

IN THE PAPER TODAY

GOODFELLOWS

Last call: Farmington Goodfellows will be delivering holiday baskets to area families in need on Saturday, Dec. 22. They'll take donations right up until Friday, Dec. 21. Cash donations, canned or boxed food items or toys may be dropped off at the Observer office, 33411 Grand River in Farmington. For more information, call us at 477-5450.

OPINION

The \$10,000 Question: A reward for information about any criminal activity at Farmington Hills City Hall may raise some questions, but we think officials can take the scrutiny./A8

HOMETOWN LIFE

Happy Harley-Day: Two women couldn't think of a better way to give a Christmas gift bought at Motor City Harley Davidson than to have it gift-wrapped in paper featuring images of the famous motorcycle maker, so they decided to set up shop at the Farmington Hills Harley dealer./C5

REAL ESTATE

Golden years: The homestead may suit your needs just fine now, but there are things you can do in advance to make things easier for yourself, if you want to stay during your golden years./E1

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Women warned after 2nd attack

By PAUL R. PACE
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Women who live in two Farmington Hills apartment complexes are being warned to use extra caution when entering or leaving their homes, now that a second abduction attempt has been reported.

A 38-year-old Farmington Hills woman screamed and bit three fingers of an unknown attacker who attempted to cover her mouth and drag her to the ground Sunday evening at the Green Hill Apartments, located south of Nine Mile, east of Holsted.

Hills police said the woman had just placed shopping bags on the ground so that she could open the exterior door to her apartment building around 7 p.m.

According to Police Chief William Dwyer, this is the second identical attempted abduction in two weeks. The department believes the same suspect is involved.

The earlier incident occurred at the Windemere Apartments located on Holsted, north of Grand River at 6:46 p.m. Dec. 4.

In both cases:

- A man grabbed a woman from behind and told her not to scream.
- The woman screamed and broke away.

- The man was wearing a dark jacket or sweatshirt with a hood. He is believed to use a mountain bike for transportation. Neither victim saw the man's face, but the person is described as a black male, 6-foot tall, weighing 200 pounds. The suspect may have bite marks on his index, middle and ring fingers on his right hand.

Anyone who sees anything suspicious or someone who matches the suspect's description is asked to call 911 immediately.

Home invasion

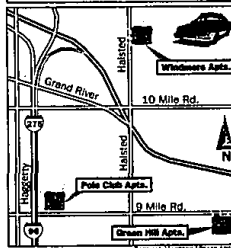
Dwyer also pointed out a concern about a recent home invasion at the Polo Club Apartments around 1:40 a.m. Dec. 14, where the resident said he awoke to find a man standing inside his living room. The suspect fled through an unlocked door.

Hills crime prevention officers have sent out bulletins explaining the abduction attempts to apartment managers. They also plan to do a direct mailing to the residents in Green Hill, while apartment managers will distribute the mailings to their residents in the other two complexes, said police.

Please see **WARNING, A3**

RELATED CRIMES?

Farmington Hills Police have reported 2 attempted abductions and a home invasion. All in the same general location.



Hello, Santa?



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRUGLER



Santa Live!: Above, Santa Claus, Elf Michelle Steinard and Farmington Councilwoman Mary Bush took calls Monday at Southwest Oakland Cable Commission studios. The Santa call-in show gave area kids a chance to share their Christmas wishes. Left, Elf Michelle Steinard and Santa Claus listen to Erika Waldman's Christmas wishes. Word has it that Erika has been a good girl this year.

Officials like Education YES!, not grades

By JONI HUBRED
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Do failing school districts need a letter grade to know they've got problems?

Local school officials say no, but so far, that's their only objection to the Michigan Department of Education's "Education YES! A Yearbook for Excellent Schools" accountability program. Clarenceville and Farmington Schools have both been at the forefront of the effort to create new state standards.

