

FARMINGTON Observer



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Hills ranked 25th safest city in U.S.

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

City officials in Farmington Hills are never shy about touting how safe they think their city is, and now there's a national statistic to prove it.

A research company that collects FBI data points out Farmington Hills ranks 25th safest overall in the nation in 2001.

Morgan Quitno Press, an independent research and publishing company, announced its latest findings recently. The company publishes an annual reference book on crime statistics, ranking the safest and most dangerous cities.

The list is based on a city's rate for six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

All cities of 75,000-plus populations that reported crime data to the FBI for the six crime categories were included.

Final 2001 statistics, released by the FBI on Oct. 28, were used to determine the rankings.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said he thinks the ranking is a true sign of the dedication Farmington Hills police officers have.

"We try to have a high visibility

as far as our uniformed officers are concerned," he said. "We've had aggressive enforcement of narcotic arrests as well."

The chief pointed out comparing 2001 and 2002 data, all major crimes in the city are down around 15.5 percent, excluding armed robberies. As did surrounding communities, the city suffered an unusually high number of bank robberies this past year, he said.

Five of the recent six bank robberies in the Hills have been closed by arrests.

The chief said the city has been the focus of high profile cases in recent years as well, which have drawn unusual media focus.

"Because of these high-profile cases, the community can sometimes think it's not safe here, but it's just the opposite," the chief

PLEASE SEE RANK, A7

Our Towns

Jr. Teen candidates

Two Farmington area teens will be competing for the title of Miss Jr. Teen Detroit in a pageant that will take place Dec. 8.

Julianne Marie Alleman, 13, of Farmington Hills, a student at Power Middle School, and Mona Sudhir Shah, 14, of Farmington, a student at Farmington High, will be competing for a share of more than \$20,000 in scholarships, prizes and specialty gifts. Both will be competing in the Miss Jr. Teen division, one of three associated with the pageant.



Young ladies between the ages of 10 and 19 will compete in modeling routines that include casual and formal wear. More importantly, however, they will be challenged to demonstrate their personalities and interviewing skills with a panel of judges. Personality is the number one aspect of judging during all phases of competition.

The daughter of Dale and Eileen Alleman, Julianne has two brothers, Curtis and Matthew. She enjoys pom poms, hip-hop dancing, horseback riding and is active in gymnastics and soccer. She is sponsored by Mid-American Studio and Thomas Susino, D.D.S., M.S.

Mona is the daughter of Sudhir and Kashmira Shah. She has a sister, Neeyali, who is 10. An "A" student, she has won several awards in soccer, was student council president and captain of her safety patrol in fifth grade. She also plans to join the Farmington High soccer and volleyball teams. Her sponsors are Dr. Joseph V. Giannola, Dr. Bernard Miller, Plasticrafts, Inc., Subway-Farmington, Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin Robbins of Farmington Hills, Super Klean Products, Total Health Care and Coach & Lantern Motel.

For more information about the pageant and sponsorships, call pageant coordinator Patty at (800) 569-2487.

New in classified

If you missed the Tuesday deadline for placing your classified ad in the Observer & Eccentric, don't worry. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, in an effort to better serve our customers, now offers a "Too Late To Classify" category for those last-minute additions for the Thursday paper. Deadline for the "Too Late To Classify" category is noon Wednesdays. Call 1-800-579-SELL to place your classified ad.



BRYAN MITCHELL / OBSERVER

Hannah Pingel of Farmington and Priscilla White of northwest Detroit load up Pingel's truck after shopping at Target.

Shoppers come to town seeking deals

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Offer sales, and they will come. Day after Thanksgiving shoppers who love bargains and the freedom from a day off work were bustling in and out of stores in Farmington and Farmington Hills Friday.

Of the random shoppers interviewed, all said they were making no change in their shopping habits for the 2002 holiday.

At the popular Farmington Hills Target store on Orchard Lake, plenty of shoppers were taking advantage of a specially priced DVD/VCR combo player and another boom box that

was advertised on the front page of the store's circular.

Hannah Pingel of Farmington and her boyfriend's mom, Priscilla White of northwest Detroit, were packing away the many items they bought at Target.

PLEASE SEE SHOPPING, A7

Welday announces bid for GOP post

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Paul Welday of Farmington has announced he is a candidate for the first vice chairman of the Michigan Republican Party.

"I am running for the

first vice chairman of the Michigan GOP because I have the real world experience our party needs and the proven know-how to win elections," Welday said.

A longtime Republican activist, he has served as a precinct delegate, state

committee member, Oakland County Republican Finance Committee co-chair and executive committee member. He was chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Township) and chairman of the Knollenberg's successful

2002 re-election campaign.

Welday said if he wins he will be helping to boost the organization by building clubs and help define the Republican message and come up with the best

PLEASE SEE WELDAY, A7

Jaycees light up the Warner Mansion

The Farmington Area Jaycees will sponsor the 17th Annual Warner Mansion Holiday Tree Lighting beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. This year's event has been expanded and will include caroling, storytelling and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Tours of the mansion will be available; admission is \$2 or donation of a vintage ornament.

Other festivities will include a holiday auction, ornament making (with a \$2 donation), music and refreshments. Mayor Jim Mitchell and other special guests will light the tree with the help of local school children at 6 p.m.

As always, the businesses of Farmington and Farmington Hills are pitching in to make the Holiday

Tree Lighting even more memorable. Tyban Tree Farms will once again donate the tree. Support has also come from Anna's Café, Farmington Bakery, Starbucks and Tim Horton's.

The Governor Warner Mansion is located at 33805 Grand River in downtown Farmington. For more information call Renee McAdams at (248) 545-1969.

Win tickets to Ford Field Motor City Bowl!



Why is Ford Field the perfect place to watch the Motor City Bowl?

Tell us in one or two lines (keep it short please), and you could win up to four tickets to the Thursday, Dec. 26, game, courtesy of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Email, fax or send in your response along with your name, address and telephone number to: Motor City Bowl Ticket Giveaway, c/o Cathy Young, OSE Promotion Manager, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Fax is (734) 953-2232. Or email your response to cyoung@oehomecomm.net. Deadline is 5 p.m. Dec. 16.

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LIVING IN THE MIDDLE

INDEX
D5 Jobs
E5 Movies
E6 Obituaries
D2 New Homes
D4 Service Guide
C6 Sports

LOOKING AHEAD
Party line
Coming Thursday in the At Home section: Professional party planners share suggestions to help make a super celebration.



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HOURS: MON-FRI 10a-6p, SAT 10a-5p, SUN 12-5p