

# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Learning to lead:** Farmington students spent a day running the schools and getting an education in being in charge. /A3

### COUNTY

**Camp out:** Children and parents thronged to a camp fair where they examined options for the coming summer. /A9

**Living Healthy:** The organization Healthy People Healthy Oakland has identified the most important public health concerns. /A5

### OPINION

**Revved up:** Orchard Lake Road drivers will see a few changes, but it won't be a freeway. Check out Dave Varga's column. /A14

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Irish celebrations:** St. Patrick's Day is coming and many events are planned locally to mark the season of the green. /E1

### REAL ESTATE

**Starting from scratch:** A mother, tired of waiting for an existing real estate agency to come onto the market, teamed up with her son to build a brand new one. /F1

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## Nerves and notes



PHOTO BY BILL HANSEN



**Crescendo:** Young musicians and vocalists performed Saturday for their shot at a Farmington Musicals scholarship, then nervously awaited the results. At left, Carl Mintz, an eventual 7th/8th grade winner, gets ready to begin his audition as adjudicator Mark Barton (in background) listens. Below, program chairwoman Connie Randall begins to post the morning session winners on a blackboard at Nardin Park United Methodist Church. At top, harpist Victoria Anderson turns happily to a friend after seeing her name go up on the winner board. Check next week's paper for the entire list of scholarship winners.



## Cell tower rules call residents March 13



BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

After being on hold for three years of study and debate, a proposed ordinance to regulate cellular towers and antennas in Farmington Hills goes to the public next week.

Residents are expected to challenge parts of the proposal at the public hearing before the Farmington Hills Planning Commission at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, in city council chambers.

Proposed cellular towers have drawn a lot of opposition from neighborhood associations and started the city on a plan to study and map out rules concerning their location, sized and other criteria. The city has 14 cellular phone towers standing, with another 22 antennas and towers proposed.

The 1996 Federal Communications Act limited local control over towers based upon health concerns, leaving zoning considerations as the only basis for regulating them.

"We don't want the towers, but we have to allow them within reason," said Dave Haron, planning commissioner. "In the opinion of (city attorney) John Donohue, we can't discuss these (health) issues."

The city is trying to come up with an ordi-

See CELL TOWERS, A6

## Public safety officers get 3-year deal

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington and its public safety officers union have settled on a new three-year contract, which calls for an overall 9.76 percent pay increase.

The difference in pay, though, doesn't compare to the stark contrast in negotiations between the two sides this time around.

Two years ago, the city and the Farmington Police Officers Association became embroiled in a stalemate that finally had to be settled in arbitration.

"Both sides needed to accomplish a few things and it was very business like," City Manager Frank Lauhoff said.

Added Jim Madigan, president of the FPOA: "I think communication was better."

Officers will receive 3.6-percent pay increase retroactive to Jan. 1. The 16-member Farmington Police Officers Association will get subsequent 3.25 and 3 percent raises in 1998 and 1999 respectively.

Farmington City Council unanimously approved the new deal at Monday's regular

See DEAL, A2

## 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. set for going door-to-door

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington is setting the hours for Jehovah Witnesses, Girl Scout cookie sellers, tin men and anyone else who goes door-to-door.

Solicitors have 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. to operate under an ordinance amendment passed by the Farmington City Council at Monday's meeting.

An addition to setting hours, the revised ordinance addresses licensing for solicitors and defines soliciting material.

The change was prompted by resident complaints about solicitors knocking on doors early in the morning and late at night.

"Who came up with these hours?" asked Mayor Jo Anne McShane.

Federal litigation has resulted from cities attempting to curb solicitation, said John Donohue, city attorney. Hours established in this ordinance are "constitutionally defensible," Donohue added.

"This doesn't give us an opportunity to have a quiet dinner," McShane said. "Maybe we can get (solicitors) addresses and go to their homes while they're eating dinner."

The amendment prohibits solicitors from:

- Using fixed stands.
- Conducting street and curb solicitation.
- Obstructing street, sidewalk, alley or driveway.
- Entering private property where "no solicitation" signs are posted.
- Harassing residents.

Those who don't adhere to the city ordinance could have their license suspended or removed, and possibly be arrested for a misdemeanor, which if convicted, is punishable by 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Solicitors must obtain licenses from the city clerk's office. Applicants are required to give their full name and address, name and address of employer, length of time of solicitation, and two photographs.

Yearly licenses are \$75 a person or \$5 a day. Newspaper carriers, veterans and people soliciting within three miles of their residence for educational, charitable, religious or youth groups are exempt from the licensing requirement.

## Serious crime up after low in '95

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Serious crime rose 2 percent in Farmington in 1996.

However, Farmington officials urge a little perspective.

"That's up from 1995, which was the lowest figure in 10 years," said Gary Goss, director of public safety.

Farmington traditionally has a low incidence of crime and this year's report is no different, officials said.

The increase in part one crimes is due to a slight rise in burglaries, assaults and robberies.

Incidents of criminal sexual assault, stalking, arson, larceny and car theft all declined. The city's last murder came in 1994 and the one previous to that occurred in 1981.

Burglaries rose to 69 from 44 the previous year, which is a 35 percent increase. That figure includes forced break-ins, unlawful entries and attempts.

Three more residential break-ins — 15 from 11 in 1995 — were reported in 1996 while commercial burglaries went up from 16 to 19. Apartment break-ins dropped from five to two in '96.

Remaining burglaries involved vehicles and other property.

The overall number is on par with the 10-year average (60.4), Goss said. There is still concern.

"What we're planning on doing is providing a greater focus on our

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**Neighborhood Watch program.** Goss said. "Not that there is anything wrong now, but I think we can do more by providing more attention to that program."

Some 113 Neighborhood Watch blocks have been organized since 1984. Since the program's formation,

See CRIME, A6

### Harrison takes the silver

The Harrison High Science Bowl team finished second out of 32 teams competing in the Midwest Regional Science Bowl last month in Dayton, Ohio.

Harrison was nudged out of the first place spot on the last question, losing 72-68 to Fairborn High School in Ohio.

The Science Bowl is a double-elimination academic competition between schools from across the region who compete in a question-and-answer type format. Students answer questions in astronomy, biology, physics, chemistry, geology, computer science and mathematics.

The U.S. Department of Energy sponsors the competition.

Team members include: seniors Jon Anderson,

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

Daniel Rodak, Sandeep Chivukula, and junior David Wiedendorf. Harrison physics teacher Dennis King is coach.

Team members received a government savings bond, a watch, a T-shirt and a second-place plaque.

The performance marked is the fourth time Harrison finished as runner-up in the competition. The school won the regional championship in 1992 and competed in the national round.

### Hills meeting canceled

The Farmington Hills City Council canceled

the regular council meeting scheduled for March 10. Several council members will be attending the annual National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. that day.

### Hills woman has 'key' to van

Melissa F. Waldman of Farmington Hills was one of three winners of a two-year lease on a 1998 Ford Windstar.

Waldman won the lease in the "Key to Winter Sweepstakes" contest sponsored by the Metro Detroit Ford Dealers and VWJ Newaradio 950.

The contest attracted more than 5,000 entries from people who visited the 1997 North American International Auto Show or the 81 Metro Detroit Ford Dealers during January.