



Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Forum on race: The subject was racism at a Farmington Hills forum. The solution may be talk. /3A

A new boss: Kevin Gushman is Farmington's new director of public services. /3A

Family doings: It'll be Family Night on Friday at the Mercy Center in Farmington Hills, and there'll be plenty to do. /4A

COUNTY NEWS

War of words: Michigan Education Association targets state legislators — including Farmington Hills' Jan Dolan — who voted for Gov. John Engler's school plan. And they're not happy about it. /5A

OPINION

Playing hardball: State Rep. Jan Dolan didn't like the treatment she received at the hands of a teacher-interest group. Welcome to hardball. /18A

SPORTS

Hoop tourney: North Farmington needed a win Tuesday over Walled Lake Western to reach the final game of the WLAA tournament. /1B



Grid playoffs: Harrison has a rematch with Northville in a Class A regional championship game Saturday. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT

Movies: Meet screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin, who makes his directorial debut with "My Life." /3C

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7 survive superintendent search



And now there are seven. The Farmington Board of Education has whittled the number of candidates for superintendent of schools to seven from 70.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Board of Education is in seventh heaven after narrowing the field to seven candidates in the search for a new superintendent.

Board members reviewed and screened 70 applications during the

past few weeks. Interviews start Tuesday, Nov. 16, and run through Friday, Nov. 19.

The following candidates will be interviewed:

- Joe Gonzales — superintendent of Bay City Public Schools.
- Margaret McMaster — assistant superintendent, instructional ser-

- vices for Northville Public Schools.
- C. Robert Masfield — superintendent of Berkley School District.
- Charles Muncatchy — superintendent of Holland West Ottawa Public Schools.
- Michael Shibley — superintendent of Rockford Public Schools.
- Thomas Shorkey — superintendent of East China School District.
- Youssef Yomtoob — superintendent of Ypsilanti Willow Run Community Schools.

"We're delighted and excited with the ones we had to choose from and the ones we've invited for interviews,"

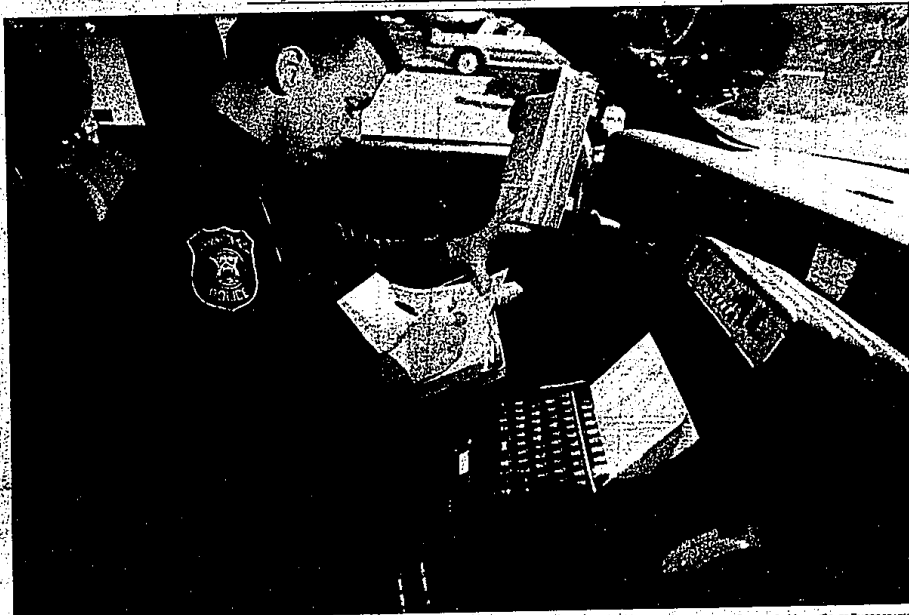
said board president Cathleen Webb. "On paper, they're highly qualified and highly recommended. It's going to be a tough decision."

One of the seven will be chosen by the end of December to lead the Farmington Public Schools, which has more than 10,000 students and 1,400 employees.

