

What goes around,  
comes around, 1C



Mercy wins  
district, 1B

Hills residents rekindle  
American spirit, 3A



# Farmington Observer

Volume 103 Number 47

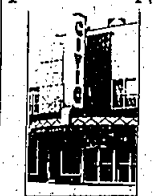
Thursday, March 12, 1992

Farmington, Michigan

96 Pages

Fifty Cents

FARMINGTON



FOCUS

**S**MILE, SENIOR citizens of the Farmington area, an Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency photographer wants to snap your photographs.

The photographer will be at the Mercy Senior Center, 28809 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, 10:30 a.m. to noon Friday, March 20. Call 478-9147 for a reservation.

Photographs of seniors will be used for identification cards needed for participation in the OLHSA senior discount program. County residents at least 60 years of age may apply for the cards, which show photograph, name, address, birth date, Social Security number and signature. The laminated cards also carry the Oakland County seal.

The cards can be used for discounts offered both locally and nationwide. Discounts are available on prescription drugs, eyeglasses, auto parts, rustproofing, cleaners, hair care, clothing and restaurants.

Additional camera locations are being sought by the OLHSA. People interested in having their sites considered should call 858-5193. More information may be obtained by calling OLHSA's toll-free number, 1-800-487-9250.

**E**VER THINK about the noble outhouse and its place in history? Well, come to the Farmington Historical Society's meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, at the Farmington branch of the Community Library and you'll be "privy" to that information.

William Thomas, a guide at Walcott Mills Metropark, will speak on "The Dependable Privy." The public is invited to attend. The library is at Liberty and State streets in downtown Farmington.

**M**ERCY CENTER on 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills has been named as one of more than 90 sites for Project Health-O-Rama from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1.

Sponsored in part by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Commission on Aging, Health-O-Rama offers health screening tests such as vision, blood testing, glaucoma and others. Volunteers from nursing schools and hospitals will administer the tests.

The project attempts to alert individuals of possible health problems, while encouraging public awareness of disease prevention and health education.

For information on other Health-O-Rama sites, call 424-8800 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Qualified volunteers are needed.

**M**EMORY LANE — From the March 13, 1992 Farmington Observer.

An editorial said: "Roads are a necessity . . . of life in these modern times. This may seem like a rather foolish statement, yet right here in the Farmington area during the next month or two, many residents will be fooling it because of impassable roads."

"A short time ago a suggestion was made . . . that a long-range program be developed to bring all township roads up to county specifications. The Enterprise believes that it deserves serious consideration now as the township grows this problem becomes even more acute."



SHARON LAMUEUX/staff photographer

## One last time

Mike Loibl, a junior at Farmington Harrison and one of the managers of the Hawks' basketball team, carries the motor jug back to the locker room one last time Monday night. Harrison had just lost to host Walled Lake Central, 71-64, in the opening round of the state Class A District Tournament. For a story and more photos, please see the Sports Section.

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Counseling was being offered to students in the Farmington and Redford Union school districts this week, following the weekend shooting death in Detroit of a 15-year-old boy who was known in both communities.

Detroit police say a suspect was arrested and charged with the boy's murder on Monday.

John Mallon, 16, a lifelong Redford Township resident and a freshman at Farmington High School since January, was gunned down early Sunday morning near Acacia

and Dacosta on Detroit's west side following an apparent fight, police said. Mallon was in the area with at least two other young men and a young woman, all from the Farmington area, when the incident occurred, according to Farmington school officials.

None of the others were students in the district.

It is the first time in the history of either district that officials can recall a shooting death of one of their students, they said.

FARMINGTON HIGH School principal James Myers said Mallon was apparently out late Saturday

## Couple dies after crash

People recall  
their love  
of 50 years

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Bob and Betty Snyder were sweethearts at Farmington High School more than 50 years ago, and would have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary this fall.

But tragedy struck last week shortly after the couple visited their grandson at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac where the young man was recovering from surgery.

Both of the lifelong Farmington residents were killed shortly after 5 p.m. Friday when, leaving the hospital parking lot, their car careened across eight lanes of evening rush-hour traffic on Woodward Avenue and struck the Truck and Coach Credit Union building on the east side of the road.

Both died of complications from their injuries, according to the Pontiac police. No one else was injured in the accident.

Police believed Bob Snyder, who was driving the couple's Buick LeSabre, had a heart attack shortly before the crash occurred. The Oakland County Medical Examiner's office listed the cause of death as a cranio-cervical injury for Bob, 72,



Lifelong Farmington residents Betty and Bob Snyder pose for a recent family photo. The couple was killed last week in a car accident in Pontiac.

and thoraco-abdominal injuries for 69-year-old Betty.

