



## State liquor commission chairwoman remembered

BY TRACY BIRKENHAUER  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan Liquor Control Commission Chairwoman and local resident Jacquelyn Stewart died Monday from a brain aneurysm. She was 69.

Stewart had a long history in politics. She became chairwoman of the liquor commission in 1997. She was an administrative commissioner before that, starting in 1989.

As a political science major at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, she gained some insight into politics and government. She was graduated from Oakland County Police Academy and was a former investigator with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for more than 16 years.

Please see REMEMBERED, A7



New queen: Angela Corsi, 18, of Farmington Hills, was crowned Wednesday as Miss Farmington/Oakland County 2000, held for the first time in the Civic Theatre. Leslie Reinbold, her predecessor, pins the tiara in place.

## Soaring prices spur thefts at gas pumps

BY JONI HUBBED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbred@homecomm.net

Higher prices at local gas pumps may start to come down at the end of this week, according to a spokesperson for Mobil Oil company.

According to David Bailey, public affairs director, repairs to a pipeline in Jackson County got gasoline flowing into the metro area Friday, but spot outages and prices in excess of \$2 a gallon were expected to continue through the weekend.

"We're doing everything we can," he said. "Supplies are very short."

Pump handles were covered at gas stations on 12 and 13 Mile roads in Farmington Hills last week, after operators simply ran out of gas.

When asked whether the shortages contributed to soaring prices, Bailey said, "Price is set by supply and demand. So you can draw your own conclusions."

Police believe continuing high prices may lead to an increase in gas-related thefts. Hills Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus has already seen more reports of people who drive off without paying for their gasoline purchases.

"I've been noticing there's a couple of fail-to-pay cases almost every morning," he said. "We're definitely going to see an increase in that. Typically, they're younger people or people with not enough



money."

Gas stations experiencing drive-offs may start to require customers to pre-pay, Nebus said. Some already require pre-payment after dark.

Hills police are also investigating two cases in which thieves siphoned gasoline from parked trucks. A construction company and a car dealership both reported the thefts earlier this month.

In the first instance, someone driving past the

Please see GAS, A7

## Hills police seek driver in fatal accident

Farmington Hills police are asking the driver who struck a 39-year-old man on Nine Mile near Shinwassee late Monday to turn himself in. Because poor lighting may be a contributing factor, police plan to study the roadway.

BY JONI HUBBED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbred@homecomm.net

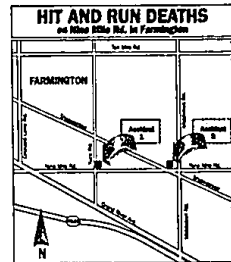
Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer made a plea Tuesday for the driver of a vehicle that killed a 39-year-old Hills man to come forward.

### HIT-AND-RUN

"I can't emphasize enough, it's in the best interests of this person to come forward now," Dwyer said. "It will make a big difference."

Steven Cron was struck and killed at 11:47 p.m. on Monday, June 19, on Nine Mile Road near Shinwassee. Witnesses reported a black sport utility vehicle was traveling at or near the posted speed limit. Dwyer said the pedestrian may have been on medication and wandered into the roadway.

Cron's death is the second hit-and-



run fatality in this area in 14 months. Kathleen McKeon died in April of last year as she crossed Nine Mile Road

Please see FATAL, A5

## IN THE PAPER TODAY

### OPINION

**Opportunity:** Karen Bolen, co-chair of the Multicultural-Multiracial Council, speaks out against Shriners' parade acts. /A11

### INDEX

Apartments/H1  
At Home/D  
Automotive/J5  
Classified/G,H,I  
Classified  
Index/G8  
Crossword/G8  
Entertainment/E1

HomeTown  
Life/B1  
Jobs/H4  
Obituaries/B8  
Opinions/A12-13  
Real Estate/F1  
Service Guide/H12  
Sports/C1

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## Library director lauded

BY JONI HUBBED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbred@homecomm.net

The awards and honors crowded onto the wall of Bev Papal's office at the Farmington Community Library got a little more company recently.

Papal learned she was named among the recipients of Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program's 2000 Professional Service Award.

According to Nancy Becker Johnson, Program Assistant Director, the award acknowledges alumni who have made "significant and sustained contributions to the Michigan library community, over long-standing careers."

In remarks made at a reception in honor of this year's recipients, Johnson said Papal is especially known for her work developing library staff to assume better and more responsible positions.

"Active in her own community, as well as her profession," she said, "Bev has served as a guide and mentor to library information students, as well as beginning and senior librarians."

Yoon-Jung Shimamura, a Hills resident and library science student,



Library Director Beverly Papal

knows first-hand about Papal's work with future librarians.

A Wayne State student, she had no library experience when she started her first semester last year. Her professor suggested she find a mentor, and a short time later, she met Papal, who

Please see PAPAL, A10

## Lack of information prompts dissension over water/sewer rates

BY JONI HUBBED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbred@homecomm.net

Leaving a few unanswered questions, Farmington Hills City Council members voted Monday night to approve changes in water and sewer rates.

Questions about minimum billings and significant changes in the rate components prompted councilwoman Vicki Barnett to vote against both a water rate increase and a cut in sewer rates, while councilman Chris McRae opposed the water rate.

"The problem is the rates are being set June 19 effective July 1, and we don't have time to get additional numbers," McRae said. "I feel hamstrung. So the only thing I can do is say no."

See related story about Farmington rates, page A5

Jean Barrett, assistant to the director of public services, explained several factors affect the water and sewer rate calculations. The city contracts with Detroit Water and the Oakland County Drain Commission, rather than establishing its own water and sewer departments.

A 35-cent increase in Detroit water rates, coupled with financing a new water meter reading program, led to a hefty \$1.23 rate hike proposal. However, the county drain commission suggested using the interest earnings from the city's water supply

Please see RATES, A5