



Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

In miniature: He's built a small town, under a large tree and it just keeps getting bigger./3A

COUNTY NEWS

Good eyesight: Although he's not an optometrist, Farmington Hills resident Doug Ross has a vision of what the state's economy has to become to thrive in the future./8A

TASTE



"Great Pretenders": Lose the booze this holiday season with tasty alcohol-free drinks. Finalists in the AAA Michigan Zero-Proof Mix-Off non-alcohol drink contest share their recipes./1B

Winner Dinner: Submitted by Henry Gordon of Birmingham, this week's Winner Dinner features braised lamb shanks, tossed vegetable salad, and cheesecake./1B

SPORTS

Tournament loss: North Farmington's boys basketball team lost to Novi Tuesday night in the first round of the Novi-Northville Winter Tournament./1C

ND's gain: Farmington Mercy graduate Susie Atchinson has made the Notre Dame women's basketball team as a walk-on./1C

STREET SCENE

Everywhere: Slaughter will literally be everywhere in the United States come New Year's Eve, thanks to the miracle of television. But if you're into live music, you can also catch the group at Harpo's. They're among bands ringing in 1993 throughout the metro Detroit area Thursday night./6B

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Hills thinks ice arena is cool idea

Farmington Hills is looking into the idea of building a multi-rink ice arena. Officials would like such an arena to be self-supporting. A former Detroit Red Wing who lives in Farmington Hills says it's a slick idea that has lots of community support.

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington Hills officials see a glaze in their future and athletic stars in their eyes. Hills city manager Bill Costick, together with councilmen Larry Lichtman and Terry Sever, recently toured ice arenas in the area and in Canada.

They'd like to see one built in Farmington Hills. Also interested is Robert Picard, who formerly played with the Detroit Red Wings and Montreal Canadiens. He approached the city seven months ago about the idea of an ice arena. "The project is great for the area," Picard said. "There's a need in the

area. Two or three miles one way or another doesn't matter." Picard and Lichtman know ice needs personally. Both have sons involved in hockey. "I play out of Plymouth and my son plays out of Redford," Picard said. Picard also owns Robert Picard Sports in Farmington Hills. The council recently gave Costick approval to form a citizens study group. "These individuals would be those involved in one way or another with ice hockey, figure skating and who are

familiar with area ice rink facilities," Costick said. He'll be bringing the issue back to the council in January. Costick, Lichtman and Sever looked at several alternatives and looked at existing ice arena facilities and the apparent growing demand. "It is important to note that one thing we have learned is that the demand for more facilities is not peculiar to Farmington Hills and it does appear to be widespread in our neighboring communities," Costick said.

See ICE ARENA, 4A

Temporary parent finds experience joyful

BY MARY LOU SONG
STAFF WRITER

Cati lies on her belly, hands propped under her chin, ankles crossed — one sock on, one sock off. Her big blue eyes stare at the television and follow Barney, the purple dinosaur of children's TV fame, a two-year-old. She hums along, knowing that all eyes in the room are on her. She casually looks over her shoulder, peering through wisps of red hair, and catches the eyes of her audience. She gives a sneaky grin and breaks into laughter.

"She's a ham," said Kam Carman, Cati's aunt. But who can resist? Carman couldn't. Carman, the weathercaster for Channel 2 and a Farmington Hills resident, has had temporary custody of her niece, Catlin Marcinek, for the last six months. Last May, Carman's sister, Cati's mom, separated and was having financial difficulties. Carman offered to take care of Cati until her sister could get back on her feet, while Carman's parents took care of Cati's older brother and sister.

Carman moved to Michigan in February 1991 from Atlanta, where she was a weathercaster for The Weather Channel. Carman, who is single and 28 years old, said she considered all the downsides of taking care of a child on her own, but decided she cared more about helping her sister and her niece.

"I had never seen her before, except in pictures," Carman said of Cati. "But I knew I loved her. I did it mainly to help my sister. Someone might think that I'm going to get something out of it.



BILL HESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Playing mommy: Channel 2 weathercaster Kam Carman watches her niece Cati play mom. That's what Carman is doing as well. She's taking care of her niece temporarily and finding that parenthood agrees with her.

"But all I want is Cati to be happy and to have a normal life. No one talked me into this. I came up with the idea."

While this professional says she never really had "an urge for motherhood," caring for Cati has made her think twice about the bal-

ance between family and career. "I used to be career-oriented," she said.

See JOYFUL, 2A



Police and seniors: Laurretta Bowden, above, enjoyed the company. Right, officer James Skrzycki helps Muriel Simon open gift.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL HESLER

Police visits helping seniors living alone

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

For those of us who can enjoy the holidays with family and friends, this can be the best of times; for those who can't, it can be one of the loneliest.

Farmington Hills Police have found a way to help senior citizens who are often isolated and alone, by simply offering companionship and a sympathetic ear.

The program, called Police and Seniors Together, matches officers with seniors who live alone. Many, like Virginia Martin, 68, are far away from family and look forward to the weekly visits. Martin and other seniors in the program came to the Farmington Hills Police complex for a special Christmas dinner put on by officers.

"It's beautiful," she said. "It gets me out of the house and gives my dogs a rest," she quipped.

Martin's two children are grown and living in Arizona. That leaves her alone with her poodle and "Heinz 57" dog as her only company much of the time. But the program, first suggested by Police Chief William Dwyer, has changed that.

While attending an FBI seminar, Dwyer heard about the idea as a way of helping lonely senior citizens. He spoke with Lorretta Conway of the city's special services senior adult division and asked for police officers to volunteer as "partners" to seniors. The program started with 11 seniors.

Detective Dave Lee, a 19-year-veteran of the department, is one of the original volunteers.

"It's hard to believe how attached you get in such a short time," Lee said.

See VISITS, 2A

Bridal shows

If you're hosting a bridal fashion show between February and June of 1993, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers would like to hear from you. We'll gladly consider announcing your show in the calendar of our winter bridal fashion supplement Feb. 4.

We need to know the name of the event, who is hosting it, the time, date and location, the targeted audience, the type and price range of fashions, the designers spotlighted, the admission, and a daytime phone number we can publish for more information. We need this information by Jan. 6.

Send this information, preferably typewritten, to: Special Projects Editor, Editorial Department, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Deadman honored

Outgoing Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman will be honored at the Farmington City Council chambers from 7-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4.

He is retiring. The public is invited.

Senior discounts

A photographer from the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency will be taking pictures of senior citizens for a discount card.

The photographer will be at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 28600 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills, from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 16.

The cards identify seniors for the OLHSA Senior Discount Program. Adults, who have reached age 60 and live in Oakland County, can apply for the identification card showing their photograph, name, address, birth date, social security number and signature. The cards display the Oakland County Seal and are laminated.

Discounts offered by local merchants and others throughout the United States include prescription drugs, eye glasses, automobile parts, rustproofing, cleaners, hair care, clothing, restaurants and more.

Anyone interested should call 858-1689 to set up an appointment.