"This week friends and family recalled the couple's love of life and devotion to family and each other."

"That was their biggest thing — they were devoted to their family," said daughter-in-law Jan Snyder of Farmington Hills. She said her father-in-law was a fun-loving person who loved to kid everyone and her mother-in-law a strong person who never complained despite the pain she suffered from arthritis. "She was the encourager," Jan Snyder said.

"She always knew what their grandkids were doing in school."

Many who knew the Snyders said it was a blessing that both Bob and Betty went together.

During the summer, the two swam daily and during the colder months swam several times a week at Mercy Center. Betty was a known seamstress in the area, originally taking up the craft to keep her fingers nimble. Often, both could be found in the garden with Bob tending the vegeta-

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## Keeping track of new rules primary concern for voters

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills Democrat George Roberts has heard some people say they don't plan to vote in the state's presidential primary Tuesday, March 17.

"A lot of them say it's an invasion of privacy. I have heard many people blurt about this bit about having to say you're a Democrat or Republican," said Roberts, a member of the Farmington Area Democratic Club.

But Dick Poehlman, past president of the Farmington Area Republican Club, said he thinks people will get out and vote Tuesday.

"It may confuse some people. Some people might be upset when they get to the polls. But I don't think it will affect the outcome," Poehlman said.

City clerks' staffers aren't sure either whether the onslaught of rule changes in both the Democratic and

Republican camps over what was supposed to be the first closed presidential primary in more than a decade will keep voters away from the polls.

Nonetheless, Tuesday is the day you can cast your ballot for either a Democratic candidate or a Republican candidate and let delegates in each party know how you want them to vote at each party's national convention later this year.

WHILE ROBERTS considers the primary important, Poehlman doesn't see it as significant in terms of the number of primaries in other states, not to mention the Super Tuesday primaries this week.

"It's important in one sense. Most Democrats in Michigan were supporting (Sen. Tom) Harkin (of Iowa). Now Harkin is out, they (voters) are going to have to go between (Bill) Clinton, (Paul) Tsongas and (Jerry) Brown."

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## Students cope with shooting death of teen

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

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FARMINGTON HIGH School principal James Myers said Mallon was apparently out late Saturday

night in the Five Mile/Telegraph area with friends when a fight developed with another teenager. The teen left the area, returned with a gun and shot Mallon. He died of a gunshot wound to the head, according to police.

Detroit police report that Darrell Rager, 17, city unknown, was arrested Monday and arraigned on first-degree murder and felony firearms charges in connection with the killing. No information was available about when Rager faces preliminary examination on the charges. He faces mandatory life in prison, if convicted on the charges.

"It's definitely a tragedy," said

Myers. "I feel for the kids who knew him. There's not a good way to express my grief for the family."

Mallon was a lifelong Redford Township resident who had recently moved to the Kendallwood Apartments in Farmington Hills with his mother. Known to friends and family as J.J., he had started at Farmington High School in January, according to school officials.

While in Redford, he attended private elementary schools and later attended the Redford Union Schools, according to Ken Johnson, director of instruction for Redford Union and a friend of the family.

Mallon also attended the Howe

Military Academy in northern Indiana for several months in the fall of 1990, but decided to return home to Redford and attend school here.

Crisis teams were active in Redford Union junior high and high schools this week to handle student questions and concerns over the shooting, Johnson said. He said Mallon was well known and liked by his peers in Redford and that a lot of students were affected by the shooting.

"It's a real tragedy to have someone so young die," he added. "He had such potential. It's really a sad day."

## what's inside

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Special Section  
In Today's Issue

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Farmington school board President Jack Cotton has strong feelings about a state proposal which, if instituted, would force student athletes to choose between high school or community sports clubs.

He likes the idea. But he is outnumbered by five of his fellow trustees who voted to recommend that no change be made to Michigan High School Athletic Association rules — something currently being considered by a committee of the state group. The proposal sug-

gests that students who choose to participate in a community soccer club, for example, not be allowed to play on a high school soccer team.

Current rules allow students to participate in school sports, as well as outside sports of the same type during the off season.

Cotton, former athletic director for the Farmington district, said "over-professionalism" in school sports must be avoided and the rule change would help. "Without this rule, we continually creep toward . . . over-professionalism in our sports areas," Cotton said, adding that he sees the overpaying of

today's professional athletes as "as a continuation of a little creeping cancer that's evolved."

"I think there are a number of . . . sports hustlers out there because they have a vested interest financially in it," he added. "I just feel the kids should be able to sneak a little time in study."

OTHER TRUSTEES said they agreed that students should be encouraged to pay attention to academics, but said the issue was not one a school or association could or should mandate.

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