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## GIVING THANKS

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we want to know what our Observer readers are thankful for this holiday season. In 25 words or less, please share your thoughts with us (neatly written or typed) and send them to our office by Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. You may mail them to us, fax them to our newsroom or e-mail them to us at the addresses and/or numbers below. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number for verification. (We will only print your name.) We will select some of the best responses for publication in our Thanksgiving editions.

■ The Farmington Observer  
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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY

**Girls' hoop:** *Mercy High School plays in district playoff action at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at Lahser High.*

### TUESDAY

**Town hall:** *Transportation issues roll out at a public hearing at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at Farmington Hills City Hall.*

### THURSDAY

**Dinner date:** *The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual dinner at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at Relish Grill. Call 474-3440.*

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## City kicks in for soccer

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills soccer enthusiasts made a pitch for new and refurbished fields by taking a few kicks at the present ones. "We should have six fields with grass and without rocks," said Joe Miller, a parks and recreation commission member and long-time proponent for better soccer fields. "This is our last chance; let's do it right."

"There are holes in it this big around," said Joe Hamburger, spreading his hands to illustrate manhole-sized pits. "And there is no grass in the goal areas."

Their dramatic appeals had the right touch with Farmington Hills City Council members, who approved building three new fields and reconditioning three others at Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile. Total cost is \$1,127,664.

Soccer facilities have lagged behind those for baseball, softball and ice hockey, council members said.

"I believe soccer people have waited long enough: They deserve premium fields," Councilman Terry Sever said.

The city maintains 35 soccer fields, including those on municipal property at Pioneer Park, Bill Costick Activities Center and Founders Sports Park, said Dan Potter, Special Services director.

The players' ranks in the Farmington Soccer Club have swelled from 400 to more than 800 during the past three years, a coach said. That doesn't take into account players on other club teams and programs.

Farmington Soccer Club has 50 teams using 10 fields. At Founders Park, there are 14 teams playing and practicing on two fields.

"That was a scheduling nightmare in

Please see **SOCCER**, A4

## Suit over; developer wants peace



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A developer wants to bury the hatchet with his neighbors, but the blade still cuts too close to the memories — not to mention their back yards — of those residents who fought the project.

Joe Trupiano of Oakwood Hills development assures the natural setting will remain intact on Power Road, north of 11 Mile, when his 27-house develop-

ment is built. More so, the builder wants to let neighbors know he has no hard feelings after a protracted court battle.

A consent judgment was reached between the city of Farmington Hills and the developer to allow for the project on the city-designated natural beauty road.

Trupiano is reaching out to Power Road residents, who were once subjects of a lawsuit brought by his development company.

The court action was subsequently dropped. As part of the consent judgment, the developer agreed to pay the residents' legal costs.

"The fight is behind us; that's over with," said Trupiano, who was accompanied by his partner, Dennis Tansanifio. "Now we have to work together to create a quality community."

Trupiano called a representative of the North Power Road Homeowners Association in an attempt to set up a meeting. He hasn't received a response

yet. Residents are still too upset, said Marjorie Theiring, association president.

"We're willing to talk to him as far as for informational purposes; as far as trying to make friends, I'm not sure what he's trying to accomplish there," Theiring said.

The now-dropped lawsuit resonates with residents, Theiring said. "Things

Please see **POWER**, A4

## Light fests brighten holidays

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Among the first real signs of the holidays are lights, and area residents will have millions to view as festive light displays along Hines Drive,

at the Detroit Zoo and at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor are ready to illuminate the Observerland skies for the next six weeks.

Heading east on I-696, you can stop and enjoy the fourth annual Wild Lights celebration at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

"This event is growing year after year with more lights and more people," said Lisa Brancato-Mauk, special events coordinator for the Zoological Society. "We'll have more than 50 animated animal displays with 350,000 lights."

Be sure to dress warmly.

"The half-mile walk begins at the main entrance, winds through part of the zoo, and then back," said Brancato-Mauk. "It usually takes about 45 minutes to walk. Wild Lights visitors will also be able to visit the new Edward Mardigian Sr. River Otter exhibit and the reptile house."

There will also be singing groups, Santa Claus and costume characters to entertain each night, as well as a hospitality tent with refreshments.

Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo illuminates from Friday, Nov. 21, through Sunday, Jan. 4. The lights will be on Monday through Thursday and Sunday from 5:30-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, the display will be on until 9 p.m. Wild Lights

Please see **LIGHTS**, A5

**Zoo Lights:** A swan and stork are just one of more than 50 exhibits on display at the Detroit Zoological Society's "Wild Lights" which opens Friday.

## More lights to see

If you're looking for more lights this holiday season, here are a few more places to visit.

■ The Ypsilanti Area Visitors and Convention Bureau is geared up for its 12th annual Festival of Lights at Riverside Park.

"We have thousands of lights strung through the trees, to go along with light displays along the Huron River," said spokeswoman Virginia Kingsley. "It's a half-mile stretch along the Huron River that visitors can view by both walking or driving."

The lights will be on 6-10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights the first three weekends in December. They also will be on display Christmas Eve and Christmas until 10

Please see **MORE**, A5



**LightFest:** The Wayne County Parks drive-through light show along Hines Drive features more than 35 displays.

PHOTO BY JERRY MENDOGA

## Flag 101

### Lanigan pupils get patriotic primer

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Several American war veterans Thursday presented Lanigan Elementary School students with a patriotic primer that they likely won't soon forget.

The program, organized by Senior Adults Giving to Education, featured chapter-and-verse about "Old Glory," including everything from who gets to salute the flag (only those in military uniform) to how tattered banners are

permanently, and respectfully, discarded.

"There's a special ceremony where it is burned with kerosene," said Korean War vet Wally Christiansen, who is chaplain of American Legion Post 346 in Farmington. "That's so nothing remains, no particles. And three people have to inspect the flag first, to make sure it has no more life in it ... It has to be burned with respect, not defiance."

That factual tidbit made quite an

Please see **FLAG**, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY BETAN MITCHELL

**Etiquette lesson:** Students at Lanigan School watch Jessica Maxwell (left) and Liz Paszek of Livonia Churchill High School's ROTC demonstrate how to properly fold the American flag.

## Committee to coordinate towns' border plans

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

A study committee made up of officials and citizens from West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills will explore how the two communities can coordinate development plans for the 14 Mile Orchard Lake area.

The West Bloomfield Township board and the Farmington Hills city council held their second joint meeting last Wednesday in Farmington City Hall to discuss development plans.

The only firm action coming out of

the meeting was that Jeddy Hood, West Bloomfield Township supervisor, and Aldo Vagnorzi, Farmington Hills mayor, will refine a proposed joint resolution authorizing the formation of the committee.

"We're still in preliminary discussions," Hood said about development plans. The township planning commission has been holding meetings to consider rezoning the 65-acre parcel at the northwest corner of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake to permit a mixture of retail, business and residential property.

But about all that has been decided at this point is that no "big box" retailers will be allowed to locate there, Hood said.

Most of the land on the West Bloomfield site is undeveloped. Such is not the case in Farmington Hills where plans are pending for the redevelopment of a 76-acre parcel at the southeast corner of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake.

Proposed there is residential and commercial development including a Super Kmart to replace the existing store.

A key area of concern identified by both boards is the traffic congestion at the intersection of Orchard Lake, Northwestern and 14 Mile and how that will be affected by the development.

"We have been meeting with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Road Commission for Oakland County, the township and the city," said Thomas Bissell, Farmington Hills director of public services.

Two principal areas of traffic congestion

Please see **BORDER**, A6