

# The Farmington Observer

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\*\*Photo orders must be for pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers. Please provide publication date, page number and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past six months. Prints are \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print. Payment is in advance (check or credit card).

# The Farmington Observer

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication  
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335  
(On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rds.)

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

CARRIER DELIVERY	MAIL DELIVERY
Six months \$23.70	One year \$55.00
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## Motorcyclist may be charged

A 26-year-old Westland man died early Saturday when his motorcycle went out of control on I-94 between Outer Drive and Oakwood Boulevard in Allen Park.

Allen Jason Key was pronounced dead at Oakwood Hospital after the accident at approximately 2 a.m., said Trooper Michael Oliver of the Michigan State Police.

According to Oliver, Key and a

friend, Jose Nathaniel Freeman, 31, of Farmington Hills, were traveling west on their motorcycles on I-94. Freeman said he was traveling at 75-80 mph, and Key was going faster.

Key may have struck a vehicle, Oliver said. Freeman, in attempting to avoid his friend and the debris, also crashed. He was treated and released from Oakwood Hospital.

Key had multiple injuries and massive head injuries, Oliver said, adding both men wore motorcycle helmets.

Charges are pending against Freeman, and his medical records will be subpoenaed to determine his blood alcohol level. Those with information on the crash are asked to call the Michigan State Police Metro South Post, (734) 287-6000.

## District not likely to open its doors

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.hometown.com

Clarenceville School District is not likely to open its doors to non-residents any time soon.

The main reason? Money. Districts can elect to take part in the state's school of choice option, accepting students from outside its boundaries. Clarenceville's small size and reputation might be attractive to outsiders, officials said.

At its April 12 meeting, Clarenceville's school board expects to make a formal decision whether to take part or opt out.

Districts must make a decision before May, according to the state's limited school of choice bill.

Clarenceville's board chose not to participate in schools of choice last year. One trustee's mind is made up to remain out of the schools of choice option.

"I'm pretty well set on it," said Trustee Gary Garrison at a board meeting March 23.

Such a move doesn't make financial sense for a district with

a \$14.5 million annual budget, said Tom Tattan, Clarenceville superintendent.

The main problem is the state's continual under-funding of special education, he said.

The cost to educate a special needs student runs \$15,000-\$45,000, depending on the severity of the disability, an Oakland Schools spokesman estimated. Districts receive 28 cents in state aid for every dollar spent to educate on a special education student.

The state's school of choice law stipulates any district receiving a special education student accepts all financial obligation.

"What business is going to assume a liability where you receive \$6,100 when it's going to cost you \$40,000?" Tattan said. "That's the dilemma."

Also, districts taking in the student receive the lesser of the two foundation grants between the child's new and former school district.

## CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOLS

Clarenceville receives \$7,200 per pupil. Few surrounding districts have higher foundation grants.

Families and students might move to the Clarenceville district for Oakland County's Intermediate School District's center-based special education programs. The Farmington Public Schools operates center-based programs for Clarenceville and other districts.

"The kid would never come in and be part of the Clarenceville district," Tattan said.

Clarenceville officials see other troubling aspects to choice.

As families opt to go outside their home district, there is little incentive to pass local school bond and tax issues.

If a school building is crumbling, the child will simply jump to a neighboring district, Tattan said.

Clarenceville's 4.6-square mile district includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

Another factor is some of those who chose to transfer into another district are disgruntled with the one they're currently in.

"Often times they run into the same problems and dissatisfaction, and move right back," Tattan said.

Since districts receive state funding on a per-pupil basis, welcoming students from surrounding school systems is an option for those with declining enrollments.

Royal Oak opened its doors to those in neighboring districts to counter enrollment dips of 300 students annually. Ferndale is in a similar situation, Tattan said.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
OAKLAND COUNTY  
31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD  
FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Moran Avenue Road Improvement Special Assessment Roll No. 2504** in the amount of **\$53,135.00** for the construction of Road Improvements in said City to be located as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Moran Avenue	Middlebelt Road	1,281 Feet West

has been filed in the office of the City Clerk for public examination, along with the costs of said project which are proposed as follows:

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	\$53,135.00
PERCENT OF COST ASSESSED TO DISTRICT	89.47%
TOTAL COST TO DISTRICT	\$53,135.00
AVERAGE COST PER BASE UNIT TO BE ASSESSED:	\$4,786.84

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council will meet in the City Hall Council Chambers, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 17th of April, 2000 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. to review said Special Assessment Roll and to hear any comments in opposition or in favor thereof.

Appearance and protest of the special assessment at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.  
PHONE: 248/473-9556

KATHRYN A. DORNAN  
City Clerk

Mailed: March 30, 2000

Published: April 6 and April 13, 2000

## CHAMBER NOTES

For more information about activities hosted by the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, call the office at 474-3440; fax at (248) 474-9235 or [www.fhchamber.com](http://www.fhchamber.com)

### Connection

The chamber, Holiday Inn and AA Advantage Rent-A-Car will host an After Hours Business Connection 5-7 p.m. Thursday, April 13 at the Farmington Hills Club in Holiday Inn, 38123 10 Mile.

The cost is \$10 with advance reservations and \$15 at the door.

### Opening

Chamber members will be on hand at 10 a.m. April 19 for the ribbon cutting ceremony at Quizzo's Subs, 32516 Northwestern Highway.

### Connection

The chamber's Morning Connection will be 8-9 a.m. May 4 at the Print House, 23014 Commerce Drive, Farmington Hills.

### Orientation

If you would like to hear about the benefits of belonging to the chamber, attend a member orientation 8-9 a.m. May 10 in the Farmington Training Center cafeteria, 33000 Thomas, Farmington.

### Awards

Attend the ATHENA Awards luncheon 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Vladimir's.

### Networking

You're invited to attend the Oakland Chamber Network "Back to Business" mixer May 23 at the Post Bar, 22826 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Registration to be made through the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, 248-542-2160.

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