

Farmington Observer



Thursday
January 21, 1999

Serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 112 years

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 34

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 82 PAGES • <http://www.homecomm.net>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER TODAY



Sharing
Cultural: Sue Odeh of Farmington Hills explained Ramadan at Carousel of Cultures at the Farmington Community Library./A3

OPINION

Customers: With the renegotiating of a franchise between Time Warner and SWOCC, perhaps it's time the major corporation returned to serving customer needs./A12

COMMUNITY LIFE

A winner: Resident Tina Jensen will be honored as the Farmington Jaycees Citizen of the Year./B1

INDEX

- Obituaries A11
- Classified Index G5
- Real Estate G5
- Crossword G6
- Jobs H3
- Home & Service J4
- Automotive J6
- Opinion A12-13
- Sports C1
- Calendar C6
- Entertainment E1

Man living in squalor hospitalized

Police found a Farmington Hills man living in squalor, including no heat, this week. He was taken to Providence Hospital after he arrived at a local business disoriented and confused.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oc.homecomm.net

A 60-year-old Farmington Hills man has been hospitalized after he turned up at a business disoriented and confused.



The man, who police described as being incoherent, looked malnourished and was unshaven in tattered clothes.

Police later found the man was living in an unkempt house, which had no heat during the past three months. He was taken to Providence Hospital.

"It's horrible," said Debby Pothoff, who lives across from the Lundy Street residence. "We're so glad he's being taken care of. We were so worried he would get hurt."

On Monday afternoon, when officers talked to the man at Henderson Glass on Grand River, he said he was going to Eight Mile to buy some groceries. He pointed in the wrong direction.

When police took him home, they found a lawn mower in the middle of the kitchen floor and refuse covering the countertops.

One officer was overcome by the smell of decaying flesh, which turned out to be a dog believed to have been dead for at least two to three months in a bedroom.

Along with rodent fecal matter, officers discovered a live rat in a toilet. The sink was frozen.

In the man's belongings, officers found more than \$11,000 cash. He is also believed to have a substantial amount of money in the bank, police reports said.

Please see SQUALOR, A3

Blood supplies at record low

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oc.homecomm.net

This winter's snowy onslaught is doing far worse things than clogging up subdivision streets or forcing school cancellations.

It is playing a major role in the dangerously low supplies of emergency blood available in southeastern Michigan, said Diane Rieko of the American Red Cross. To help alleviate the situation, the Red Cross is holding a blood drive 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the Farmington Hills Fire Headquarters (Orchard Lake-11 Mile).

When school districts shut down due to bad weather, Rieko said there is a good chance blood drives also are canceled. "Every time we have a closed snow day puts us further in the hole."

The region's emergency blood bank - which feeds 54 hospitals - is in the worst shape it's been in 15 years, Rieko said. This month's near-record level of snowfall isn't helping matters, either.

"It's always low around the holidays," she said. "Then, with all of the snow, scheduled blood drive events (at schools) were canceled and we also couldn't get supplies in because the airport was closed."

Please see BLOOD, A5



March: Rosheen Kilano's fourth-graders at Woodcreek Elementary staged a Martin Luther King play for the first grade. Seth Kritzman plays Dr. Martin Luther King. He is with fellow marchers during a march on Washington. Tedd Kaplan, Andy Fulton, Danny Sirovy, Ryan Sanders, Randy Garvin and Jeff Lolkus play some of the marchers.

Students celebrate King

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oc.homecomm.net

Skits, stories and songs helped students in Farmington Public Schools learn about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday.

Among the bigger programs was a schoolwide assembly put on at East Middle School featuring storyteller Rosie Chapman, who goes by the name "Miz Rosie."

East teacher Patricia Mobley said "Miz Rosie" captured the attention of her audience through stories with a King-sized message.

One (skit) was about how a mouse saved a lion in the forest, explained Mobley, adding that the mouse helped the lion despite being ostracized by other forest animals because it looked different.

"Dr. Martin Luther King tried to get people to look around that (physical appearance) and to accept people for who they were," Mobley said.

Students participated in Miz Rosie's skit about Rosa Parks, enacting the

Please see KING, A4



Think: First-graders Justin McFall and Brandon Tindal listen as their buddies perform a play honoring Dr. Martin Luther King.

Consumer group gets blessing

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oc.homecomm.net

In six months, the fledgling Farmington Hills Consumer Protection Committee has taken on a natural gas company and brought attention to noisy artists.

Pat on Monday, the committee perhaps cleared its biggest hurdle - the Farmington Hills City Council. Council members unanimously agreed to make the ad hoc group a permanent committee.

At the request of Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, the council

approved the committee to run on a one-year trial basis.

The full backing is somewhat of a surprise. Some council members questioned the committee's role and wondered if it was duplicating police ongoing efforts to stamp out fraud.

Though assured on those issues, some council members still appeared uneasy. The nine-member committee includes a Farmington Hills police sergeant, a chamber of commerce representative and other residents chosen by council members.

Please see PROTECT, A4

Tips to Hills police lead to Royal Oak raid

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oc.homecomm.net

A series of tips to Farmington Hills police led to a raid of what authorities are calling a high-stakes betting operation in Royal Oak.

On Sunday, Hills police joined Royal Oak and Oakland County Sheriff departments in carry out the bust at the Royal Oak Music Theater, which resulted in 13 arrests and 300 tickets being issued.

ROYAL OAK MUSIC THEATER

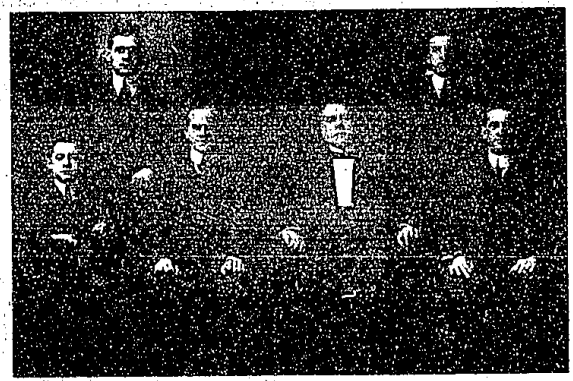
Police arrested three people for cocaine possession and one man for having a handgun. Others were taken into custody for not providing identification, Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said.

In all, police seized more than \$221,000 in cash in the betting operation that involved football cards. People bet \$500 on a square with \$100,000 payoffs, police said.

"It was a high stakes betting operation," Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said.

Please see RAID, A3

Who are they?



Information: Dick Carvell of the Farmington Historical Museum needs help in identifying these six men. If you have any clues, call him at 476-6267 or at the museum, 473-7275.

Clappison starts second tour of duty

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oc.homecomm.net

The best path to success for downtown Farmington's business district apparently is snow-free. It's one of the ideas Frank Clappison plans on pursuing on the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

Clappison, 57, was recently appointed to a four-year term, thus beginning a second tour of duty. He was an original DDA member in the mid-1980s, after being on the steering committee to form the authority.

FARMINGTON DDA

Judy Downey, executive director of the DDA, said she was "very pleased" that Clappison was willing to return.

"He has a considerable investment in downtown, through his company," Downey said. "And he has knowledge of what the DDA has tried to accomplish from the beginning ... I see him as a valuable member."

According to Clappison, one thing he'd like to see the DDA "come up with is a plan and funding, so that when we have the kind of snowstorms we've had this winter we have the ability to clean the sidewalks up. Whether we can achieve that or not, I don't know."

Please see DDA, A5