Current superintendent Michael Flanagan is leaving Jan. 1 to become the superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

See SEARCH, 2A

On patrol with the Farmington Hills police



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paperwork chores: In an equipment-laden squad car, Farmington Hills officer Al Patterson works on his nightly report near the end of his shift.

Hills street blues keep beat late at night

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It's a cool autumn Friday evening. Summer's lazy days have given way to faster-paced, nippy nights and Farmington Hills police officer Al Patterson patrols his familiar haunts in the southeast part of the city.

Patterson, a five-year veteran of

the force, drives his fully equipped cruiser, which includes a computer, south from headquarters at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake to resume his patrol. It's about 7 p.m. and the 28-year-old Westland resident is thinking about his good luck so far on this shift.

"I had to arrest a guy who is 6-foot-6 and 290 for felony spouse

abuse earlier this afternoon," he says with a pained expression on his youthful face. "He was drunk and upset."

Fortunately, Patterson, who is more like 6 feet and 175 pounds, puts his powers of verbal persuasion to good use and was able to take the man into the station. Patterson, who works out to stay in shape, is

prepared for physical confrontation, but doesn't court it.

Good thing. Duty Sgt. Dennis Green says the man found his cell confining and literally shook the cell block in a fit of displeasure.

These days, or nights, Patterson, a Garden City High graduate, is as-

See POLICE, 6A

Commission to reach out to families, children

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

After months of committee meetings, a boost from former Gov. George Romney and the support of fellow council members, Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates got her wish — a city Commission on Children and Families.

The unanimous resolution to create the committee came as a result of efforts by a special committee, headed by Bates, that studied unmet family needs in the community.

■ 'We knew where we wanted to go. We just weren't sure how to get there.'

Nancy Bates
Farmington Hills mayor

"We knew where we wanted to go," Bates said at Monday's city council meeting. "We just weren't sure how to get there."

The commission, which will have a subcommittee on children and families and on volunteerism, came about

in large part because of the efforts of the committee, which began meeting in April.

During that time the committee, which includes newly elected councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio, has already helped organize several events, in-

cluding the city's first Family Day in the Park in July and Volunteer Night last month, at which Romney spoke and more than 20 volunteer agencies were represented.

Council members Joanne Smith and Terry Sever credited Bates with pushing for the commission. The commission, whose composition and size are yet to be determined, will face a challenge in reaching out to families in a multi-cultural community such

See COMMISSION, 4A

'Scouting for Food'

The Cub Scouts of Wooddale Elementary School's Pack 318 are "Scouting for Food" these days.

They are collecting nonperishable food items for distribution to local food banks as part of the nationwide "Scouting for Food" program sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America.

The cubs will be distributing collection bags throughout the subdivisions surrounding Wooddale on Saturday, Nov. 13. They will return to collect the filled bags between 9 a.m. and noon a week later, Saturday, Nov. 20.

Calling all sports fans

Sports fans take note: The inaugural Super Sports Auction, featuring authentic gear from professional athletes, will be held be-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

ginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Ginopolis on the Grill restaurant on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Tickets for the event, which will benefit the Epilepsy Center of Michigan, are \$55 per person and include a dinner of ribs, chicken or trout.

Some authentic autographed items to be auctioned are game shoes from Detroit Lion Les Brown, a game jersey from Piston Joe Dumars, a hockey stick and T-shirt from Red Wing Bob Probert, and a photo plaque from former Boston Celtic Larry Bird.

Also ready for auction are tickets for a Red

Wing suite at Joe Louis Arena, and Red Wing, Piston and Detroit Grand Prix tickets and much more.

George Blaha, broadcaster of Detroit Piston basketball and Michigan State University football, will be the auctioneer and master of ceremonies.

Reservations for the limited seating event may be obtained by calling 351-7979.

Memory Lane

From the Nov. 12, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

According to figures released by the Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission, Farmington's population had increased by 20.4 percent over the last three years. Farmington Hills grew by 17.4 percent over the same period.