

Hoisting the sail  
for a race or two, 1D



Soccer  
final, 1C

Wooddale kids make  
art come alive, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; weekend line, 591-2305; home delivery, 591-4500; classified ads, 591-0960; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

**C**AP and gown time. Farmington Public Schools will graduate 769 students in June: 250 from Farmington High, 213 from Harrison and 306 from North.

Meanwhile, 46 adults will graduate through the adult education program.

**GET** out the vote. At a Farmington Democratic Club-hosted candidates night Wednesday, incumbent Jack Inch asked voters to urge 10 friends to vote in the Farmington school board election Monday, June 11.

Even if that backfires in his re-election bid, Inch said he'd accept it. "It's better to be beat in a landslide than to be in a pebble-tossing contest."

Voters will fill two Farmington school board seats from among nine candidates.

— *Farmington Enterprise*, May 30, 1990

## Memory lane

**50 years ago:**

• Former Farmington Township treasurer Loretta Cox and long-time Farmington constable Marie Pettibone have died.

• Farmington Public Schools have set a 1990-91 operating tax rate of 7.5 mills and a debt retirement tax rate of 12 mills. The total reduction of 1.5 mills. The new budget totals \$66,000.

— *Farmington Enterprise*, May 30, 1990

## This week

**F**ARMINGTON Hills City Council will hold a public hearing on its 1990-91 budget of \$27.0 million at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

## what's inside

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**Look for the  
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staff photo by BOB SKLAR

Welder Wayne Wipp of Ric-Man Construction welds a steel ring around a water main joint at 14 Mile and Northwestern Highway to plug a leak Saturday.

## Water shutoff

### Saturday was nightmarish for many residents and merchants

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

ANITA's Mid-East Kitchen had to wash dishes and Mike's Cleaners & Tailors had to wash shirts by hand.

The Orchard 14 Carwash pumped gasoline but couldn't wash cars. Arbor Drugs, at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, had a run on bottled water.

Many residents complained about piled-up dishes and longed for two of life's simpler pleasures — a hot shower and a toilet that flushes.

Repair of a ruptured Detroit water main at 14 Mile and Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills took 11 hours longer than expected Saturday. The affected area in Farmington Hills was generally north of I-696.

Residents and businesses in parts of five western Oakland County communities — Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Novi, Walled Lake and Commerce Township — had a trickle of water at best for much of Saturday.

For some, water pressure didn't return until Sunday. Most Farmington Hills residents had water back by late Saturday.

**'Neither Detroit nor Farmington Hills had the right to create that type of civic emergency without proper planning. What if it had tasted another 12 hours?'**

— Carol Plisner  
Farmington Hills

tion Hills residents had water back by late Saturday.

RHONDA SOLOMON, who lives in Woodstream Farms near 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, said she and her husband, Marty, were "disappointed in the bad predictions as to how long the water would be off."

"If we knew what the potential problems were, we'd have bottled up more water."

The Solomons, as well as neigh-

bors Carol and Bruce Plisner, bottled three gallons of water. They also filled the bathtub.

The Plisners would've gone to a hotel if water hadn't returned when it did on their street, at 5 p.m. Saturday.

"Farmington Hills should've notified residents by mail two days in advance," Carol said. "Neither Detroit nor Farmington Hills had the right to create that type of civic emergency without proper planning. What if it had lasted another 12 hours?"

She called the timing of the repair work "very poor — on a holiday weekend."

ANITA'S MID-EAST Kitchen, at Orchard Lake Road and 14 Mile, turned away some lunch patrons because of slower service caused by low water pressure.

"We've been dripping all day," said co-owner Pierre Farah at 6 p.m. Saturday. "We've been boiling water and washing dishes by hand. And

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## Ukraine trip restores family ties



By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

In some parts of the world, picking up a telephone to speak with loved ones is as foreign a possibility as speaking your opinion and washing your face under a faucet of running water.

For Walt Maruszczak's parents, verbal communication with brothers and sisters they left nearly 40 years ago in their native Ukrainian villages finally came via seven, 90-minute cassette tapes and photographs.

"It was very moving to all of us," said the Farmington Hills resident, who spent about two weeks last October in his parents' Ukrainian homeland.

From the large cities, Maruszczak traveled and stayed with relatives he had never met before. For a short time, he shared their lifestyles and their perspectives.

Half of his relatives work on farms — lacking gas heat, running water and only some electricity — or they are bus or ambulance drivers, and gas station attendants.

"I'm much more grateful now for everything I've had and the opportunity in what's in the American dream," he said.

"But I regret the fact that we have the opportunity for access to so many luxuries and it has a tendency of disrupting life, marriages, relationships. It can convolute your purpose in life."

