

# Farmington Observer

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## Top cop leaving Farmington

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

G. Robert Seifert, Farmington's director of public safety since 1980, soon will head east on Nine Mile Road. Destination: Oak Park.

Commander Murray Switzer, who has 18 years on the Farmington force, plans a longer trip — west on I-94 to Emmett Township near Battle Creek in Calhoun County.

Seifert and Switzer announced their resignations to the Farmington City Council recently. They're leaving to become heads of the public safety departments in their new communities.

They join a long list of Farmington public safety personnel to make "career moves" away from the department.

"It's a professional opportunity," said the 46-year-old Seifert, who was picked from a field of more than 100 applicants for the Oak Park position.

When he takes on the \$47,500 position at the end of the month, Seifert will be commanding 60 full-time per-

*'We've got some good people here. I wouldn't be surprised if more chiefs come out of this department.'*

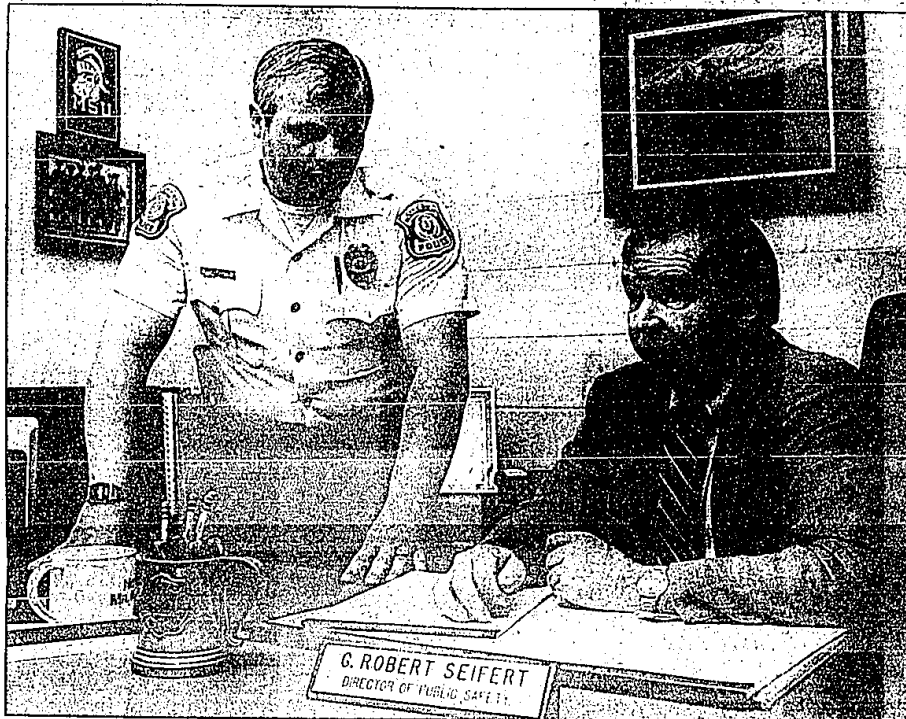
— Robert Deadman,  
Farmington city manager

sons and 30 reserves. Farmington staff numbers about 30 full-timers and 20 reserves.

Seifert replaces Glenford Leonard, Oak Park's longtime department head who retired last March.

Leonard, who sat on a board which helped select Seifert for the Farmington position back in February of 1980, combined Oak Park's police and fire departments into a public safety setup — the second in the nation — 30 years ago.

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FARMINGTON'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT IS LOSING DIRECTOR G. ROBERT SEIFERT (RIGHT) AND COMMANDER MURRAY SWITZER TO OTHER COMMUNITIES.

## Relief in sight for motorists

Editor's Note: This is last in a series of stories on the commercial development of Farmington Hills.

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

In 1982, more than 22,000 vehicles traveled Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills on an average week-day.

On eastbound 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads, the daily traffic load was about 11,000 vehicles. On westbound 12 Mile, however, traffic was lighter with approximately 9,000 motorists using the route.

Although these are the latest traffic figures available to city officials, the number of new office buildings has just about doubled along the two

growth corridors since 1982 — adding to the number of vehicles on the roads, especially during rush hour.

But for motorists who scheme and plan their way around two of the city's most commercial and busiest areas, relief is on the horizon. At least for 12 Mile.

"It's in relation to the growing trend," said City Manager William Costick, about plans for traffic improvements along 12 Mile. Although the city has plans to widen sections of 12 Mile in 1985, city officials also have been working on a master plan of improvements they would like to see along the office corridor. The plan should be ready by the year's end, Costick said.

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## Hills resident hits Cranbrook with bias suit

By Dave Varga  
staff writer

Cranbrook Educational Community was tight-lipped Friday after charges were leveled against the school alleging the former personnel director was improperly fired for pointing out discriminatory practices against Jewish students.

Judith Stefancak of Farmington Hills, who worked as personnel director for more than two years before she was

fired in November, filed suit Thursday in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Her complaint asks more than \$10,000 for each of three counts. The suit claims:

- Stefancak was fired wrongfully, even though she received favorable evaluations and two salary increases.

- Sexual advances and discriminatory actions were made to her by other employees, her supervisors and members of the Board of Directors at Cranbrook.

• Stefancak objected to discriminatory practices — including marking files of Jewish student applicants with "bagels" to control the number of admissions — and those objections resulted in her being fired.

OFFICIALS AT the prominent Bloomfield Hills school and their attorney, Robert Vercruysee, said Cranbrook had not yet been served with a copy of the complaint so they could not comment on specific charges.

"The Cranbrook Educational Community is proud of its traditional commitment to excellence," said Cranbrook President Lillian Bauder in a prepared statement, "and of the fashion in which Cranbrook continues to create excellence in a community noted for its diversity."

The statement went on to say that part of the school's mission is to "welcome students from a diversity of background and national origin."

It also noted five out of 11 "key community-wide administrators" are women.

Among the allegations of sex discrimination, the complaint claims that Stefancak was "ordered to stay in her office because she was an attractive single female who would only cause problems outside of her office."

It went on to say that her supervisors and others spread rumors about her sex life, questioned her sexual history extensively and asked her to take a lie detector test about her sex life.

"Several employees and members of the Board of Directors at Cranbrook made explicit sexual advances towards (her)," the suit also alleges.

Charles Clippert, a member of Cranbrook's Board of Trustees, said he had not seen the complaint and never met Stefancak.

"I don't think anything she has suggested in that context could be substantiated," Clippert said.

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A Farmington Hills police officer directs traffic along the westbound lanes of Eight Mile Road

near Grand River Thursday after a storm knocked out traffic lights.

## Storm douses area lights

By Jean Adamczak  
staff writer

Approximately 2,000 homes in the Farmington area were without power, some for more than 24 hours, as a result of severe thunderstorms Wednesday evening.

As of Friday afternoon, 12 homes were still without power, said Paul Potter, community affairs director for Detroit Edison. All power was to have been restored before dusk on Friday, he said.

Fifteen Edison work crews were brought in from Macomb County to help out and worked around the clock to restore service, he said.

The severe thunderstorm hit the Farmington area at 8:30 p.m. when the National Weather Service changed its severe thunderstorm warning to a tornado warning. The warning included all of Oakland County.

ALTHOUGH NO actual clouds were sighted in the Farmington area, winds up to 50 miles per hour were reported. Up to two inches of rain were caused by the National Weather Service at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, said Mary Green, meteorologist at Metro.

LIGHTNING STRUCK the police radio antenna at the Farmington Hills City Hall, causing minor damage but no injuries, Lt. Ernest Miller said.

Farmington and Farmington Hills police directed traffic in both cities as traffic lights went out due to high winds.

The intersection at Eight Mile Road and Grand River was without opera-

ting traffic signals for more than 24 hours. Police officers from Livonia and Farmington Hills compensated for direct traffic, Miller said.

"It turns out that a tree was blown inside the power box, and one of our officers tried it himself, because we couldn't get Wayne County to come out."

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