

Wishes from page A1

trindy and cool in downtown. (Starbucks?) That would be very cool, or maybe a Mongolian steakhouse. Even a tattoo parlor."

■ **Skip Rosenthal, owner, Bopks Abound, downtown Farmington:** "I'd like to see downtown businesses prosper, something that extended hours and more parking might help achieve. But the latter is a tough problem to solve. I don't have a solution. People say, 'What do you want to do, chop down houses?'"

■ **Bob Maxfield, superintendent, Farmington Public Schools:** "My wish would be that more people become aware that this is a truly unique suburban community where diversity and opportunity are really valued."

■ **Linda Enberg, Farmington Board of Education:** "I wish that this continues to be a good place to raise children."

■ **James Myers, principal, Farmington High School:** "One of the things I wish for is for all the (bond issue) construction projects to go well and that we can still run school around them easily."

ly."

■ **Abe Aon, owner, Aon's Hair Salon in Farmington Hills:** "I'd like to see Farmington Hills do something about Orchard Lake (Road), widen it. We need a main street for Farmington Hills."

■ **Rev. Monsignor Walter A. Hurley, pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Farmington:** "It is my hope that 1998 will be a time of special blessings for all. Family and community values are very strong in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area. My hope is that these values will continue to be made even stronger."

■ **Rev. Mark Jensen, minister, North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills:** "I'd like to see the people of Farmington and Farmington Hills demonstrate their appreciation for the many community organizations that help provide a good lifestyle and services to our communities by participating in and contributing to them."

■ **Judy Downey, executive director, Farmington Downtown Development Authority:** "My No. 1 wish, no question about it, is that every (retail) lease space in downtown Farmington is occupied."

pled."

■ **Richard Marinucci, fire chief, city of Farmington Hills:** "I wish our proposed paramedic program takes off without a hitch. He said hopes are for the program to begin sometime in the spring."

■ **Aldo Vagnoni, mayor, city of Farmington Hills:** "I wish a prosperous and healthy 1998 for all our residents, their relatives and their friends."

■ **Daniel Hobbs, city manager, city of Farmington Hills:** "An additional nine holes for our municipal golf course, more federal and state help in fixing the roads and a reduction in cable television rates by Time Warner."

■ **Marion Prover, Farmington Area Lions Club:** "It's to make sure those children that are so disabled (can) go on field trips. She said children from the Cleverdale Developmental Center have benefited in the past from donations made by clubs and organizations and that she'd like to see the generosity continue."

■ **Gary Goss, director, Farmington Public Safety:** He listed four goals: have more citizen involvement to resolve community issues; begin renovation of the public safety building; change over to the new county information technology system, CLEMIS; and

work toward funding to upgrade obsolete communication equipment."

■ **Dan Potter, officer, Farmington Public Safety:** "I'd like to see maybe a turnaround in the use of drugs and alcohol by some of our youth," adding that most teenagers don't fall into that category and "are just super kids."

■ **David Walsh, administrator, 47th District Court:** That the court and the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils "continue to work together to ensure court services are accessible, fair, safe and timely and that public trust and confidence in the court as an institution continues to grow." He also would like to see the community continue "to invest wisely in its schools, parks and infrastructure to ensure long-term stability."

■ **Carolyn Mahalak, assessment/testing coordinator, Farmington schools:** "Let's continue with the fine work of the students, staff and parents. To take the nice cooperation we've had this last year and build on it."

■ **JoAnne McShane, Farmington City Council:** "Peace, good health, and that the city continues to be blessed with wonderful, efficient employees and with such fine residents."

Oil from page A1

byproduct of oil/gas exploration. West Bay and a state Department Environmental Quality officials said there is no more than a trace of H₂S, which is not harmful. The Farmington Hills site is well south of what is considered the "sour well" line.

City officials contend they need more proof, noting the exact amount of H₂S is not known until the site is actually drilled.

Before it would reconsider the application, city officials said there would have to be an atmospheric dispersion model to demonstrate how an accidental release of hydrogen sulfide would mix with other gases, an H₂S containment plan and an analysis of the pipeline carrying gas and oil to Plymouth Township.

"I've been around long enough to see some fall-safe systems fail - one was called Three Mile Island," Hobbs said. "We're not going to casually approve anything like this that can carry a risk of danger to the community."

The city should ask an independent firm to evaluate the potential risks, Gottschalk said. "To evaluate this ... it would take them two hours and they

would come back and say this is perfectly safe for your community," the West Bay official added.

