

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 71

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 84 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1995 Anderson Communications Corporation

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

March on by: People lined both sides of Grand River Monday morning to watch and cheer as more than 200 Farmington-area World War II veterans were honored during the Memorial Day Parade. /3A

No more MetroVision: MetroVision of Oakland County, the cable television provider for the Farmington area, is changing its name to Time Warner Cable. /5A

SMART vote coming: Passage of the SMART millage in Oakland is likely, say the experts, but the future of the suburban bus line isn't so certain. /5A

Voters take note: Clarenceville voters — and that includes folks in southeast Farmington Hills — can find out about their school candidates and ballot questions. /7A

Open cop shop: Meet the student who designed the winning poster to announce the upcoming Farmington Hills Police Department's open house. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Missions of Mercy: Mercy International marks 10 years as a non-profit organization, and workers talk of their service overseas. /13A

It's a mom thing: Therese McFarland tries not to equate being a mother with being a doormat. /13A

OPINION

The choices are . . . The Farmington Observer endorses in the Farmington and Clarenceville school races. /18A

Write on! Many Observer readers are writers, too, if the Letters to the Editor columns is any indication. /18A

LET'S GO!

Quite an act: "The Princess and the Magic Pea," featuring performances by local youngsters, is short and sweet. /18

Theater: "The Fantasticks" may very well be proof that theatergoers never tire of good, old-fashioned musicals about life and love.

INDEX

- Community News 13A
- Obituaries . . . 11A
- Opinion . . . 18A
- Police/fire . . . 6A
- Sports 1C
- Street Scene . . . 9B
- Travel 9B

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

- Newspapers: 810-477-8450
- Newspaper Fax: 810-477-9722
- Search: 313-953-2141
- Reader Comment Line: 313-953-2042
- Classified Advertising: 313-991-0560
- Display Advertising: 313-991-2360
- Home Delivery: 313-991-0360
- Cable/TV Weekly: 313-953-2182

City rallies to vandalism victims



A Farmington Hills couple found a disaster at their upscale home Tuesday. They also found a community that cares about their plight.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

When Lucretia Jackson and her husband, Bruce, returned from a visit to their Chicago stomping grounds to their beautiful home in northwest Farmington Hills, they expected to impress a European friend with the Detroit area.

But what the Jacksons and their

friend encountered was an ugly surprise.

"I knew something was wrong when I saw the two plants (in pots, turned over off the porch)," Lucretia Jackson said.

When the Jacksons returned to their Lancaster Street house of two years, they found all the faucets had been turned on, cloths and other arti-

cles were plugging the drains, ketchup and lotions had been dumped on clothes and furniture, appliance cords had been cut, and black paint had been sprayed all over the walls, causing an estimated \$100,000 in damage.

In one upstairs hallway, the words "white power" were sprayed. The Jacksons are African-Americans.

General Motors, which transferred Bruce Jackson to Detroit, recommended Farmington Hills as a good place to live.

"I consider my neighbors next door and across the street friends," Jackson said. "We had gotten the house

just the way we wanted it."

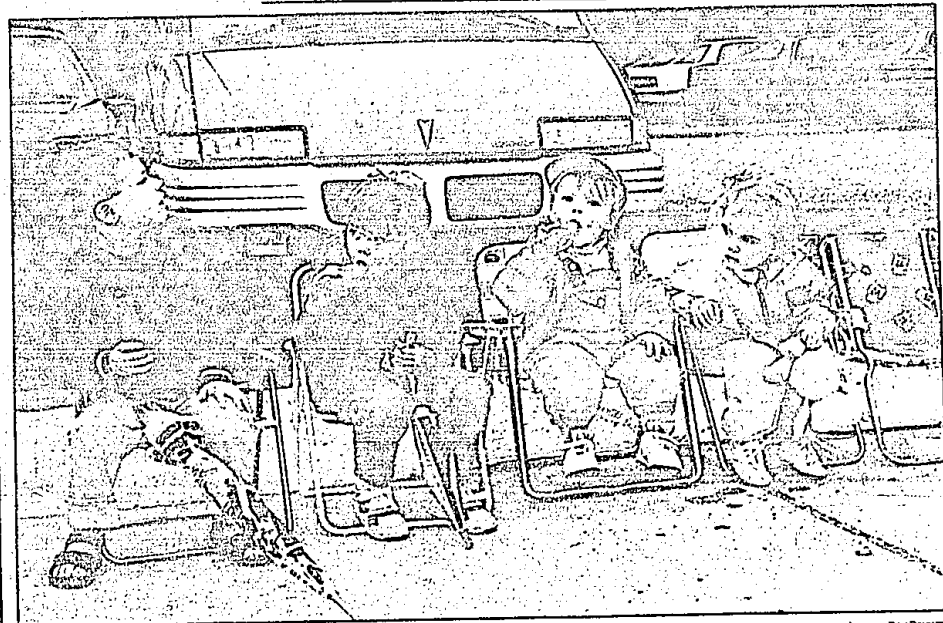
Lucretia Jackson said she knows the people who committed the crime were "ignorant," and not a reflection on the city.

