

# Farmington Observer

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## TODAY

**Heartfelt:** A Redford woman becomes one of the first patients to receive a heart transplant at the Michigan Institute for Heart Failure and Transplant Care at Botsford Hospital. /A4

**Here, froggie:** If you are interested, your help is needed to count toads and frogs. /A9

## OPINION

**A try:** It's time to give block scheduling a try at North and Harrison high schools. /A14

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Futures:** Farmington High School offers a new motivational program for students. /B1

**Chat:** Tina Shemtoob talks about eating disorders. /B1

## REAL ESTATE

**Showing a home:** Electronic lock boxes are a higher-tech convenience. /F1

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## Mayor opposes tower

■ The majority of the Farmington Hills City Council disagrees with the mayor over a telephone tower that a church wants painted white and with a cross.



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.hometown.net

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi is cross with a cellular tower request that would include the Christian symbol on top.

His Farmington Hills City Council colleagues don't agree, saying they would otherwise approve the 120-foot antenna to be placed at First Church of Nazarene on Haggerty Road. However, respecting the mayor's wishes that the matter be tabled, the council delayed a public hearing until March 15.

At Monday's meeting, AT&T Wireless asked for a certificate of need as required under the city's cellular tower ordinance.

Vagnozzi chafed, especially after an AT&T Wireless attorney asked for a waiver that would allow the tower to be white and have a cross on top. Under ordinance, towers have to be gray.

Church of Nazarene officials asked for the cross, said John Riley, AT&T Wireless attorney. Riley declined to say how much AT&T Wireless is paying the church to erect the tower.

A cross makes sense for the tower, a church trustee said.

"It's a very simple cross; it's not intrusive," said Todd Hutchins, First Church of the Nazarene trustee. "The attention is to indicate a cross since it's on church property."

Hutchins said church officials are willing to meet and talk with the mayor over his concerns.

Churches have nontaxable status, the mayor said.

"In exchange, they should operate in a non-

Please see TOWER, A7

## Black History Month



STAFF PHOTO BY GILL HESLER

**Celbrate:** LaRon Williams entertained students with song and story as Black History Month was studied and celebrated in February.

## Kids celebrate with music

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oe.hometown.net

Through LaRon Williams' energetic mix of traditional African music and folklore tales, Wooddale Elementary School pupils snared more than just another Black History Month lesson.

They learned something about life, noted Wooddale principal Lasenia Jones, "universal messages that they can apply to everyday living."

Such as making good decisions and being sensitive to other people's needs.

"It was there for Black History Month, but he didn't believe the point," Jones said Monday about Williams' performances earlier this month. "One of the things he tried to do was make the stories he told universal in terms of the moral. When you start something, make sure you finish it."



Learning: Soore Akande and Bianca Jarbou listen to LaRon Williams' stories.

Please see HISTORY, A5

## Quotable notables highlight address

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.hometown.net

Only at the annual State of the Cities Breakfast would William Shakespeare and Winston Churchill turn up.

Their appearance was in word only as city and school officials gave glowing progress reports, quoting those notable

figures Tuesday during the annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce sponsored event.

Farmington Public Schools, Farmington and Farmington Hills city representatives said they are prepared for the next century, including any Y2K problems.

The event at the William Costick

Activities Center allows officials to extol previous accomplishments and lay out plans, which ranged from eloquent to humorous.

Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield termed 1999 as "They all count," which means providing opportunity for all students.

"To succeed is to unleash of human

potential a level never imagined," Maxfield said. "... To fail, however, is to create an increasingly polarized society that will consume a disproportionate share of its resources to law enforcement, prisons and all sorts of reactive interventions."

Maxfield gave an example of two sets

Please see ADDRESS, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY SHERIDAN LEHNER

**Honored:** From left, music teachers Kay DeLuca, Carl Gippert, Preston Brown have received state and regional accolades for their work.

## High notes 3 teachers honored

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oe.hometown.net

Music is a curriculum staple in Farmington Public Schools, not an extra. It is why teachers such as Preston Brown, Kay DeLuca and Carl Gippert continue to garner state and regional accolades.

All three were honored at the Midwestern Conference on School Vocal and Instrumental Music in Ann Arbor, having been selected by their peers:

■ Brown, vocal music teacher at East Middle School, was picked by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association to conduct the Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass Honors Choir in 2001 at Hill Auditorium.

■ DeLuca, elementary instrumental teacher at six schools and a 33-year veteran of the district, was elected "String Teacher of the Year" by the Michigan Chapter of the American String Teachers Association.

Please see NOTES, A7

## Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy wins Class C license

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@oe.hometown.net

For several years, patrons at Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy in Farmington have inquired about enjoying fine wine with their elegant meals, said owner Doris Lovill.

"They'll soon have that chance."

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission last week notified Lovill that her entry on Grand River will become the second downtown Farmington restaurant to receive a Class C liquor license, as part of a 1996 program designed to promote economic growth in Michigan Downtown Development

Authorities. Luigi's Trattoria was granted a license in early 1998.

"We're very excited," said Lovill, who plans on expanding business hours to include by-reservation-only dinners five nights a week. "We think the Tea Cozy is the best kept secret in Farmington."

A gourmet wine list soon will be made available to customers, something they've "expressed an interest in," said Lovill.

Until now, Mrs. Lovill's Tea Cozy, which features linen tablecloths, roses and music along with fine food, has

Please see COZY, A6

## Cities join forces on cable

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.hometown.net

By formally asking Time Warner for a proposal, cable officials are banking on a better - if not a quicker - deal.

On Monday, Farmington Hills and Novi city councils joined Farmington in passing a resolution to ask the cable operator for a proposal to renew an expired franchise agreement.

Time Warner has 60 days to respond. The original 15-year franchise agreement expired two years ago. Since then, Time Warner has been providing cable service under terms of the old contract.

SWOCC is still not ruling out that a franchise agreement can be reached informally.

Cities that go the formal route, "usually end up better than when you start," said John Donohue, city attorney. SWOCC is also encouraged by a recent 15-year deal reached between Southfield and MediaOne.

In their request to Time Warner for a proposal, SWOCC outlined a series of community needs, which includes more community channels, Internet access, increased channel capacity and access to TV equipment.

If Time Warner doesn't adequately address those needs, which residents brought up during a January public hearing, SWOCC can deny renewal.

Talks bogged down in spring last year. SWOCC and Time Warner officials point the finger at each other.

Please see CABLE, A8

## Brock earns himself a new 3-year contract

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.hometown.net

In six months, Steve Brock smiled a lot, parted with a few jokes and efficiently ran a city of 80,000 people.

By being himself, Brock earned himself a three-year contract as Hills city manager.

Brock succeeded Dana Hobbs, who resigned to become city manager in West Covina, Calif., in August. Farmington Hills City Council appointed then assistant city manager Brock to a year term with a six-month review.

Brock, 39, passed the test. City council approved the three-year contract extension at Monday's meeting. His current contract pays \$106,000.

"I really didn't feel any pressure," Brock said. "I approached it the same way I would have if I had a long term contract."

In the short term, Brock hired Dave Boyer and Mary Moultrup as Special Services and Human Resources directors respectively.

Please see BROCK, A7



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