised at the size of the project because he had assumed that — following the special millage election in May — there would be no threat of major construction on the acreage.

Meanwhile, City Manager William Costick said that city officials continue to look at other property for the wetlands replacement. "We're looking at reducing the size. The issue is not closed," he said.

Wetlands replacement is neces-

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