

# Farmington Observer

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## Solemn remembrance



In memory: Ira Wing stands at attention before the 21-gun salute during Farmington's Memorial Day festivities Monday. At right, holding wreaths at the post-parade ceremony are (from left) Mavis Hearn, president American Legion Women's Auxiliary post 346; Paul Olszewski, Legion Post commander; Carol Kruike, VFW Auxiliary president; and John Love, VFW Post commander. For more on the event, please turn to Page A2.



## Murder suspect's bond fuels chief's ire

**A Minnesota judge defended her decision to set a \$150,000 bond in the extradition of a man suspected in a Farmington Hills murder. Chief William Dwyer said setting any bond in a murder case is ludicrous.**



A Minnesota judge has set bond for a suspect believed to be involved in the murder of Farmington Hills man.

And that has the Farmington Hills police chief flabbergasted. James Summerville Jr., 28, is fighting extradition to Michigan, where he will face first-degree murder charges in the slaying of Michael Ellis, whose body was found May 3 in his Independence Green apartment with more than 40 stab wounds.

A Hennepin County (Minn.) judge set Summerville's bond at \$150,000 during an extradition hearing. He has another appearance Friday, June 19.

"It's ludicrous," said Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer. "Someone who is facing charges for premeditated murder - a vicious murder at that - where a bond would be allowed to be posted and had fled the state already ... I never heard of any."

Please see BOND, A4

## Some fear they'll lose in Botsford plan

### Hospital aims to add parking

Paradise wasn't available, but Botsford Hospital is buying five houses and putting in a parking lot. That has a few St. Francis Street residents less than happy. They fear having a parking lot across the street will be unsightly and, worse, cause a drop in property values.

"We'll take a loss," said one resident, who asked that her name not be used.

They'll have a chance to speak on the record during a public hearing at the Farmington Hills Planning Commission meeting Thursday, June 18. Botsford is buying four houses on the west side of St. Francis Street and another house on Colwell. The houses will be demolished to expand the parking lot at the Zieger Administrative Building by 170 spots.

Botsford officials - including Chief Executive

Please see PARKING, A4

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

### COMMUNITY LIFE

**Healing touch:** A Farmington Hills family heads to Poland, hoping a unique physical therapy will help their 4-year-old boy, who has cerebral palsy. /B1

### SPORTS

**Falcons soar:** Farmington High bests North Farmington in extra innings in a pre-district softball tournament game. /C1

### AT HOME

**Creative care:** Designers from throughout Oakland County are among those who donated their talents and time to renovating and decorating Gilda's Club, a meeting place offering social and emotional support for people with cancer. /D8

### ENTERTAINMENT

**At the zoo:** If you haven't visited the Detroit Zoo lately, you'll be surprised by the changing landscape. /E1

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## Katz offers teacher/parent views

Jackie Katz is a teacher and the parent of four young children. She believes her dual perspective is something that's needed on the Farmington Board of Education.

"I'm concerned about our children's future and about education in particular," said the 31-year-old Katz, one of five candidates vying for two four-year terms in the June 8 election. "Education has always been important in my family ... Besides, having four young children, I'm going to be here for a long time."

Because of that, she said she'll be more in tune to what other parents have to say when they approach the board.

And, according to Katz, her several years of teaching experience and current efforts toward completing a master's degree in middle-level education

give her an advantage.

Classes at Eastern Michigan University keep Katz informed "on a lot of issues that people on that board might not know about. I kind of have that balance - I'm both a parent and an educator. I know the concerns teachers have."

Katz has a couple ideas she would try to bring to the board. One of those would be to give more collaborative planning time to teachers in the so-called transitional grades (fifth and sixth, eighth and ninth).

"They need more time, because the transition isn't smooth right now." She'd also champion science and technology programs at the elementary level.

So would lowering class sizes, to enhance quality teacher-to-student time.

"Because we have inclusive classrooms, which is wonderful, we really need smaller classrooms," Katz said. "These teachers are expected to teach to each child individually ... By doing that, the more students we have, the more difficult it is."

Her parental persona might give Katz insight into how parents feel about Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests, or about the rise in substance abuse among children in the Farmington area and Oakland County.

"We need to find different approaches," Katz explained. "We need to keep what's working, like peers talking to peers, but find some other things that can help."

"Part of that is to get the parents

Please see KATZ, A4

### Army backup

The business of giving time and money to help others isn't lost on Earl McMahan.

The Farmington Hills man was honored recently by The Salvation Army as the winner of one of its Army of Stars Awards.

As a certified financial planner with EDM Financial Services, McMahan presents seminars on topics such as charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities and estate planning on behalf of the Salvation Army. His presentations help donors arrange planned gifts to benefit the Salvation Army.

During tax season, McMahan encourages clients to donate canned goods to the Salvation Army's pantry. He also volunteers his time to prepare tax returns for social service clients so they can take full advantage of earned income credits and stay on top of their finances.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

"Whatever the need, Earl is always willing to put his talents and resources to work for the Salvation Army," said Janet Ribble, the army's planned giving director who presented the award. "We are so pleased we were able to recognize him in this meaningful way."

### Seen this before?

Dick Carvell often has puzzles to solve in his work at the Gov. Warner Mansion.

As treasurer of the city's historical commission and chairman of the museum committee, Carvell recently got a photograph of a group of men stand-



ing outside a two-story store advertising "horse shoeing."

He's hoping anyone who might know something about the photograph (shown above) will call the museum at 473-7276.

## Candidates question GOP's board interview

Jack Inch didn't like what he heard during a conversation Tuesday morning with fellow Farmington school board member and election candidate Cathy Webb.

Webb, a member of the Farmington Area Republican Club, asked Inch if he were going to the organization's endorsement interview, originally scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Longene House. But the most-senior school board member said he knew nothing about it; both incumbents subsequently told the Farmington Observer/Tuesday that any such oversight or exclusion was not acceptable for a non-partisan election.

"I would certainly hope all candidates should be involved if there's going to be a forum," said Webb Tuesday afternoon, adding that she was contacted last week about the interview. "That's a shame if he wasn't invited."

Webb also said she hadn't received any information about the interview agenda, or

Please see CANDIDATES, A2