"People have been very supportive," she said. "People have called; the mayor called my husband, and it's nice to know that people are upset about this."

Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said the response from angry citizens and those who want to help has been "tremendous."

See VANDALISM, 2A

Memorial Day Parade draws young fans



FOR POKRY

Strike up the band: Part of the Grainer family — (from left) Ben, Chelsea, Morgan and Megan — enjoy a drink while watching the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Farmington. For a story and more parade photos, please see Page 3A.

Levin plays to new voting audience

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

In school board politics, Jennifer Levin is a candidate anomaly. School insiders can't put a stamp on her. Levin's certainly an outsider, but not the kind the Shiawassee Hill cognoscenti are accustomed to seeing.

Her campaign is not that of the "concerned parent," who has a long-standing complaint. She's not touting some fundamental doctrine or decrying the decay of academic standards.

Levin's not highly critical of the current board, either. She hasn't served on district committees, but thinks she can bring a youthful perspective to the board.

More so, the 25-year-old attorney wants to get involved. Had Levin not filed on deadline day, the June 12 election for one seat would have been uncontested. That has not made her feel welcomed by everyone in school circles, especially the board.

"I think they're all sort of on (her

opponent's) team. Some of them told me that," said Levin, who lives in Old Franklin Towne subdivision. "I was referred to one of the board members by someone I know."

"When I went up to them, they said, 'I'm supporting Linda (Enberg). So, I sort of backed off.'"

Undaunted, Levin campaigns along. She's mounting a door-to-door effort, trying to tap support from the other 80 percent who don't have kids in Farmington schools. Their concerns are her's, she said.

They're curious about outcomes based education, wonder if students should be held back in certain instances, inquire about the feasibility of vouchers, and the potential for tax increase requests.

"Why I'm running is one of their main concerns," Levin added. She wants to be on the board so her children will benefit from a sound school system.

Reading should be beefed up in or-

der to improve standardized test scores, Levin said. She acknowledges when tests like the MEAP continue to change, though, scores tend to go down.

Outcomes Based Education is a good concept as it combines all elements of student achievement, Levin said.

She's also promised to keep office hours for residents, which is a considerable pledge.

Not only is Levin embarking on her career in the legal department for City Management Corp., she's also a new lawyer.

She married Steve Teper six months ago. They met while at Southfield-Lathrup High, where Levin graduated in 1987.

She has a juris doctor from Detroit College of Law and is a member of the Michigan State Bar Association.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting at Michigan State Uni-

See LEVIN, 2A



Jennifer Levin

Observer will launch 3 new sections June 8

On Thursday, June 8, your Observer will introduce three exciting new sections.

Arts & Entertainment, At Home and Real Estate will respond to readers who want to know what's happening in their hometowns and nearby communities.

Arts & Entertainment will bring Observer readers complete coverage of fine arts, music, theater, movies,

travel, restaurants and special festivals. Arts & Entertainment will incorporate material now found in the Observer Let's Go! and Creative Living sections.

The new sections have been developed with readers, consumers and advertisers in mind. The new products reflect a changing lifestyle

See SECTIONS, 4A



Debut: Look for these new sections on Thursday, June 8.