



## Police pursue chase question



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Three police chases: Three different results. During the past two weeks, there have been three incidents involving high-speed police pursuits in the area. They include:

- On Oct. 9, Farmington police

chased a man in a pickup truck after he sped away from a routine traffic stop on 10 Mile Road at 2:14 a.m. Police chased the truck down several streets and a patrol car was rammed as the pickup truck backed up on a dead-end street. The chase was called off as the truck sped east on Grand River. Livonia police later arrested a

man who was charged with fleeing and eluding.

■ On Oct. 11, a Farmington Hills woman and a Detroit woman were injured when a 1989 Dodge Aries driven by an armed robber crashed into their respective cars around 10 a.m. The assailant was being pursued by Redford police after an armed robbery of a nearby Radio Shack. The accident occurred at the intersection of Telegraph and Grand River.

■ On Oct. 20, Farmington police were involved in another high-speed pursuit that was called off, this one in-

volving a motorcycle.

The motorcycle approached speeds of 80 miles per hour after pulling away from an approaching patrol car on Freedom Road during a routine registration check. The rider was not apprehended.

Each incident might have had different — if not more tragic — outcomes.

If anything, though, they illustrate how split-second decisions by police whether or not to pursue someone

See CHASE, 2A

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**Gun policy:** A suicide and resulting lawsuit have people who sell guns rethinking their policies about who can buy one. /13A

## COUNTY NEWS

**Change at the top:** Farmington Hills' Richard Headlee — tax-cut advocate, former gubernatorial candidate and anathema to some Farmington school officials — has quit his everyday job as leader of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America. /5A

**Back in politics:** Will Bill Brodhead, now an area resident, make another try for political office? He sounds serious. /8A

## OPINION

**Council keepers:** Who deserves the votes in the Nov. 2 city council elections in Farmington and Farmington Hills? /20A

## SPORTS

**League champs:** Farmington Hills Mercy retained its title as Catholic League champion in girls cross country. /1B

**Roller skating:** Steven Findlay of Farmington competes this week in France for a world championship in men's figures. /1B

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## Shouldering the load



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Pump pumpkin:** Twelve-year-old Scott Rycerz of Farmington Hills loads up on pumpkins at his grandmother's five-acre patch on Eight Mile Road. Hundreds of the vegetables were available for carving, cooking or feeding to wildlife.

## Ins, outs of school search covered

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Farmington Board of Education received a crash course in how to conduct a superintendent search Tuesday. Now the hard part begins.

The board will sift through applications for the Farmington Public School District superintendent position. Applications have to be postmarked by Nov. 1. As of Wednesday morning, 37 people have applied.

Current superintendent Michael Flanagan is leaving Jan. 1 to become superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. His position is expected to be filled by the end of December.

Kara Funk of the Michigan Association of School Boards ushered board members through a workshop Tuesday. Her advice was practical and to the point.

Chemistry and gut reactions should not be overlooked, she said.

"We can have the most competent and qualified candidate," said Funk, who has helped conduct superintendent searches statewide. "If it's not a fit with the seven of you, it's not going to work."

For 3½ hours, Funk spelled out the dos and don'ts of a search.

She explained what to look for in written materials such as cover letters, resumes and references. She also provided tips on initial and second interviews as well as hammering out contracts.

The workshop is part of the overall assistance MASE is offering for the search. The board has contracted MASE, taking a more hands-on approach as opposed to hiring an outside search firm.

See SEARCH, 4A



Cathleen Webb

See CABLE, 4A

## Cable TV charges tuned in

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Council members may not have liked all the answers from MetroVision representatives concerning cable rates, but after an explanation and breakdown of charges, they had more understanding.

Council members still plan further study of the cable company's financial reports, but MetroVision vice

## HILLS

president and regional manager Tom Bjorklund said the company's financial reports would not be made public.

Bjorklund and general manager Bob McCann said Federal Communications Commission regulations have forced cuts in what the company can charge for some services, such as additional outlets.

Even though the company has recouped most of the money with new charges since Sept. 1 on such items as converters, overall monthly revenues are down by \$12,779.

"They've (FCC) taken away conveniences," McCann said.

McCann showed a comparison of rates with other area cable companies to show that MetroVision's were among the lowest, and were the lowest for those adding two premium channels to their basic service.

McCann also said the company added more than 20 channels to its basic service. The basic service rate is \$21.73 a month.

Nearly 90 percent of MetroVision customers rate the service they get as good to excellent, Bjorklund said.

But councilman Ben Marks, who chairs the Southwestern Oakland County Cable Commission, said the company does not have to charge for addressable converter boxes that help the company better market services such as premium channels and pay-per-view events.

Several council members also questioned the increased charge for broadcast basic cable, up from \$1 a month to \$10.62.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi asked why a 10-fold increase for broadcast basic, which has less than 400 takers out of about 33,000 customers in Farmington Hills, is necessary.

Attorney Neil Lelko, who specializes in cable issues and has been retained by the cable commission, said the company would have had to drastically cut rates to the rest of its customers if it did that, thereby costing the company in the neighborhood of \$150,000 a month.

## Thank you, Marie

Denise Gilme put her purse on the trunk of her car. A few minutes later, the absent-minded Farmington resident drove away — forgetting all about the purse.

Another motorist, a couple of cars behind Gilme, saw the purse bouncing along the road, but not where it came from. She stopped, got the purse and returned it.

The purse contained about \$80, Gilme's check-book, bank cards, photos, ID, "everything, my whole life," she said. The Good Samaritan, identified only as Marie from Livonia, refused the reward that Gilme offered.

"I hugged her and told her we needed a few more like her in this world," Gilme said.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Two more trees for Heritage

Two red oak trees were planted in Heritage Park recently to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Farmington becoming a village and Farmington Hills' 20 years as a city. A brief ceremony took place Oct. 18 in Heritage Park with officials from both cities on hand.

### Memory Lane

From the Oct. 29, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise: A special Farmington police detail was to be on

duty Halloween night to help curb vandalism, said James Tennant, city manager.

Few violations of the new hunting ban in Farmington Township have been reported, said Irving Yakes, township police officer.

Delos Hamlin of Farmington was elected chairman pro-tem of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. He had served on the board the last 12 years.

Steak dinner was advertised at 59 cents a pound and eggs at 69 cents a dozen at Farmington Meats on Grand River.

Short item: "Kindness in women, not their beautiful looks, shall win a man's love."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, faxed to 477-9722, or dropped off at the newspaper office.