

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

## Missing!

### Search for woman extends to Oakland

By Diane Gale  
staff writer

Neighborhood searches for Helen Bazzetta, a Warren housewife who has been missing since Aug. 1, will continue and cover areas in Macomb and Oakland counties, according to her sister Betty Harpe, who lives in Farmington Hills.

"We know that she didn't leave her house voluntarily," Harpe said. "We knew immediately when we heard she was missing that something serious happened."

Harpe and her sister, Gwen Abney of Detroit, organized the first search Aug. 6. About 100 friends and family members dropped off flyers with Bazzetta's picture on them and searched her Warren neighborhood.

Even though they didn't find Bazzetta, the family says the effort was worthwhile because it initiated calls to the Warren Police Department.

Bazzetta, 39, was last seen at her home on Stamford in the 11 Mile-Hoover area of Warren.

After playing a round of golf at Fern Hill Country Club on Aug. 1, she went shopping at a neighborhood store, made a bank deposit and drove her 1983 brown Plymouth Horizon into her

*'Somebody out there had to see what happened to her. She's out there somewhere, and we want to know.'*

— Betty Harpe, missing woman's sister

driveway at about 2 p.m.

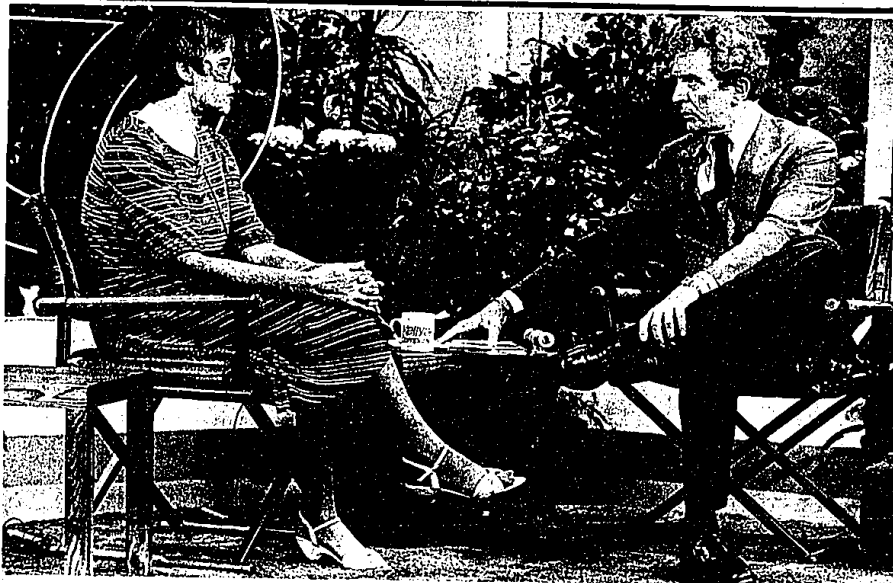
On Aug. 6, Bazzetta's car was found in the Oakland Mall parking lot, which is about 10 miles from her home.

"Somebody out there had to see what happened to her," Harpe said. "She's out there somewhere, and we want to know."

"I know that some women aren't happy with their situation and they just want to leave, but that wasn't the case with my sister. She was very happy and reliable."

Harpe appeared on WXYZ's "Kelly & Company" television show Friday to "get out the message" that they were organizing a second search last Saturday, Aug. 13.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Betty Harpe, sister of the missing Helen Bazzetta, told of her search on the "Kelly & Company" television program last Friday morning.

## Hills to appeal decision on Lutheran high school

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills is appealing Oakland Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert's 1982 decision allowing a private school, Lutheran High Northwest, to operate in violation of city zoning ordinances.

"We really do not want to compromise our position," said Hills Mayor Fred Hughes last week, explaining why the city is protesting Gilbert's decision in the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Although the appeal was filed Aug. 1, City Attorney Paul Elbeaux said it will be at least a year before the appeals court makes a ruling.

The city's appeal is the latest event in a drawn-out legal battle involving the parochial school, Farmington Hills and homeowners who share the Holly

Hill Farms subdivision with the high school.

Lutheran High Northwest is in a residential neighborhood south of 13 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads at Alcega and Highmeadow.

"We expected it," said Timothy Doyle, attorney for the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit, referring to the latest round of legal action.

The battle began in June 1981 when the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals denied the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit's (LHSAD) request for variances to the local zoning ordinance.

ZBA OFFICIALS told the Lutheran association they could not use the building, formerly Highmeadow Elementary School, as a high school be-

*'What if (the ruling) says is the private schools get preference. I think the decision is very, very poor.'*

— Sharon Snodgrass  
homeowners' attorney

cause it is in an area zoned for elementary school use which unlike high schools is not required by ordinance to be on a major or secondary thoroughfare. The high school at that time had just started construction on a gym when the city issued a workstop order.

Although Farmington Public Schools

sold the building to the Lutheran association for \$32,000 in 1981, both sides had claimed they were unaware of the zoning regulation.

The association later filed suit against Farmington Hills asking for a decision on whether or not the city's zoning ordinance could be applied to the high school.

Gilbert's decision maintained that while public schools are subject to local zoning ordinances parochial schools are entitled to special exceptions. "Church schools have been almost generally regarded as occupying the same status as churches by . . . the courts," Gilbert said in her opinion.

Claiming Gilbert's decision was correct, Doyle said the city's zoning ordinance "does not apply (to the high school) because education is controlled

by the state and not the local ordinances."

"The law is clear that any building project relating to an educational institution is governed solely by the state of Michigan," Gilbert said in her opinion.

EVEN THOUGH Gilbert ruled in favor of the Lutheran association, Doyle

said the high school still is not allowed to continue with construction of the gym. Both the gym's construction and the association's request for damages have been adjourned until the appeals court makes its decision, Doyle added.

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## City Council race includes 5 men

A woman has never served on Farmington's City Council. Not that they haven't tried.

"We've had several women run (for a city council seat) but they never placed," said Farmington City Clerk Josephine Bushey.

But by 5 p.m. last Friday — the deadline for filing nominating petitions to vie for one of three city council seats

in November's general election — not one woman tossed her hat into the political ring.

"I had, about a month or so ago, long before the petition filing date, a number of calls from women (asking for information about filing petitions). But they didn't identify themselves," Bushey said. "But I have had no women file."

So the field of five candidates includes incumbents Ralph Yoder, 31681 Amar, and William Hartsock, 33198 Cam. Newcomers are Roger Walker Jr., 23980 Manning; Gerald Lynch of Marblehead; and Ronald Oglesby, 33314 Grand River.

Councilman William Mitchell, whose two-year term will expire this year, is not seeking re-election.

Because this is an odd-year election, Farmington's city charter does not require a primary to reduce the number of candidates, Bushey said.

The top three vote getters will be elected to the council with the top two receiving four-year terms and the third winner the two-year term. The new council members will take office Nov. 14, the Monday following the election.

## New street lights due

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills are turning on to new street lighting along Farmington Road.

Officials in both cities have tentatively agreed to modernize lighting along the thoroughfare, replacing the existing incandescent street lights with high-pressure sodium lights supported on decorative, long-span metal poles. Detroit Edison will install 18 new lights in each city.

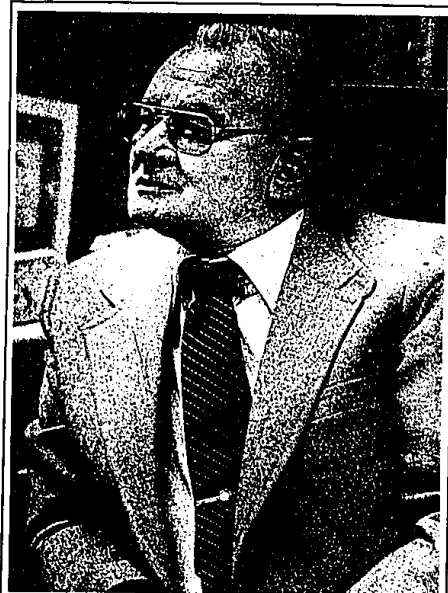
Farmington City Council members will make a final decision tonight whether to move ahead with the upgrading program, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman. So far, officials in both cities have agreed on the light fixtures' design. Farmington

Hills officials last week voted to participate in the lighting program.

The new sodium lights will cost each city about \$400 a month, said William Cortick, Farmington Hills assistant city manager. The monthly charge, he said, includes the electricity costs and a partial payment on the individual fixtures.

The sodium lights, compared to incandescent lights, provide more light at a reduced charge, Cortick said.

"So you're getting more wattage for the money," he added. Because Farmington already has installed sodium lights along Grand River, Farmington Hills has agreed to install another five fixtures on the south side of the road, between Hawthorne and Lilac streets.



## Chief running

John Nichols, Farmington Hills' Police Chief since 1977, has said that he'll be a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Oakland County in the November 1984 election. The official announcement of his candidacy will be made at a press conference Thursday afternoon at a Pontiac restaurant. For details, see section 5, page 10.

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