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FIFTY CENTS

IN THE PAPER TODAY

One year later: U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, whose Congressional district includes the Farmington area, talks about his first year in office. /3A

Giving spirit: Area organizations and service groups are helping people enjoy the holidays who otherwise might not. /7A

COUNTY NEWS

On guard: Oakland County Executive changes his corporation counsel appointment. /6A

OPINION

Walls 'n judges: A visit from an attorney got us thinking about the possibility of a third judgeship in the Farmington District Court. /10A

On the 'Wayne': Tedd Schneider, Farmington Hills resident and Observer columnist, tells just what he thinks of the "Wayne's World II" flap. /11A

SPORTS

High hopes: The hockey career of Farmington High grad Mark Velucci has been revived thanks to a last-second tryout with the Detroit Falcons of the Colonial Hockey League. Pro scouts say he's got a ways to go, but the NHL is not out of the question. /1B

Falcons rule: The Farmington High swim team was expected to be in the chase for the Western Lakes Relays crown Saturday. But it was not expected to win it. Guess what? The Falcons won it, for the first time ever. /1B

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Commission on families named



Members of the new Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families represent a wide range of expertise. The new commission will focus on expanding volunteer efforts to help families.

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

The new Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families will meet for the first time in January and begin the task of increasing volunteer efforts in the community and helping families in other ways.

Mayor Nancy Bates, who pushed for the creation, appointed Todd Lipa of Farmington's Special Olympics chapter to convene the 19-member group next month.

"She had called me and asked if I would be a member," Lipa said. "I'm not real sure of exactly what direction

we will be going, but I think we'll definitely be working on increasing volunteer efforts."

The commission members represent a wide area of expertise. Members are: Cathy Webb, president of the Farmington School Board; Lipa; 47th District Court Judge Mario Parker; Margot Linchinger of the multi-racial/multicultural committee; Dr. Wesley Brun, director of the Samaritan Counseling Center; Capt. Homer Smith of the Salvation Army; Sharon McDonald, educator; Joanna Ra-

tanatharathorn, Year 2000 Human Services; E. Albert Tzeel, a pediatrician at Botsford General Hospital; Jayne Wochomurka of the PTA; Steven Maltzman of the Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department; Mary Skeegan of the YNCA; three students, including one each from Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison High schools; one corporate representative; one representative of the Inter-Agency Council; and one representative from the Council of Homeowners Associations.

Getting a hug



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMDELL

Creative builder: Bea Endahl, a Farmington Place resident, gets a Christmas hug from housekeeper Donna Gillen. Endahl, 81, is a ceramicist, who created a village of 35 buildings, less than six inches in height. Below right is an architectural example from the village.

Hamlet building boomlet Ceramicist goes to town on village

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Bea Endahl, 81, is a city manager of sorts, overseeing a ceramic village containing 35 buildings.

Nine years ago, she began acquiring her property, piece by piece. She's named the town Wausau, but is considering a name change.

Endahl describes the town as being a combination of Currier & Ives and Edwardian style.

"When I moved into Farmington Place nine years ago, they had a kiln," Endahl said. "I started doing a little bit. This village was my own little project."

Her husband, Harry, now deceased, helped with the firing.

Endahl started her collection with a 20-window farmhouse, complete with a bay window. Now, there are carolers and alders in Endahl's community, as well as Scrooges and Marley. She also has a gristmill, firehouse, sweet shop and lighthouse.

Much of the town can light up

but Endahl concedes, "I don't have enough outlets."

Through the years, Bea was ever ready to produce ceramics for her friends and loved ones. She asked only to be reimbursed for the price of her materials.

She's made wreaths, bride and groom wedding cake tops and baby shoes.

Her grandsons have each received 26-piece Nativity sets trimmed with 23 karat gold as gifts. "A bottle of gold about the size of your thumb, costs \$17," she said.

Endahl makes frequent contributions to all four of her grandchildren.

"They probably say, 'Here comes Grandma with all her ceramics, where are we going to put it?'" she joked.