American middle-class living might consist of several cars in the driveway, children in college and a good-sized home in a well-manicured subdivision.

IN THE Ukraine, middle class living means

## people

having a milk cow, four pigs, chickens, one or two roosters and a dog.

Maruszczak's glimpse into Ukrainian village life — and a day in Moscow — came through a business trip for his company, Monsanto Chemical Co., Auburn Hills. He traveled to large cities as well, including Kiev in eastern Ukraine, Lviv and Odessa in western Ukraine.

"Everyone tries to get out to the cities for an easier life," Maruszczak said.

Maruszczak soon got a taste of what living in a controlled society is all about. His hotel room in Moscow was bugged. And he soon realized his activities were being monitored. Because he needed additional visas to travel to the villages, he left for his relatives in the middle of the night.

After two weeks in a Soviet-dominated land, Maruszczak said he came "to discover that economic revolution will never succeed until people are granted their basic human rights."

The Ukrainians are aware of the Baltic states' struggle for independence from the Soviet Union, but fear continues to pervade their lives. "They consider their plight so earth shattering that there's nothing that can be done. People are so terrified of speaking with anyone."

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## Telecasts eyed by schools

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington school officials have some concerns, but promise to consider cablecasting their public meetings.

"Philosophically, I really have no problem with it. I don't see any negatives," said board secretary Janice Roineck.

While they agreed meetings should be cablecast, some found a few glitches with simply bringing cable television cameras into their boardroom.

"I don't think our room is large enough with a temporary setup," vice president Susan Remmel said. "It (equipment) would shut out virtually every seat we've got."

Trustee Jim Abernethy agreed. "I would hate to see that very small room further compromised at this point."

Trustees talked of making their debut on cable television in the same way the Farmington Hills City Council has — with temporary television equipment carrying the meeting live on Channel 18.

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## Hills police charge 3 men with burglaries

Two Redford Township men and a Farmington Hills man face breaking-and-entering charges in the burglaries of three houses in southeast Farmington Hills between April 19 and May 17.

David Lee Goble and Norman Yates, both 19, are charged with three counts of breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling with intent to commit larceny, a 15-year felony. The houses where the alleged robberies occurred are on Pearl and Albion.

Robert Edmund Holt, 17, of Farmington Hills is charged with two counts of breaking and entering houses on Albion and Roosevelt.

The three were arrested and arraigned last week in 47th District Court in Farmington. Innocent pleas were entered in their behalf. A preliminary exam will be held in 47th District Court.

Magistrate Maria Parker set

cash bond at \$5,000 for Yates and cash or surety bond at \$1,000 for Goble. Magistrate Dennis Phene set cash or surety bond at \$2,500 for Holt.

Stolen property included jewelry, silver coins, tires, a tent, tools, clothing, VCRs, a pistol, a remote control truck, a cassette player, a video camera, a telephone and 16 pictures of classic cars. Total value topped \$6,600.

Investigation led to the recovery of jewelry, fireworks, a telephone, clothing, a tent, a cable TV box, a Nintendo game and 16 pictures of classic cars from houses on Roosevelt and Pearl May 20, police said.

"We invested a lot of time and effort in this investigation because of the increasing number of break-ins in this particular area of the city," said Sgt. Charles Nebus, Farmington Hills Police Department detective section supervisor.

## School board candidates rate district's priorities

Related story, 4A

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Farmington school board candidates delineated their top priority, if elected, during a forum Wednesday hosted by the Democratic Club of Farmington-Farmington Hills at the Botsford Inn.

Another forum held earlier this month at Farmington High School was sponsored by the American Association of University Women-Farmington Chapter and the League of Women Voters-West Bloomfield/Farmington area.

Unlike that forum in which audience members wrote their questions, this forum allowed verbal questions, some of which were directed toward specific candidates.

**Voters will fill two four-year school board seats on Monday, June 11.**

"My number one priority would be to equalize the educational experience across our district, facilities and instruction," said Robert Ranney, a consulting engineer for Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.

"Our parents should feel comfortable going to any one of our elementary schools. Our parents shouldn't feel a certain rush to get into any one particular elementary."

Jimco Realty, said the district needs to manage its "burgeoning school population. I come from a school,

Longacre, which was built for 300 and has been holding 500 for the last five years. It's going to happen to Gill in the next five years. A lot of capital improvement needs to go into our school to equalize education."

Cathleen Webb, a free lance artist, also mentioned overcrowding. "The needs are throughout the district," Webb said. "We are very short of space. We must find ways to get parity into our buildings, prioritize and, of course, financing is the issue."

ALLEN WARNER, a Wayne State University faculty member, said his number one priority will be financing, long-range planning, exercising greater fiscal responsibility and reducing the tax burden. "I support the Patterson-Anderson amendment,"

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