

Warming up:  
Protected  
from the ele-  
ments,  
Gordon  
Williams  
tries to keep  
an eye on  
his shot.  
Williams  
joined 88  
die-hard  
golfers for a  
winter out-  
ing at San  
Marino Golf  
Course Sat-  
urday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY  
TOM HOFFMEYER



Fairways to frost: Golfers get in their instructions before heading out to play in the fifth annual Chili Golf Open.

## Frozen links

### Golf outing turns into tundra fun

Some golfers just can't wait for that winter break in Florida or until Michigan's spring season.

Saturday, some 88 die-hard duffers braved the "whites" of the San Marino Golf Course for the fifth annual Chili Golf Open. They bundled up and knocked the little ball (probably not white) on two shortened nine-hole courses.

"We started this out as a fun thing for (city) employees," said

Eric Wurmlinger of the parks and recreation department. "When we opened it to the public, it really took off. Because there are so many people involved, the city employees don't take part because we're busy running it."

Wurmlinger said the number of golfers has grown from 48 to 88 since it began.

He credited Jim Hardy, the course's superintendent, with designing the popular shortened course for "the Winter Tour."



Putt strut: Joe Loniewski celebrates after sinking his putt in one shot. Golfers contended with snow, ice and other wintry elements.



Snow trap: Todd Williams tries to get out of the rough made up of white stuff during Saturday's nine-hole outing.

## Farmington on path for new tile super store

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

All tiles apparently lend to the Farmington area.

The Tile Shop, a 30,000-square-foot super store, will open in the Grand-Holsted Plaza in late March. The Minneapolis, Minn.-based chain is filling space formerly occupied by Kid-dieland, which has been vacant for more than a year.

Before Kiddie Land, Kroger operated there. The supermarket chain continued to hold the lease though it closed the outlet seven years ago when it opened a larger store on Halsted and 12 Mile.

The new store specializes in retail, wholesale and installation of tiles. Its arrival is expected to create anywhere from 25 to 100

new jobs.

"Michigan, in general, is a good market," said Rod Sill, co-owner of The Tile Shop. "We've wanted to get in there for three years. We waited until we finished our St. Louis expansion and turned north..."

The Tile Shop had to stave off another chain — Home Depot — from moving in. The home improvement outlet sought approval from the Farmington Planning Commission to open.

The deal fell through reportedly after Home Depot was bought out by office supplier Staples, City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. The new tile store fills a highly visible retail vacancy.

"We're real pleased," Lauhoff said. "What we've learned

recently is that this is an important area for the tile industry. . . It seems to be an area known as the Tile Capital, if you will."

Exterior renovations have started on the building, which is in the same shopping area anchored by Kmart. The Tile Shop owners want the store "95 percent completed" by the start of the Home Show March 15.

Kroger's closing at the site created a stir with nearby residents, including many seniors, because it was the only grocery store within walking distance.

Standard Construction manages the plaza, but was not involved in negotiations. Kroger handled them.



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## Principal from page A1

turning over the materials. . . Craig cited Michigan law that says a teacher or administrator is not required to release confidential information without the permission of the person or his guardian if he were under 18, who spoke to that teacher or administrator in confidence.

"If the judge (Fred Harris) orders us to comply, we'll have to make that decision," Craig said. "We are looking for guidance."

The school conducted its own investigation of the incident, in which the victim was struck several times in the head.

Despite Clarke's refusal to turn over information, police obtained a misdemeanor warrant for assault and battery against Wesley Peter Alexander, 17, who surrendered to Farmington Hills police Tuesday.

Police said they believe the incident involved a mistaken identity.

Alexander was arraigned in 47th District Court in Farmington before visiting Judge Thomas Brooker Tuesday and released on \$100 personal bond. A preliminary exam date for the misdemeanor has not been scheduled.

### I need to maintain credibility with the students.

Deborah Clarke  
—principal,  
North Farmington High

Clarke and her attorney went to court Wednesday afternoon on hearing to determine whether Clarke must turn over the information. That hearing was postponed until 3 p.m. Tuesday.

"I need to maintain credibility with the students," Clarke said. "I tell them that we are going to handle this and they need to know that we will."

The longtime educator said most fights and disputes are settled in the school within hours of the incident when she can get information from the students freely, without them having to fear that what they tell her will be passed on to police.

Lt. Chuck Nebus, public information officer with the Farmington Hills police, said he hopes the disagreement will have no effect on the good relationship police have with the schools.

Nebus said the delay from the time of the incident (Nov. 13)

until the arraignment (Jan. 28) came in part from the department's inability to get information from the school.

"I understand that she (Clarke) has some concerns about confidentiality," he said.

Clarke said the police liaison program has been a good one for students.

"We were the first of the high schools to have a liaison officer," she said.

In court, the judge could enforce the subpoena, giving Clarke the choice of turning over the material or being in contempt of court. Or he could dismiss it.

Alexander also has been charged in 46th District Court with malicious killing of an animal, a four-year felony, for an incident on Jan. 21 outside the Franklin Park Towers apartment complex in Southfield.

He is charged on Jan. 22 with killing a cat by running it over with a 1996 Nissan Maxima. Police also found a small bag of marijuana in the car. An innocent plea was entered for him and he was released on \$25,000 personal bond by Judge Bryan Levy. His preliminary exam on the felony was Monday.