"It's really based on a commitment to each and every child," said Farmington Superintendent Dr. Robert Maxfield.

"You establish targets for each kid, and you're holding yourself accountable."

Clarenceville Superintendent Dr. Thomas Tattan said quality, continued improvement and getting employees into the decision-making process have all been a part of the process. "We have credentialing in place for all our students, so we know if kids are in trouble. It's helped us get better as a school district, and I think it will continue to get better."

Approved December 13 by the State Board of Education, Education YES! includes three standards described by state officials as "rigorous and com-

peting":

- All Michigan elementary and middle school children will read independently and use math to solve problems at grade level.

- All Michigan students will demonstrate a year of growth for a year of instruction.

- All Michigan high school students will demonstrate academic achievement and have an educational plan that will prepare them for success in their next life phase.

The assessment relies less on Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests, administered to students in grades 4, 5, 7, 8

and 11; however, MEAP scores account for 75 percent of a proposed letter grade for individual schools. The other 25 percent is based on 10 indicators of school quality, from family involvement and student attendance to professional development for staff members and management systems.

According to Department of Education spokesperson T.J. Bucholz, state law prohibits the DOE from creating an accreditation system based solely on test scores. After State Superintendent Dr. Tom Watkins took office on April 30 of this year, he scrapped the exist-

Please see **YES, A10**

District needs help setting priorities

By SUE BUCK
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As the Farmington Public School District looks at an expected \$6.3 million shortfall next year, officials plan to include the community in setting priorities. "We're looking for input on proposed reductions," said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations.

The district is considering an early February community forum, Cannon

said. "It's a way to inform the community. I need to know what we are doing by mid-March so we can put the budget document together. We haven't made a \$9 million reduction since 1991. That's before Bob (Superintendent Maxfield) and I both came here."

Even though the recently approved Oakland Schools millage will reimburse the district about \$9 million for special education costs, officials are anticipating no increases in state funding.

Since the source of revenues has

shifted from property taxes to sales taxes, Maxfield said Wednesday, "this will be the first test Michigan's had of how well Proposal A will weather an economic downturn."

Property taxes, he said, were somewhat recession-proof.

The economy has changed but the district's needs remain the same, Cannon said. "We will look at long-range building needs."

The school board will review the budget document at a May 21 study ses-

ion and approve a resolution to conduct the budget public hearing at the June 4 truth-in-budgeting hearing. The tax levy is set at that time.

Staffing decisions will be made by March 21. The budget is scheduled to be adopted at the Board's June 18 meeting.

The district finance committee is expected to meet prior to the board meeting Jan. 29 at the school board building.

Farmington Hills dentist charged with stalking

By PAUL R. PACE
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A Farmington Hills dentist was arraigned on a stalking charge Wednesday, in 48th District Court in Bloomfield Township.

Dr. Donald R. Quinn, who has a practice at 25882 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, was charged with a single felony count of interfering with a witness in a criminal investigation and a single charge of stalking, a misdemeanor.

Quinn, dressed casually in a sweatshirt and slacks, stood mute and a not-guilty plea

was entered on his behalf in front of Judge Kimberly Small.

Small ordered Quinn jailed until he can post a cash or surety bond of \$600,000.

According to Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Sara Pope-Starnes, Quinn is being investigated for criminal sexual conduct and drug violations by Farmington Hills police.

She said Quinn, 44, was told by police not to have any contact with the woman who made allegations against him concerning the investigation.

Pope-Starnes said the day after Quinn was

told by police not to contact the woman, he called her twice on Dec. 11 and left a voice mail message that said "I will do anything to help you."

On Dec. 18, he allegedly sent the woman an e-mail message with one word, "forever." The assistant prosecutor said the woman told police Quinn used the word often to describe their relationship.

Quinn's attorney, Stuart Young, told the court that Quinn has a thriving practice and that his family still lives in the area. He



Dr. Donald Quinn

Please see **STALKING, A10**

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