

Winery turns into store  
with vintage gifts, 3C

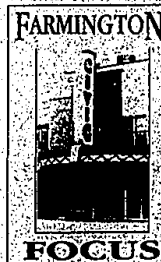


Openers  
on mat. 1B

Local company grows,  
beats recession, 17A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 23 Thursday, December 19, 1991 Farmington, Michigan 76 Pages Fifty Cents



**S**AY CHEESE. An Oakland Livingston, Human Services Agency photographer wants to snap photos of Farmington area senior citizens.

The photographer will be at the Mercy Senior Center, 15400, 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. Call 478-9147 for a reservation.

Photographs of seniors will be used for identification cards needed for participation in the OLSHA senior discount program.

County residents at least 60 years old may apply for the cards, which show photograph, name, address, birth date, Social Security number and signature. The laminated cards also carry the Oakland County seal.

The cards can be used for discounts offered both locally and nationwide. Discounts are available on prescription drugs, eye glasses, auto parts, rustproofing, cleaners, hair care, clothing and restaurants.

Additional camera locations are being sought. Anyone interested in having their photo considered should call 478-1689. Further information may be obtained by calling the OLSHA toll-free Human Services Network, 1-800-423-9250.

**N**EW DIGS. Neighborhood House, formerly housed within the Salvation Army at the corner of Inkster and Shilawasee, has moved.

The program that helps Farmington and Farmington Hills individuals and families in need is now housed at 30415 Shilawasee, Farmington Hills. The telephone number is 478-3373.

Salvation Army officials also want to thank everyone who has helped support its programs, as well as those of Neighborhood House.

"We already see a dramatic increase this season in the need for emergency assistance. The Salvation Army responds by providing food baskets, utility assistance, warm clothing, temporary housing, referral services and counseling," according to a letter from Capt. Homer Smith and Patrick Newman, advisory council chairman.

But the Salvation Army continues to need help from the community. Contributors may indicate the program or community to which they want their contribution distributed.

Interested contributors may contact the Salvation Army at 477-1153.

**M**EMBERS OF Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, between 13 and 14 Mile roads, will portray the Holy Family and shepherds in a life-size creche set up on the church's front lawn near the road 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20 through Monday, Dec. 23, and immediately following the 8 a.m. family worship service, Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Live animals as part of the scene will be used only on Sunday, Dec. 23.

Everyone is invited to stop by and listen to the Christmas story told in music and words and to see the tableau celebrating the birth of Jesus.

## Bel-Aire residents expect flood relief

By Casey Hens  
staff writer

Residents of Farmington's Bel-Aire subdivision should soon have relief from decades of flooding woes, city officials said Monday.

Completion of a citywide \$13-million sewer improvement project, an updating of sewer lines and addition of a 3.5 million gallon retention tank on Nine Mile — should take care of the majority of the subdivision's basement flooding problems, they said.

It was discovered as recently as 1989 that the problem wasn't in sewer lines under the subdivision at all, but in a sewer interceptor downstream near Grand River.

That was updated as part of the project, and additional relief lines were added.

"We really believe the correction — two thirds of it — has been put into place," City Manager Robert Deadman told about a dozen residents, mostly from Lamar Street, who returned to the council to hear an engineering report on the Bel Air flooding problem.

"This is not a new solution. We were working very diligently in 1989

*'We really believe the correction — two thirds of it — has been put into place. This is not a new solution. We were working very diligently in 1989 to find an answer to the problem. You just didn't know about it.'*

— Robert Deadman  
city manager

to find an answer to the problem. You just didn't know about it."

Weeping the drainage systems under the Bel-Aire houses pumped excess water into the sanitary sewers but the capacity of the sewer lines downstream couldn't handle the flow, said city engineer Dave Mariner. That included flow from Bel-Aire and other points north.

Mariner explained that the multi-million-dollar sewer project and other recommendations adopted by the city council Monday, should alleviate most of the problems, which residents say have plagued their

neighborhood since it was built in the 1950s. The sewer project retention basin should be complete by next December.

"We've had three floods in three years with substantial damage to our homes," said resident Michele Kramer. "I hope these relief lines work."

As part of the relief effort for residents, the city council Monday adopted a four-point set of recommendations including:

Please turn to Page 2

## Sun chasers Movie makers achieve dream

"Camus' Shoes" is showing through Dec. 22 at the Michigan Theatre, where the half-hour film will precede full-length movies. At 6:30 p.m. tonight, Dec. 19, it will be shown prior to "Cyrano De Bergerac" starring Gerard Depardieu. "Camus' Shoes" will be seen at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21 before "Rosenkrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead," starring Richard Dreyfuss.

It will also be shown at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 22 before "Prospero's Books" at 6 p.m., and "Hamlet" starring Mel Gibson and Glenn Close at 8:30 p.m.

