

# Farmington Observer

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Fifty Cents

## 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."

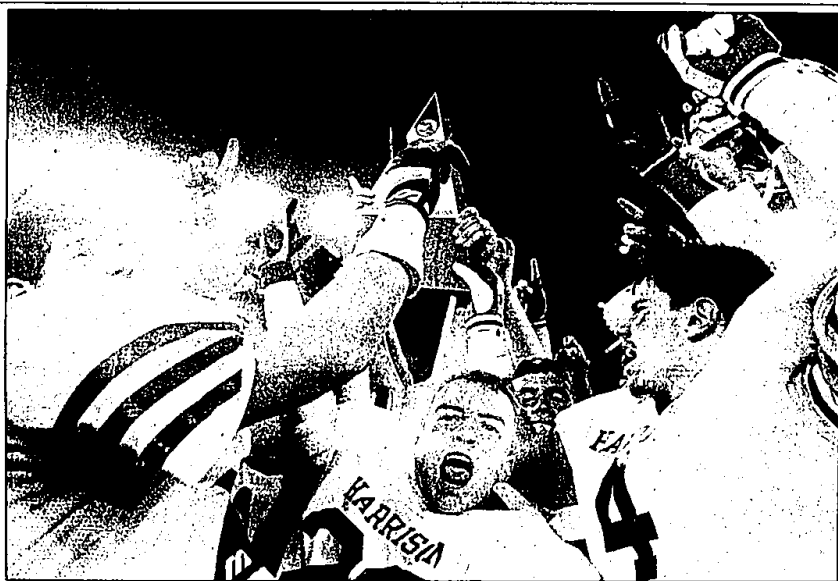
Though the center's adoption program is not expected to reduce a

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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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

### Hawks are state champs

Farmington Hills Harrison players (from left) Mike Pesci, Dan Hight and Greg Piscopink 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 LEMIEUX/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. Pletz Award for creative and innovative library services for young adults.

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. Pletz award, named after a former director of the state library association. It's given to young adult librarians — which Roberts has been since 1980 — for a creative and innovative approach to

## Honored Hills librarian receives award

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 Pletz 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 Papal 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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