

# Farmington Observer

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## Friends mourn Indian family lost in crash

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Several days before Farmington Hills resident Shashi Gupta and her two young children planned to leave for a trip home to see family in Bombay, India, she stopped by East Middle School to say goodbye to her supervisor.

"She was so anxious to go there," said Harounne 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 excitement 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 Arti and 6-year-old son Amit, were among the 329 passengers aboard the Air-India Boeing 747 that

crashed into the sea Sunday off the coast of Ireland. All passengers are presumed dead.

The Gupta's were among the American residents aboard the Air-India flight. Including the Guptas, 21 of the 28 were from six families in southeastern Michigan, including Canton Township, Troy and Sterling Heights.

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

Echoing similar sentiments, Farmington School District Superintendent Lewis Schulman called the jetliner crash 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 Birchcrest 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



Shashi 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 Mercer 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 him that the last thing his wife said 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 catch 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 big 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  
staff writer

Relatives of the 11 Wayne and Oakland county victims of Sunday's Air-India crash near Ireland will be permitted to view recovered bodies beginning today, according to a Cork County Regional Hospital official interviewed by the Observer & Eccentric.

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.

NO ONE is thought to have survived the air disaster, the third worst in aviation history.

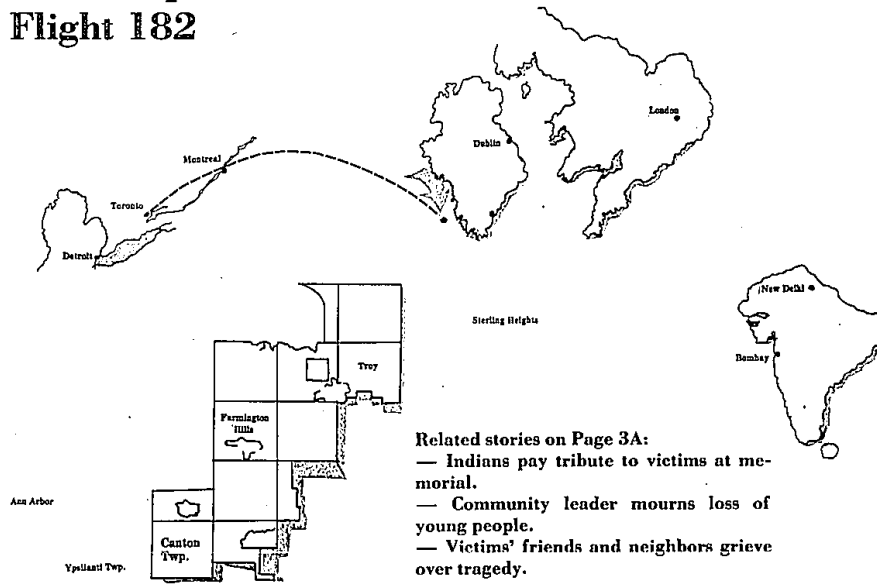
Rescue workers have recovered 136 bodies from the crash site 120 miles southwest of Cork, Ireland in the north Atlantic. Twelve of the bodies are those of children, said Joseph Lyons of the Cork hospital.

Believed dead are Canton's Pulevelli and Alekuty Jacob, their daughters Jlessey, Jancey, and son Justin, 8. Shashi Gupta of Farmington Hills, her son, Amit, and daughter, Arti, also were aboard the Boeing 747, as were Troy residents Saroj Bedi, her daughter, Anu, and son, Jan.

NEXT OF kin from all three fami-

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## Perilous path of Air-India Flight 182



Related stories on Page 3A:

— Indians pay tribute to victims at memorial.

— Community leader mourns loss of young people.

— Victims' friends and neighbors grieve over tragedy.

## oral quarrel

## Would you change your holiday plans?

In the last two weeks worldwide attention has been focused on terrorist activity.

First came the hostage crisis on TWA Flight 847. Then the world learned of the crash of an Air India jetliner 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.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

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

To answer this 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

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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.

## Charter changes sought in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

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 voters 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 unanimous 7-0 vote Monday to put a series of proposed amendments to the 12-year old city charter on the November ballot.

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

BESIDES ELIMINATING primary elections and allowing newly elected council members to take office immediately,

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