Showings are planned for early January at the Magic Bag Theatre in fashionable Ferndale. Call the Magic Bag at 544-3030 for details.

By M.B. Dillon  
staff writer

Fairy tales can come true, it can happen to you, especially if you're Larry Carroll, or in some way connected with his Farmington Hills-based company, Sundog Productions Inc.

Massachusetts-born Carroll and

two of his high school buddies dreamed about making a movie to tell someday. The director, actor, and writer are pushing 40, but they're young at heart, and they did it.

Their 30-minute feature film, "Camus' Shoes," premiered Saturday night at the historic Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor before a cocktail-sipping, hors d'oeuvre-munching crowd resplendent in tuxedos, gowns and jewels.

Among those having the most fun were the film's co-executive producers, Carroll's partners Ed Krajewski and Mike Janz, and the actors, including Scanlon Galt, a former Detroit now residing in Los Angeles.

Galt, who's appeared in movies including "The Rocketeer," "Tough Guys," and "Fright Night II," plays Fred Fitchbaum, a desperate and uptight Yuppie realtor suffering a mid-life crisis in the Sundog Film production.

Central in the "comedy noir" is Kevin Yon, a native of Pittsfield, Mass., now living in Rockford, a suburb of Grand Rapids. Yon — whose credits include roles in the movies "Sweet Charity," "Blind Faith," and "Man of La Mancha" — plays Albert Camus, maintaining his existential roots with a twist of 90s awareness.

Boston-native Judith Roberts, who starred in the cult classic "Eraserhead," plays Fatima, "Psychic to the Celebrities."

In Carroll's estimation, Roberts' performance is one of the film's bright spots. The highlights in Fatima's eyes as she gives Fred a 360 ectoplasmic encounter "are the size

Please turn to Page 2



Sharmila Paul moves to a step native to Rajasthan, India. The dance was part of an Ethnic Bazaar held at the Farmington Hills school this month.

## Mercy students linked by culture

By Casey Hens  
staff writer

Cultural understanding doesn't come naturally.

It takes work, as students and staff at Mercy High School have discovered over the years.

The school's 12-year-old Human Relations Council plays a big role in fostering good communications between people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds by working year-round and hosting events such as the recent Ethnic Bazaar, held Dec. 13 in the school's drama studio.

Mercy, an all-girls private school, is at 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads in Farmington Hills.

"I think at Mercy diversity is our biggest asset," said Gladys Ayala, a senior who sits on the HRC.

"Our main point is basically to talk about things — about ethnic differences," said Dawn Owen, an HRC member who co-chaired the bazaar with another student, Karuna Mantena. "We thought this



would be a good way to teach people about the cultures."

THE THEME of this year's bazaar was "Peace Through Understanding."

Chaldean, Indian, Arabic and African American cultures are predominant in the school. Those cultures, plus others, were given a chance to shine during the Ethnic Bazaar, which featured varied foods, ethnic dancing, and a display of artifacts from around the world loaned to the school by Mercy families. Students say the event is not

Please turn to Page 3

## what's inside

Building scene . . . 1G  
Business . . . 14B  
Cable connection . . . 11B  
Classifieds . . . Secs. D-G  
Index . . . 2E  
Auto . . . Sec. G  
Real estate . . . Secs. D-G  
Employment . . . Sec. F  
Creative living . . . 1D  
Crossword puzzle . . . 3E  
Entertainment . . . 5B  
Obituaries . . . 11B  
Opinion . . . 22A

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## 'Queen of Diamonds'

Book on Tiger Stadium chronicles controversy over needed renovation

By Anne Sullivan  
staff writer

If your Christmas shopping still isn't finished, and on your list is a Tiger fan, you may want to make a trip to the Little Professor Book Center at the Grand River-Halsted shopping center Sunday, Dec. 22.

Rich and Paula Herstein, owners of the Little Professor, are featuring "Queen of Diamonds" in their store. Queen of Diamonds, written by Mike Betzold and Ethan Casey, examines the current controversy surrounding the preservation of Tiger Stadium. Betzold

will be at the store 1-2 p.m., Sunday to sign copies of the book.

The book, hot off the presses and stocked at the Little Professor, has already been a hit with shoppers at the Farmington store. "I think it's timely enough to be a good seller," Rich Herstein said.

To notify Tiger fans of the opportunity to obtain a signed copy of the newly released book, Herstein obtained a mailing list of people who signed petitions to save Tiger Stadium, and has mailed postcards to them notifying them of Sunday's book signing.

"It's really remarkable that the book was able to be written and published," said Casey, who is as self-proclaimed baseball fan. "My interest (in Tiger Stadium) was from a (baseball) fan's point of view. Tiger Stadium is important because it's a classic baseball stadium."

Please turn to Page 8