Such a study is up to the exploration company to provide, Hobbs said.

Many mineral rights leases from property owners are contingent on council approval. Others like removal of the parsonage home on First Church of the Nazarene property are subject to expire, Gottschalk said.

"We can't meet the requirements of the city without that removal," he said. "So we do have contracts out there, if we don't renew them, we can't perform. We would ask the court for inverse condemnation."

West Bay reached an out-of-court settlement with Novi to drill in a zoned residential area. West Bay has well heads in Novi, Kensington Township and in Kensington Park.

Gottschalk is confident the courts will agree with his company's position.

"The way we feel the court would find is, 'Hey these people have complied 100 percent with your ordinance. Why didn't you issue them their drilling permits?'"

Farmington Observer
(ISSN 1574-6425)
Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes in Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham MI 48009-0910. Telephone 544-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
ONE YEAR (in Oakland County) \$42.00
Home Delivery Service
Newspapers \$42.00
Carriers \$42.00
Mail \$42.00

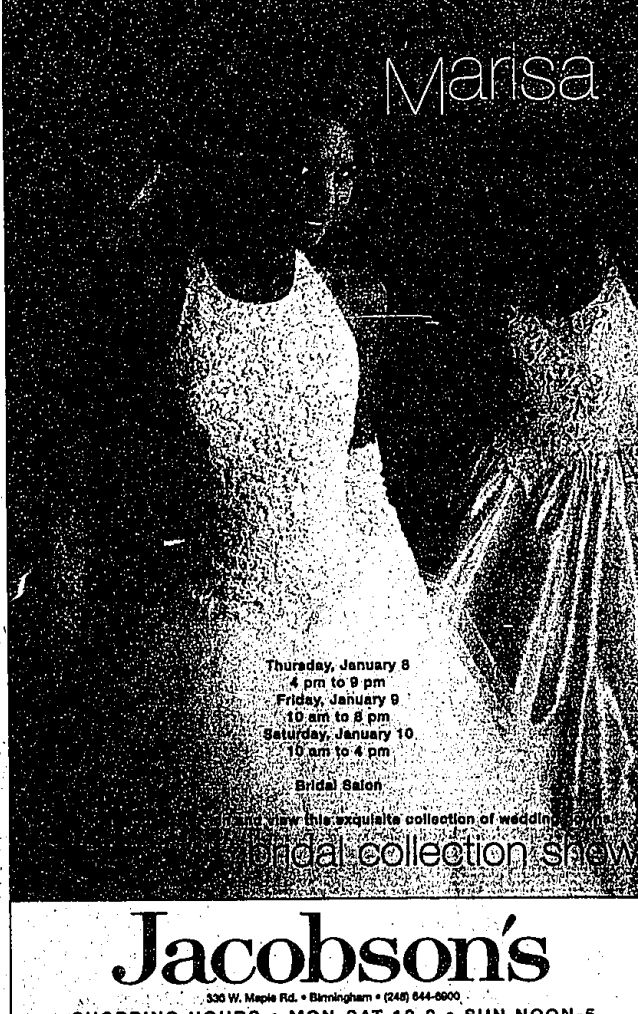
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, 3341 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335 (517-4555). The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

DENTISTRY WITHOUT FEAR!
"TWILIGHT SLEEP"
INTRAVENOUS SEDATION
LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES
MARTHA ZINDERMAN, R.N., DDS
(248)478-2110

READER SERVICE
HOW TO REACH US
Newsroom: 248-477-5450
Newsroom fax: 248-477-9722
Nightline/Sports: 313-953-2141
Reader Comment Line: 313-953-2042
Classified Advertising: 313-591-0900
Display Advertising: 313-591-2300
Home Delivery: 248-901-4716
Cable TV Weekly: 313-953-2190
HOMELINE: 313-953-2020
Open houses and new developments in your area.
Free real estate seminar information.
Current mortgage rates.
CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 313-591-0900
Place classified ads at your convenience.
CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS
OAKLAND COUNTY: 248-901-4716
If you have a question about home delivery or if you did not receive your paper, please call one of our customer service representatives during the following hours:
SUNDAY: 8 AM - NOON
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Request subscriptions at your convenience.
FAX LINE: 313-953-2288
You can use a MasterCard, or Visa to access the following information from our classified ads. This service is available by noon Wednesday and Friday:
Item No. 9402: Looking for a place to rent or someone to share an apartment with? Get a listing of our rental classifieds. Cost: \$5.95.
Item No. 9800: Recreation: boats, motorcycles, campers, airplanes, etc. Cost: \$5.95.
Item No. 9822: Vehicles: Used trucks, vans and all makes of automobiles. Cost: \$39.95.
O&E On-Line: 248-644-1100
You can access On-Line with just about any communications software—PC or Macintosh. On-Line users can:
Send and receive unlimited email.
Access all features of the Internet—Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.
Read electronic editions of the Observer & Eccentric.
Chat with users across town or across the country.
If you need help signing on to our service, just call the O&E On-Line Hotline: 313-953-2266
PHOTO REPRINTS: 313-591-0500
Order reprints of pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers:
Provide the publication date, page number, and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past 6 months.
\$20 for the first print; \$7.50 for each additional print paid in advance (check or credit card).
The Farmington Observer
313-591-0500

