

Variety easy to find  
at concert series, 1D



Rocks nip  
Hawks, 1C

Skits help students  
learn Asian ways, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**N**EW shopping center in works.  
Troy-based Stuart Frankel Development plans to open Halsted Village, a 125,000-square-foot convenience/neighborhood shopping center, on the north side of 12 Mile, just west of Halsted, this fall.

The center will feature a 45,000-square-foot Great Scott supermarket and a 10,000-square-foot Arbor Drugs. Fifteen other compatible retail tenants also are anticipated, Frankel said.

Construction will begin in April.  
"It's a great location with great exposure," Frankel said. "I think we have a real winner."  
The closest retail strip is Orchard Lake Road, three miles away.

**SPECIAL WEEKS.**  
The Farmington City Council has declared Jan. 15-21 as Farmington Area Jaycee Week in honor of the community service group and Jan. 23-27 as Junior Achievement Week in honor of the economic education program.

## Memory lane

50 years ago:

Last year, the Farmington Post Office did more business than it ever has before, selling between \$4,000 and \$5,000 worth of stamps.

One of the most dangerous intersections in this area is now equipped with a stop light. Farmington Road and Eight Mile.

— Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 12, 1939

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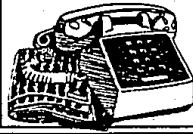


Photo courtesy St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

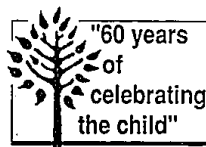
Parents-to-be (left, in an undated file photo) received their adopted babies directly at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, operated by the Daughters of Charity. At one time, 70 babies were placed for adoption from the center.

## As needs changed, so did children's center

**Editor's note:** The Observer will follow St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's celebration of its 60 years in Farmington Hills. We will take a look at some of the staff and friends of the center, what the center was when it began and how it has developed to meet changing needs of society.

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Sixty years has thrown a lot of change at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills. But the center has come a long



way in adapting to the changes society has dishd to the hundreds, even thousands of children, who have walked through the heavy wooden doors of the center, at 12 Mile and Inkster.

Known today for caring for and helping abused, neglected and emotionally disturbed children ages 5-14, the center's original focus was taking in unwed mothers, caring for them and their babies and placing the children for adoption.

"As the needs have changed, we have changed," said Jean Vickers, center program director.

The center began in the days when unwed mothers gave up their children. Photos in the center's archives show smiling couples arriving to pick up their new infants.

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## Area rapes spur seminar

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Because of last year's string of rapes in Oakland County, a community effort will show Farmington-area women how to handle attacks not just physically, but psychologically as well.

A one-day seminar called "Women's Empowerment Program" is scheduled to be held at the Farmington Area YMCA Saturday, Jan. 14, where women will learn to take a different view in defending themselves.

The program is sponsored by the YMCA with the prompting of members of the North Farmington High School Boosters, a parent group. Staff at the Y were also considering something similar.

"It sort of fell into place. We were all thinking about it at the same

time," explained Greg Voss, membership director for the YMCA and contact for the special program.

"The approach we really want to take is, it's a class of many different elements. It's not a self-defense class. We wanted to make this different."

IMPETUS CAME from North

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## Family turns tube into a learning tool

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Marilyn Droz keeps her eye on the television, but not in the traditional way.

Unlike most everyday "couch potatoes," Droz and her family select, in advance, what they will watch. And they use the programs, whether educational or entertainment, as tools for communication and learning.

Instead of being anti-television, Droz is all for it and looks toward its positive aspects. "TV's not background in our house," she explained. "Right now, that makes us different. It's a great chance to learn — it's good for your kids."

The elementary school teacher who lives in Farmington Hills is also the director of the West Bloomfield-based Council for Children's Television and the Media, a consumer monitoring group which has been in place — in one form or another — for 16 years.

## people

"The VCR is the greatest tool for parents," she said, citing her experience. Television "is my convenience, it's my entertainment," she added. "Treat it like a movie — you don't go if it's a bad show. Don't let the TV set control your life."

She also uses television as a teaching tool in her special education classroom in the Royal Oak school district. And just as in the classroom, there are certain rules to be followed at home when it comes to television, like no TV during dinner. "It's hard enough to get everyone together," she added.

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## Prosecutor is named in auto death

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

Oakland County Circuit Judge Richard Kuhn appointed Pontiac attorney J. Robert Sterling as a special prosecutor in the traffic fatality case involving a Farmington Hills lawyer who lives in Orchard Lake.

Sterling will determine what charges, if any, will be pressed against the lawyer in the Nov. 20 traffic death of a West Bloomfield man.

Oakland prosecutor Richard Thompson said his office petitioned Kuhn Dec. 30 to name a special prosecutor because the Orchard Lake man, Bruce Truex, is a partner in the same Farmington Hills law firm that employs Thompson's wife, Marylyn, as an attorney. The firm is Kohl, Secrest, Wardle, Lynch, Clark and Hampton.

"We asked for a special prosecutor to avoid any question of conflict of interest," Thompson said Tuesday. "We thought it was appropriate to petition the court for a special prosecutor."

Following a lengthy police department investigation, West Bloomfield traffic officer John Baligian said his department recently passed on investigative reports to the prosecutor suggesting that a charge of negligent homicide against Truex, 41, would

be consistent with evidence gathered.

ACCORDING TO police reports, Truex's late model Porsche struck Hans Z. Toma, 40, at 1:55 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, as Toma walked in the rain on 14 Mile at Briarwood. Truex called police from his mobile car phone to report the accident.

Baligian said Truex was administered a preliminary Breathalyzer test at the scene. A search warrant was obtained to allow police to take Truex immediately to Henry Ford Hospital for a blood test. Test results showed a .12 blood alcohol reading, according to police. A .10 level is considered legally drunk in Michigan.

Toma was returning home with his wife, Susan, and four young daughters when his car ran out of gas at 14 Mile and Middlebelt. Toma left the car alone and began walking west in the rain.

Evidence showed Toma appeared to be walking within two feet of the roadway edge and was wearing dark clothing. Toma was hit and thrown to the shoulder suffering head injuries, which caused his death.

Baligian said Truex was driving within the 40 mph speed limit but was unable to avoid hitting Toma. No skid marks were observed at the scene.

Staff writer Bob Sklar contributed to this report.

## Dolan learns way around Lansing

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The excitement and anticipation shows in Jan Dolan's eyes. Since her November election, she's been in Lansing so much, at least one colleague thought she was already on the state payroll.

"He said he never saw anyone come up here as often," said Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, who began her official duties as state House representative for the 69th district Jan. 3.

The first legislative session begins Wednesday, Jan. 11, the same day she'll be officially sworn in as a legislator.

Preparing for her new career as a state legislator began soon after her November election to the seat held by former state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, who retired.

"I've been going up to Lansing, talking with people, getting acquainted," she said. "I just wanted to take



Jan Dolan settling in

every opportunity I had to spend a whole day up there," said the 14-year Farmington Hills City Council veteran.

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THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Alan (left), Matthew and Marilyn Droz watch television in their Farmington Hills home with their dog, Tatoo.