

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 107 NUMBER 1

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 144 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1995 Observer & Economic Newspapers, Inc.

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Tie one on! October is a red-ribbon month in the Farmington community. Members of Farmington Families In Action see to that. /3A

Suspect found: Kenneth Tranchida, a suspect in the death of Farmington Hills resident Tina Biggar, was arrested in Detroit Monday. /7A

OPINION

A good show! Local-access cable TV works hand in glove with groups that sponsor local meet-the-candidate forums. /10A

COMMUNITY LIFE

An old story: Phyllis Bush, Farmington Hills resident and guest columnist, thinks downtown Farmington is the place to go for antiques. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Great outdoors: Michigan Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit V, now showing in Southfield, presents a variety of works from artists from around the state. Some of the participants recently exhibited or have permanent pieces on display in this area. /1B

Theater: It's all for fun and fun for all when Meadow Brook Theatre opens its 30th season with the swashbuckling spectacular "The Three Musketeers." /1B

SPORTS

Race winners: Farmington High won another girls cross country invitational Saturday in Jackson. /1C

LOTTERY

The Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$4.9 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, Sept. 27, are:

- DAILY 3: 783
- DAILY 4: 3487
- CASH 5: 17, 22, 29, 31, 34
- LOTTO: 7, 13, 19, 27, 29, 42

INDEX

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A&E 1B | Real estate . . . 3F |
| At Home 1D | Rentals 8F |
| Calendar 6C | 8 Days 8B |
| Classifieds . . . F-11 | Movies 8B |
| Announcements 12G | Obituaries . . . 6A |
| Autos 6H | Opinions 10-11A |
| Crossword 6F | Police fire 6A |
| Employment . . . 11F | Reunions 6C |
| Home, Service guide 2H | Sports 1C |
| | Street Scene . . 10B |

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newsroom: 810-477-5450
 Newsroom Fax: 810-477-4722
 Sports: 313-853-2141
 Reader Comment Line: 313-853-2042
 Classified Advertising: 313-851-0920
 Display Advertising: 313-851-2330
 Home Delivery: 810-801-4715
 Cable/TV Weekly: 313-853-2182

Man charged in hit-run



David Klenke

By TOM BAER
AND BILL COITANT
STAFF WRITERS

Thirteen-year-old David Klenke — described by his mother as "the sing in our family" — is dead after a hit-and-run accident in Farmington Hills Monday.

A 22-year-old Detroit — who may have been driving drunk — has been charged in the death.
 Christopher Phillip Smith Jr. Wednesday pleaded not guilty to several charges in connection with boy's death at an arraignment marked by tight security in Farmington's 47th District Court.

Smith was charged with manslaughter, operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol and leaving the scene of a fatal accident before visiting Judge William Waterman.

Under a new law, Smith could face up to 15 years in prison for drunken driving that results in a fatal accident.

Waterman set bail at \$1 million cash bond. Smith must post the entire \$1 million — not just a fraction of it — before he can be released from the Oakland County Jail.

"We feel he is a risk to flee . . . and a danger to the public," said Daniel Lemisch of the Oakland County Pro-

secutor's Office.

Exam on Wednesday

Smith, who was not represented by an attorney, sobbed slightly at his arraignment. Judge Waterman hinted that threats had been made, and court officers searched all spectators.

Preliminary exam for Smith was set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the same court.

David Klenke, 13, and his brother Stephen, 11, were riding their bikes on the south shoulder of 10 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt, when an

See ARRANGMENT, 2A

How does her garden grow? Very well, thank you



SHARON LAMMIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Garden contest winner: Deborah Read, a Postal Service employee and Farmington resident, is all smiles over her garden, which won the recent Good Neighbor Garden Contest sponsored by the Farmington Garden Club. For a story and more photos, please see 13A.

Mitchell sees change as big issue for council

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Running unopposed in an election is like a matador prancing around without a bull in the ring or a homerun hitter having the ball on a tee.

On Nov. 7, Farmington City Council candidate Jim Mitchell will have the title councilman added before his name. He's one of three candidates — including incumbents JoAnne McShane and Bill Hartsock — running for three seats.

They will vie for two four-year terms and a two-year term.

The outcome promises as much suspense as the result of a Harlem Globetrotters-Washington Generals game.

Mitchell, 44, was looking forward to the electoral process. He was one of the first to take out a nominating petition and the first to turn it in to the clerk's office.

He says he's disappointed in not having any real opposition. But he still plans to campaign.

"I don't think I would be fair to the residents to not campaign," Mitchell said. "I want to let them know I'm interested in the position."

The Floral Park resident is already taking an official tone.

The subject is downtown, which is Farmington's fountain of pride and catch basin for debate.

"Certain people don't want change, but change is going to happen," said Mitchell, who serves on the Farmington Planning Commission. He was appointed in 1987.

"What I as a council person and others have to address is how that change is going to take place."
 "The city needs to remain vigilant monitoring downtown's progress," Mitchell added.

Sign and aesthetics ordinances

have to be followed. Otherwise the area will have a "mish-mash," Mitchell said.

At the same time, the city has to remain business-friendly. Mitchell's planning commission experience has allowed him to see both sides of issues.

He helped develop the aesthetics ordinance, which was adopted by the city council last year. Planning commission members are allowed to make recommendations on matters of color and style when approving site plans.

The purpose is to make sure a structure blends in with existing buildings. Some, though, might see it as another government intrusion.

"We don't feel our aesthetics ordinance was restrictive," Mitchell said. "We felt it provided direction."

See MITCHELL, 4A



Jim Mitchell

FHS has it backwards

Look out behind! Here comes the 1995 Farmington High School Homecoming Parade — and the school band is (gasp) marching backwards down the hill on Shilawassee Road.

That'll be the scene Saturday, Sept. 30, when the Farmington High marching band (128 students strong), cheerleaders, members of school clubs, etc. take to the streets to celebrate the FHS homecoming.

And, yes, it's true. The band really does march backwards down the hill on Shilawassee just north of downtown Farmington. It's a school tradition, said Krista Kuester, a FHS junior and band member.

"It's a whole lot of fun," she said, "but you have to watch out. If you go too fast you'll step on the people in back of you."

The parade will start at 10 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the LOC Credit Union on Farmington Road south of downtown. The parade route will be north along Farmington Road through downtown, right on Shilawassee (and backward down the hill, of course) to Farmington High.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The band will perform in a pregame show at 12:30 p.m. at the school. The game — Farmington versus North Farmington — will start at 1 p.m.

Craft show coming up

A for-profit craft show featuring country wood, dolls, wearable art, painted coins, calligraphy, floral jewelry, personalized T-shirts and Christmas stockings, etc. will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road. A \$1 admission will be charged.

All that (Swedish) jazz

Ronny Jansson, a Swedish jazz ensemble, will perform a concert of religious folk and traditional jazz at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Faith Covenant Church, 14 Mile and Drake roads, Farmington Hills. For more information, call the church at 681-5419.

He's hanging it up

Richard Tupper, longtime Farmington councilman who is not running for re-election, will be honored at a sendoff party 6:00-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, in the On-The-Fox Restaurant at San Marino Golf Course, Halsted north of 11 Mile.

A \$22 fee will cover the dinner and a gift for Tupper. A "send hour" (formerly Happy Hour) will be held 6:30-7:15 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call the Farmington City Manager's Office (474-8500) or Councilman Arnie Campbell (476-6733).

Meet those candidates

A candidate forum for the Farmington Hills mayoral and city council hopefuls will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, in the council chambers of the Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

See FOCUS, 5A