

# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Diverse faces:** A Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Council panel discussion provided insight for a diverse workplace. /A2

**Book mark:** Borders discount outlet opens in Farmington. /A6

## SPORTS

**Grid action:** Farmington High tried to build on the momentum of its homecoming football victory Friday when it played at Plymouth Salem. /E1

## SPECIAL SECTION

**Celebrating the arts:** A special section celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. The BBAA has completed the second of a four-phase planned expansion, now offering more classroom and exhibition space.

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## A flower shop by any other name



Full bloom: Linda Trzcinski hopes to keep her business flowering, despite a similarly named out-of-state business that's gotten some directory assistance calls meant for her business, Farmington Florist.

## Owner fears same-name florist may wilt her rep

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Florist owner Linda Trzcinski has spent the better part of the last 27 years building up a customer base for her flower shop in downtown Farmington.

But Trzcinski now is worried about damage being done to her name and business reputation by a New Jersey-based company, also going by the name Farmington

Florist, which she said is taking business away from her.

The man who apparently owns the company, Tom Meola, denied any attempts to deceive.

Ameritech assigned various telephone listings, Trzcinski said Thursday. "We never looked to duplicate anybody's name."

Trzcinski still wants people to know who they're actually on the phone with.

"I'd like people to know when they call information that they know what they're getting," she said. "I don't need to have my name slandered by this other company. They (customers) think they're calling the Farmington Florist Shop and they're not."

Customers contacted Trzcinski over the past week and asked her to check page 48 of Ameritech's 1997-

Please see FLORIST, A4

## Staff to train in religion policy



BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington district's enhanced religion-in-the-schools policy is signed and sealed. Now it has to be

delivered.

"The key next step," said schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield, "is awareness and training of staff. These things are only as good as people's implementation of them."

To build that awareness between now and the traditional December holiday season, a video will be produced by Jerry Fouchey, director of curriculum and staff development. It was Fouchey who led the Religion in the Schools Committee that crafted the updated policy, which was adopted during Tuesday's school board meeting.

Having a comprehensive policy does not guarantee it will be followed to the letter. But through training and communication, more teachers will be able to grasp how it impacts classroom decisions they might make, Maxfield said.

According to Maxfield, there were no questions or comments from the public when the policy item was raised.

"The (school board policy) committee congratulated Fouchey on a job well done," said Maxfield, describing this new policy as "complete and sensitive."

In the final draft of the policy, the district will accommodate "free exercise of religious beliefs" by individuals. But any discussion of religion during school-sponsored events or activities, including classes, must not "advance nor inhibit" religious views on others.

Still, the superintendent noted that the policy "says schools don't have to be totally neutral" about the topic of religion.

## DMR purchases Hamilton facility

Farmington Hills is the new home of DMR Financial Services, Inc., which recently moved into the Alexander Hamilton Building near 12 Mile-Orchard Lake Road.

And so far, the move suits President and CEO Mark C. Stevens and DMR employees.

"It was a good opportunity and our lease was coming due in Southfield," Stevens said. "We really are enjoying our new home. The staff really likes it, the surroundings, the amenities of the area. We're very, very happy."

Stevens said various DMR offices are using approximately 40,000 square-feet of the 160,000 square-foot Williamsburg Colonial building - to be officially known as the Hamilton Building. "We'll leave the Alexander off of it," Stevens said.

The DMR portion of the west wing includes an office shared by DMR Financial Services and DMR Mortgage Services, which has a total of about 120 employees, said Karey McGlinch, assistant marketing director.

DMR Commercial Real Estate Services also has an office in the building, as does PM Diversified, a property management firm. Stevens said DMR and PM Group of Brighton teamed up to pay an undisclosed sum for the building, located at 33045 Hamilton Court West.

The other portion of the building will be leased to outside firms, now being targeted by the partnership.

"Obviously, we'd like larger, single-use tenants," Stevens said. "Somebody who wants 30,000-to-40,000 square feet."

He said the "sooner the better" for nailing down deals with other companies to lease space. But the main thing, he emphasized, is to "find the right tenants."

DMR Financial Services, DMR Mortgage Services and DMR Commercial Real Estate Services are subsidiaries of Detroit Mortgage & Realty, a publicly owned company founded in 1946 that is currently active in commercial brokerage, finance, leasing, property management and residential banking.

Tim Smith

## Serving it up



Trumpeting the cause: Members of the Farmington High School Band performed and marched through the Farmington Big Boy restaurant Wednesday during Celebrity Server Night, a fund-raiser for Farmington Families in Action and its substance abuse education programs. Band members periodically entertained patrons during the three-hour event. For more on the benefit and how much was raised, please see Page A3.

## No parking

There still is plenty of available parking for Farmington High School juniors and seniors who drive to school. They just won't be able to park on Prospect, the street bordering the campus' west side.

The Farmington City Council Monday night approved the first reading of a provision banning parking on Prospect. A second reading will likely follow on Oct. 20 and the ban will take effect about 10 days after that, according to Assistant City Manager Bill Richards.

Farmington High Principal James Myers spearheaded the elimination of parking on Prospect, to improve safety and open up sightlines for motorists leaving the high school lot, who now have trouble seeing beyond the parked cars when turning.

"And we have buses parked along there, too,"

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

Myers said.

Pending final approval, Prospect returns to a no-parking zone, which it was for a number of years. Myers said the city later permitted parking there to alleviate congestion in nearby neighborhoods.

"Since we added 80 (parking) spots to the parking lot, by the tennis courts, we wanted it removed," Myers said. "Students can make a choice - park in the student parking lot or park farther away."

Myers estimated only 10-15 cars were parked on Prospect during school hours on any given day so far this school year.

## Oliverio sees both sides of city politics

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Despite working full time as a single mother, Farmington Hills councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio wants four more years.

The mother of four boys found the first council term enlightening, to say the least.

Oliverio went from being the top vote getter in a grassroots campaign during the 1993 election to a year later, being one of six council members singled out for recall by a disgruntled homeowners association. The fallout from the controversial Timbercrest development on Middlebelt and 12 Mile dissipated, but memories of those turbulent months resonate.

"Oh yuck!" said Oliverio at the mere mention of the controversy. "It was devastating," she said. "When I found they had started the recall, I thought 'Oh my God.' We had worked really hard to get a decent development in there... it was hard."



**Name:** Cheryl Oliverio  
**Age:** 43  
**Resident:** 10 years  
**Job:** Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC warranty department  
**Community:** 4 years on city council  
**Family:** raising four sons

Council members did get the density reduced and were able to mix plans for a supermarket at the corner, Oliverio said.

Lesson learned? "No matter what goes in there, they're not going to like it and they're not going to be happy," Oliverio said. "We, as council, just have to work to make it less dense."

She rejects the notion - as some critics charge - council has been slack when dealing with developments and their proponents.

Please see OLIVERIO, A4

## Founder's Day

Today is Founder's Day for Boys & Girls Republic, which marks 107 years of service to youth and families in Michigan. Community members and alumni are invited to tour the campus and visit with staff from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12. The school is on Nine Mile, west of Inkster.

As part of the festivities, the campus school will be renamed to honor the memory of William E. Miller, principal of the school until his death last December.

The event will also include ground-breaking on the gymnasium expansion project and special thanks will be given to the Chrysler Corporation, Ford and Bob Kunkel of Pro Golf Caddy Shack for their support.