AGENDAS
Farmington City Council
8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty Street, 474-5500
Agenda items include:
■ Recognition of Farmington Public Safety Department Fire Response.
■ Proclamation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Week, Jan. 19-25.
■ Consider purchase of patrol vehicles.
■ Consideration of approval to proceed with construction bid documents for public safety office renovation.
■ Consider proposed 1998 goal statement.
■ Adoption of council meetings schedule for 1998.
Farmington Downtown Development Authority
8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty Street, 474-5500
Agenda items include:
■ Business recruitment report.
■ Executive director's report.
■ Approval of draft regarding 10-year Central Business District Improvement Plan.

Farmington School Board
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6
Lewis Schulman Administration Building
32500 Shiawassee, 489-3300
Agenda items include:
■ Recognition of Farmington Hills Police Department and Board of Education.
■ Recommendations from the ice hockey committee.
■ Approval of 1997-98 budget amendments.
■ Facilities discussion follow-up.



Thursday, January 8
4 pm to 9 pm
Friday, January 9
10 am to 8 pm
Saturday, January 10
10 am to 4 pm
Bridal Salon

View this exquisite collection of wedding dresses in our bridal collection show.

Jacobson's

330 W. Maple Rd. • Birmingham • (248) 644-8600
SHOPPING HOURS • MON-SAT 10-9 • SUN NOON-5

Stores from page A1

store also carries, did best.

Speaking of "stuffed," Weight Watchers Group Inc. of Farmington Hills, a leading weight-reduction business, reported the September-December quarter was its "best in three years and we're anticipating a wonderful year next year," said Florine Mark, president.

Mark, who also is a recent appointee to the U.S. Federal Reserve board, attributed that to consumer confidence, the new Weight Watchers "1-2-3 Success" program and the diet-pill industry's misuses during 1997.

With consumer confidence, fueled by the bullish stock market, at its highest since 1969, she said, people are less stressed and more into health-conscious.

Robert P. Heinrich, president of Metrobank in Farmington Hills and Farmington, said more people working and earning year-end bonuses, plus savings and stock investment increases, helped reduce consumer-borrowing requests at year's end. "People are less dependent on credit to finance their Christmas buying," he said.

But overall, business has been stable. "Not a blockbuster year, but better than usual," he said.

Fred Steinkopf of Steinkopf Nursery said Christmas tree sales - particularly the bigger trees - were up "actually better than in a number of years" while sales of garlands were down, as were sales of larger wreaths.

"We were out of big trees - the 12- to 16-footers - five days after Thanksgiving," he said. He said sales also were up at the end of the year for big live trees for planting in yards.

"'Pretty good' as opposed to 'great' is how Paul Goodman, general manager of Benchmark Outdoor Outfitters in Farmington described his business. The weather - with 70-degree readings on Nov. 1 - kept coat-and-glove sales down, but "it was a pretty amazing year for cross country ski," which he attributed to the store's broad selection of styles.

Dave Cornwall, owner with wife Joyce of the Village Mall in downtown Farmington, said the holiday season was "very good" for the merchants they spoke with.

Part of that was due to sales of Beanie Babies. Some merchants told of having as many as 40-50 people lined up in the hallways waiting to buy the popular stuffed toy," he said.

And the mall is near capacity - only one 400-foot space is available, he noted.

But the best business report for the year came from Susan Dubin, business manager of Dubin Optometric Clinic in Farmington and newest member of the Downtown Development Authority.

The year was "outstanding," she said, adding "every year for us has been an improvement. Farmington is home and family to us."