

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents



Rick Hatfield tends some of his 8,000 bedding plants at Springbrook Nursery in Farmington.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

## Nurseries gird for rush

By Tom Esar  
staff writer

Food for the survivors of a nuclear war could be grown in the nation's surviving greenhouses, or so the government hopes.

Some greenhouse and nursery owners have said that the government has promised them fuel for such an operation if the need arises. Meanwhile, their translucent glass and plastic covers the traditional bedding plants, shrubby and trees which soon will grace American yards.

The nurseryman's busiest season is almost at hand, awaiting only sunshine and warmer weather.

The Stelnkopf Nursery has no greenhouse to go with its 53 years of tradition on a 1 1/2-acre site on Farm-

ington Road north of Eight Mile. Trees, shrubs and other growing things are packed all around the yellow house from which Fred and Sharon Stelnkopf run the business.

"Right now we're busy unloading stock — trees, shrubs, flowering shrubs — just getting ready for the retail and wholesale trade," said Sharon Stelnkopf one damp and overcast morning this week. "It's been a little slow, though, because of the weather."

The weather, rainy and cold, has cut down on what Stelnkopf calls "the cash-and-carry trade and the do-it-yourselfers."

"We've had a number of calls from people who wanted to have a landscape plan drawn and to have a home appointment," she said. "But the peo-

*"It's like farming, actually. We worry about the weather and getting the crops in on time."*

— Rick Hatfield  
nursery owner

ple who come in to pick up a plant or two, I think the weather is holding them back."

And that's too bad because, she said, "now's an excellent time to plant, as long as your soil's workable. Now's a good time to put in the shade trees and the early-flowering shrubs."

DON'T FRET over late frosts, she said. "If you know a frost is coming, you can make provisions and cover them (the plants) a little bit the night before."

"The main thing is that, if the sun comes out the next morning, make sure the plants get watered before the sun hits them. You wash the frost right off so the frost crystals won't magnify the sunlight and burn the plants."

It's a bit early for the vegetable gardeners. "We're not set up to handle the flats of vegetables," Stelnkopf said, "although we do offer a wide variety of seeds."

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## Police calls rise in Hills

By Joenne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Although criminal offenses increased in Farmington Hills during 1983 by almost 300 incidents, a greater increase was seen in the number of assistance calls made by police.

In 1983, the number of assistance calls by police jumped to 16,926 from 15,351 in 1982, said Debbie DeSilvio, supervisor of the Hills' police records division.

Assistance calls by police include traffic activities, juvenile complaints, warrant arrests and "any runs we send police on for the sick and casualties," DeSilvio said. "Assisting the public in those type of instances went up," she said.

The number of patrol activities which includes traffic tickets and providing back-up units for other patrol cars increased in 1983 to 103,248 from 81,430 in 1982, DeSilvio said. That's a 26.6 percent jump.

Also listed in Farmington Hills' annual crime statistics is an increase in serious crimes (called Part I offenses) of 5.3 percent or a jump of 150 crimes in 1983 compared to 1982.

Aggravated assaults increased the most from 75 in 1982 to 104 in 1983 (38.6 percent), followed by increases in burglary and auto theft.

Burglaries, including residential and business, increased 8.7 percent or from 957 in 1982 to 1,042 in 1983.

Although residential burglaries increased from 507 in 1982 to 594 in 1983, garage burglaries dropped 13.7 percent or from 276 in 1982 to 238 in 1983, DeSilvio said.

Notable in the garage burglary statistics, she said, is a drop in the number of non-forceful entry (like leaving a garage door open or unlocked). In 1982, 213 garage burglaries were committed without forced entry compared to 114 in 1983.

"I think Neighborhood Watch has helped in some instances," DeSilvio said.

But the number of forced garage entries jumped from 49 in 1982 to 115 last

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*"I think Neighborhood Watch has helped in some instances."*

— Debbie DeSilvio  
police-records supervisor

## Hills employee arraigned

A 24-year-old Farmington Hills employee stood mute at her arraignment before 47th District Judge Michael Hand this week on felony charges in connection with the alleged misappropriation of \$2,300 from the city finance department.

Anne DeForte of Farmington is charged with five counts of "appropriating for her own use \$50 or more" while working as a public servant in the Farmington Hills finance department, said Sgt. John Kohls.

DeForte, who is free on \$10,000 personal bond, stood mute on the charges. A plea of not guilty was entered for her. A pretrial exam has not yet been scheduled.

"A crime of this nature occurs at several different times," Kohls said, explaining why DeForte was charged with five counts.

Conviction carries 10 years in prison and/or \$5,000 fine for each count.

On March 1, city finance department officials discovered that cash receipts for reimbursing police auxiliary services had been altered.

The city's independent auditors and the state Treasurer's Local Audit Division were notified when police began their investigation in mid-March.

Although police are continuing their investigation, Kohls would not comment on whether he expected more arrests.

### oral quarrel

## Will new porn law help cut violence?

The Indianapolis, Ind., City-County Council has approved an ordinance that defines violent pornography as a form of sexual discrimination and makes violators subject to civil lawsuits.

Supporters point to studies that indicate a link between violent pornography and crimes committed against women. The Indiana Civil Liberties Union, however, has called the ordinance an attack on the First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of the press.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

**WOULD AN ORDINANCE THAT CONSIDERS PORNOGRAPHY A FORM OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION HELP CUT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN?**

To answer this question, call us at 477-5498 anytime before 1 p.m. Friday. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

### what's inside

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**"Very Happy With Your Paper!"**

M. Biselle was "thrilled" with the response to the last 2 ad placed in the MERCHANDISE category of the Observer & Eccentric Classified ads. "Sold the same a week ago and the wood shaper this week! Very Happy with the results!"

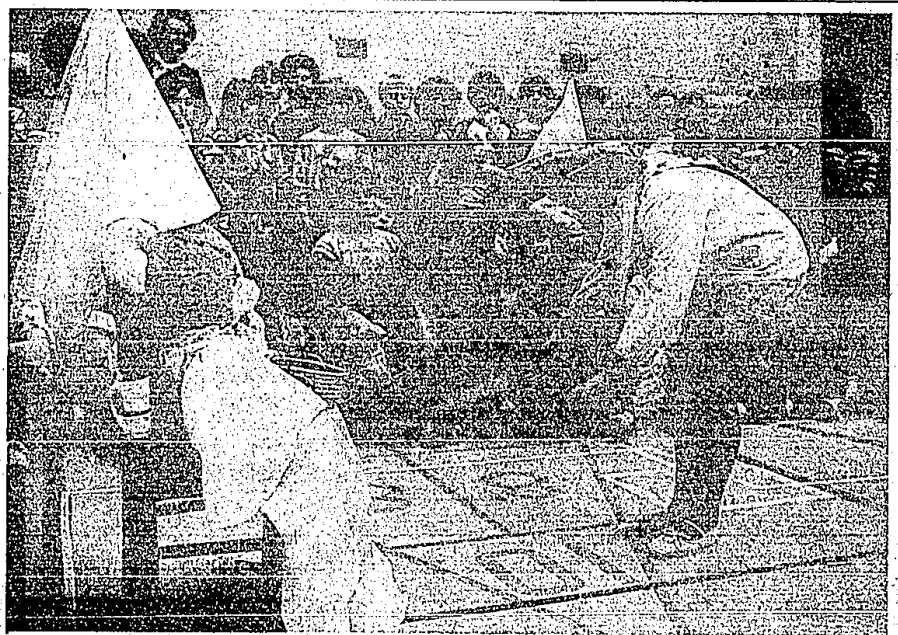
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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

### Making ready

Dressed in her Elr Galahad costume, Michelle Donon performs for her fellow Forest Elementary School students in preparation for

the Olympics of the Mind state competition this weekend. More photos and a story may be found in the Suburban Life Section.