"I tried teaching ceramics, but they (students) were erratic in attendance," Endahl said.

By contrast, Endahl has never taken a ceramic class.



Three years ago, her village was displayed at St. John Lutheran Church on Gill Road in Farmington.

"It's been a rewarding hobby," she said. "I do it in spurts now."

Thieves clean out offices

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Thieves took away more than \$68,000 in computers, copy machines and other office equipment and, just to be Scrooges, they stole a small Christmas tree.

A piece of concrete was used to break out an 18-inch by 5-foot window on the east side of the building at 28104 Orchard Lake, north of 12 Mile, sometime between late Sunday night

BREAK-IN

and early Monday morning, police said. The culprits then kicked in doors to seven offices inside the building, grabbed a truckload's worth of office equipment and walked it out the rear door.

"The grinch even stole one of the office's small Christmas trees," said Farmington Hills Police Department Inspector Tom Godwin.

Hardest hit was Aulia Processing, which processes payrolls. A total of 13 Hewlett Packard Vectra computers worth \$2,000 each and 13 Samtron 14-inch color monitors worth \$1,000 each were stolen along with a \$4,000 Hewlett Packard printer.

Also hit were the office of attorney Howard Siegrist, whose Epson laser printer (\$2,000), Panasonic answering machine (\$200) and Panasonic telephone (\$100) were taken; Donald Moore and Associates where a \$1,000 Canon copy machine, \$500 Brother copier, \$3,500 computer, \$300 12-inch color TV, \$300 VCR, \$100 Panasonic phone, \$200 portable cassette player and another \$2,000 computer were stolen; Magar and Co. where a Dell computer (\$2,539), another Dell computer (\$1,291), a \$1,000 Canon fax machine, \$100 tape player, \$1,500 Hewlett Packard printer, \$1,515 in software and \$100 Hewlett Packard calculator were stolen; and Clairrol Inc. where a \$4,000 Dell computer, \$1,500 NEC monitor and \$1,500 Hewlett Packard laser printer were stolen. Two other businesses, Getchell and Associates and Midwest Computer, were broken into and ransacked, but nothing was taken.

Police have not determined if the break-in was related to a similar one at an office building on Eight Mile and Farmington Dec. 5-6, where 14 offices were broken into, but nothing was taken.

"Generally, once someone breaks into an office, they'll take what they can," Godwin said, adding that with such a stock of goods (estimated at about \$68,500) there was no telling where the crooks might try to fence it. "Somebody's buying those computers," he said. "Computers, fax machines and telephones are hot items."

See BREAK-IN, 3A

Take care at ATMs

Holiday shoppers will undoubtedly pay more visits than usual to the automated teller machines this season, and with good reason — ATMs offer customers 24-hour access to their bank accounts seven days a week. Unfortunately, along with increased use of ATMs comes the possibility of increased crime, said Cathy Hoffman, vice president of the Farmington area's Metrobank. To ensure against fraudulent use of an ATM card or other crimes at the ATM, Hoffman advises customers to use some common sense.

Here are some safety tips from the American Bankers Association:

- Have your card ready and be prepared to use the ATM immediately.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

- Shield the screen and keyboard to keep others from seeing your personal identification number or your transaction amount.
- Keep your personal identification number a secret and never write it down anywhere, especially on your ATM card.
- Put your cash away immediately.
- Always take your receipt with you.
- When using an ATM at night, make sure the area is well-lighted and free of obstructions. Take a friend along if possible.
- If your card is lost or stolen, contact the bank as soon as possible. This limits your liability and

helps to avoid unnecessary holiday headaches.

Let the red stuff flow!

An American Red Cross blood drive will be 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Matt Brady's Tavern in the Holiday Inn of Farmington on Grand River, just west of Halsted Road.

Call Diane Risko at 477-4000 for an appointment. Blood donations are usually down during the holidays, so the need is great in January, Red Cross officials say.

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



Discover where Santa is on Christmas Eve by listening to one of Santa's elves being interviewed by your hometown newspaper. Information updated every half-hour. Just call 953-2031 between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve.