#### Jaycees ask for your opinion — 4A



## Farmington Observer

# Friends mourn Indian family lost in crash

Several days before Farmington Hills resident Shashi Gupta and her two young children planned to leave for a trip home to see family in Born-bay, India, she stopped by East Mid-dle School to say goodbye to her su-pervisor.

any, hand, and Sopped by East Andposterior to say goodbys to her suposterior to say goodbys to her su"She was so anxious to go there."
said Harounea Alameddine, coordinator of the Farmington School District's bilingual department, in which
Gupta, 35, worked as a teacher for
the past two years.
Despite the excliement of returning
to her native India with her children,
Gupta, a Hindu, expressed concern
about the political tension in her
homeland since the assassination of
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi last
year, Alameddine said.

"SHE HOPED that when she goes there everything would be OK." Alameddine said, adding he told her not to worry, all would be well. Gupta and her children, 10-year-old daughter Artl and 6-year-old son Amit, were among the 329 passengers aboard the Air-India Boeing 747 that

erashed into the sea Sunday off the coast of Ireland. All passengers are

coast of Ireland. All plassengers are presumed dead.
The Gupta's were among the American residents aboard the Alr-India flight. Including the Guptas, 21 of the 28 were from six families in southeastern Michigan, including Canton Township, Troy and Sterling Heights.

Heights.
"No one really expected this,"
Atameddine said. "All of this is uncalled for. I'm still aumb. I feel completely heartbroken. We're heipless.
We can't do anything about this."
Echoing similar sentiments, Farmington School District Superintendent
Lewis Schulman called the jettliner
erash and presumed loss of the Guptas a "tragedy."

ON HEARING THE news about the Air-India crash, Alameddine, a family friend, said he tried to call Sudhir, Gupta's husband, at their home on Bircherest Way.
"We heard it through the news," Alameddine said. "I tried to call but it was busy so I went to the house."
There Gupta, who was to join his family in Bombay in two weeks, was among friends who had heard of the



**Amit Gupta** 





Arti Gupta

'No one really expected this. All of this is uncalled for. I'm still numb. I feel completely heartbroken. We're helpless. We can't do anything about this.'

— Harounne Alameddine

tragedy, Alameddine said. Gupta is a technical director for the Mercier Corp. of Birmingham. "He was extremely emotional," Alameddine said. Gupta had taken his family to Toronto where they boarded Air-India Flight 182.

ALAMEDDINE SAID Gupta told blm that the last thing his wife sald before leaving was, "I'm going to

write to Mr. Alameddine.

By early afternoon Monday, Gupta was on his way to New York City where he would eatch a plane to Ireland, Alameddine said, From there Gupta was expected to fly to Bombay to be with his wife's parents.

"Her parents were waiting for her," Alameddine said, adding a blg party was awaiting their arrival.

Gupta joined the school district's bilingual staff two years ago and worked with Indian students, helping them adjust to the United States as well as adapt to the school studies, Alameddine said.

"She is going to be missed unbelievably," Alameddine said. "She is a loss to the district and to the community.

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#### **Families** gather overseas

By M.B. Dillon Ward

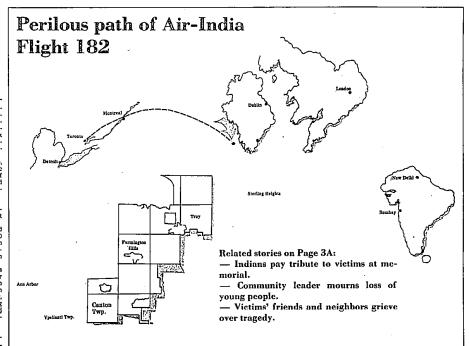
Relatives of the 11 Wayne and Oak-land county victims of Sunday's Air-India crash near Ireland will be per-mitted to view recovered bodies be-ginning today, according to a Cork County Regional Hospital official in-terviewed by the Observer & Eccen-tric.

terviewed by the Observer & Eccen-tric.
Families from Canton Township,
Farmington Hills and Troy were
among the 329 passengers, mostly of
Indian descent, aboard the Ill-fated
flight to New Delhi, India via Toronto, Canada.

to, Canada.

NO ONE is thought to have survived the air disaster, the third worst in aviation history.
Rescue workers have recovered 136 bodies from the crash site 120 miles southwest of Cork, Ireland in the north Atlantic. Twelve of the bodies are those of children, said Joseph Lyons of the Cork hospital.
Believed dead are Canton's Pulevelll and Aleykutty Jacob, their daughter Jissey, Jancey, and son Justin, 6. Shashi Gupta of Farmington Hills, her son, Amit, and daughter, Artl, also were aboard the Boding 747, as were Troy residents Earoj Bedi, her daughter, Anu, and son, Jatin.

NEXT OF kin from all three fami



### oral quarrel

### Would you change your holiday plans?

activity.

First came the hostage crisis on TWA Flight 847. Then the world learned of the crash of an Air India jetiliner off the coast of Ireland and the explosion of luggage in Tokyo-Officials at travel agencies and airlines say passengers have expressed concern over traveling abroad.

Considering the turmoil in the world, what are your thoughts about traveling now? Would you change your vacation plans?

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

#### what's inside

NEWSLINE . . . 477-5450 HOME DELIVERY 591-0500 CLASSIFIED ADS 591-0900



Your Observer carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. it's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

#### sought in Hills By Joanne Maliezewaki staff writer

**Charter changes** 

Eliminating primary elections and allowing newly elected council members to take office immediately are two of five proposed amendments to the Farmington Hills City Charter votors will be asked to consider in the November general election.

"No matter what we do here tonight, the public votes on it at the next general election," said Mayor Jan Dolan, assuring residents that the charter can be changed only by a vote of the electorate.

Following a public hearing Monday

on the issue, council agreed in a unant-mous 7-0 vote Monday to put a series of proposed amendments to the 12-year old city charter on the November bal-

old city charter on the November bal-lot.

Council's vote of unity in moving for-ward with the proposed amendments on the November ballot came after Councilwoman Joan Dodley offered to withdraw an amendment, opposed to by all but Dudley, which would limit council members' terms of office.

BESIDES ELIMINATING primary elections and allowing nowly elected council members to take office imme-

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mayor By Joanne Maliszowski

backs

Council

Despite opposition from Councilman Charles Williams and his criticism of her resume and job experience, Massic Kurzeja has been appointed to a threeyear term on the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), "The citizens of Farmington Hills deserve the best people we can put forth," said williams. He said Kurzeja's resume shows that she has had 19 months of work experience — mostly secretarial and office — in the past eight years.

Referring to Kurzeja's lack of work and professional experience, Williams said he preferred that she be appointed as an alternate member of the ZBA rather than a full-time member.

Instead, John Tesner, whose resume was also referred to Monday by Williams, should be appointed full time rather than as alternate as recommended by Mayor Jan Dolan, Williams said. Tesner is a real estate broker and licensed builder.

"We don't get as many women applicants, but they should be just as qualified," Williams said.
Despite his opposition, council approved Kurzeja's appointment in a 5-0 vote. Councilman Dono Wolf was absent.

ALTHOUGH KURZEJA, a former

ALTHOUGH kURZEJA, a former Housing Commission and Rehabilitation Loan Board member, remained silent throughout the public discussion, she later commented on Williams' opposition to her appointment.

"I would have had more respect for Charlie Williams had he come out and said exactly why he didn't want me on the board instead of demoning people who have office skills," said Kurzeja, one of Farnington Hills' most well-known council watchers. "It seems he has no respect for women.

"Everybody no matter who they are has something to offer," he continued. "I don't think the degrees or the job a person holds denotes any amount of includence."

I don't linix the degrees or the joe a person holds denotes any amount of intelligence.

"If it takes a doctorate to sit on the commission, it seems to me there wouldn't be too many commissioners."

Kurzeja replaces George Roberts, whose term on the ZBA expired. Roberts in turn was appointed Monday to replace Kurzeja on the Housing Commission and Rehabilitation Loan Board.

mission and kenabimation board.

AT FIRST, Williams requested that the appointments be delayed toward the end of Monday's four-hour meeting, so Wolf, who had left council chambers a few minutes earlier, would have an opportunity to comment. Wolf, however, did not return to council chambers. Williams also took exception to Kurzeja's appointment because of the number of relatively new members on the ZBA.

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ZBA.

"There are more new people on this board than ever before," Williams sald, adding that appointing an inexperienced resident as an alternate "would become a fasting experience."

enced resident as an alternate "would be a way of getting experience." But Councilwoman Joan Dudley re-minded Williams of an incident about year ago when he, as mayor, recom-mended appointments and council disagreed. At that time, Williams told council they should stand behind mayo-ral appointments.