

# Farmington Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 114 years

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Year: The secret to weight-loss success is often in the mind. Read helpful suggestions from Weight Watchers and Bots-



sections in Michigan

ford Hospital's new Solutions program. See Home-Town Life on Page C-5.

#### Murder conspiracy trial delayed

The trial date in the murder-for-hire case of defendant Lisa McIntosh again has been pushed back. According to Oakland County Cir-cuit Court spokeswoman Libby Evans, the case was adjourned by attorney request from Dec. 15 until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 6. The lat-est adjournment followed one-requested by defense attorneys in October. Originally, the case was assigned

October.
Originally, the case was assigned to Oakland Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper. But with Cooper's November election to the Michigan Court of Appeals, the McIntosh case will be tried by another judge. Cooper's final day on the bench in Pontiac is Fri-

day on the bench in Pontiae is Friday.

"Once she won the election she was
not going to be able" to preside over
the trial, said Gregory Townsend, the
Oakland County assistant prosecutor
assigned to the case. "She wasn't
even doing guilly pleas because she
was not going to be around to do the
sentencings. She also took herself off
of criminal cases, replem with it. The
new judge will have to try it."

McIntosh, a Westland resident, is
westling trial on a felony charge of
conspiracy to commit murder. She
was bound over for trial by 47th District Judge Frederick Harris during a

Please see TRIAL, AS

#### INDEX

At Home/C Automotive/HB Classified/E,F,G,H Classified Index/Q2 Crossword/03

HomeTown Life/C5 Apartments/G4 Jobs/Q5 Opinions/A6-7 Real Estate/02 Service Guide/H2 Entertainment/B1 Sports/D1







life-saving award from the Farming-ton Hills Fire Depart-ment Mon-day night, for the quick action he took when his father collapsed

November.

Lifesaver: Six-year-old Kevin

Penny will receive a life-saving

# **Quick-thinking**

# Hills boy helps save dad's life

By Joni Hubred STAFF WRITER

Levin Penny and his father, which was a been common to the call th

up early to play with Kyle's new toys, and Mark joined them, apparently not realizing he was growing more and more ill.

Mark doesn't have any memory from six to nine, as his glucose was dropping. This wife, Jeanette said.

The that insidious part of the disease.

ease." Mark was diagnosed with diabetes before the Pennys married. Their children have always known Dad takes insulin shots twice a day and can't eat sweets.

On that Sunday morning, they learned what happens when Dad's blood sugar plummets to dangerously low levels.

Jeanette was in a guest bedroom helping her sister, who was visiting from England.

"Kevin came in and got me right away. He said, 'I tried to wake Daddy up. He fainted. I can't get him up." Jeanette recalled.

At first, she thought Mark might be playing a game with the kids. But when she saw him prone on the kitchen floor, blood flowing from his mouth, Jeanette knew her husband was in trouble.

She dialed 9-1-1, and emergency help arrived within minutes, Mark didn't regain consciousness until

Please see KEVIN, AB

## Craft store is on the move

The owner of downtown Farmington retailer Deb's Crafte is planning on retailer Deb's Crafte is planning on shutting down her Grand River store and operating a streamlined business out of her home.

"It was a hard decision to make, believe me," said Deb Watson, who split the last five years based out of two different locations downtown.

Watson is now conducting a half-off sale of most of her store's inventory and will end her stay as of March I, when her lease with Farmington: Holding Co. runs out.

After that, she will work out of her Farmington home, creating custommade gift baskets and teddy bears. She intends to keep working with several corporate clients and taking orders via the Internet.

An announcement of Wc'son'a move was made during Wednesday's Farmington Downtown Development Authority meeting.

In the report from DDA Executive Director Judy, Downey, she described Watson as "a key retailer for going out and getting the job done" in the downtown retail district.

The combination of high rent and long hours took a toll on Watson, who now wants to attend real easte classes and even take a vacation once in a while.

while.

Also, the last few years have been tough on her from a health standpoint, having to overcome a bout with

# Automatic weapon used in Hills holdup

Farmington Hills Police say two masked men, armed with a semi-automatic weapon, storned into Fizza Hut on 10 Mile Road and left with nearly \$1,400 from the store's safe. According to a police report, they hit the store just before closing time.

The suspects walked in shortly after 10 p.m. Friday evening, brandished the weapon and ordered air employees and the store manager to the floor. Asked whether they wanted to have the registers opened, the thieves said they wanted to get into the safe.

An employee opened it for them, and they placed the cash in a blue and white plastic bag. One of the suspects

pulled a nearby phone from the wall.
Employees also told police that one of
the suspects slipped, fell and dropped
what appeared to be a second weapon,
a.38 calibor handgun. He quickly
picked it up again as they made their
secone.

escape.

Employees said the two men left on foot. There was no sign of a getaway vehicle.

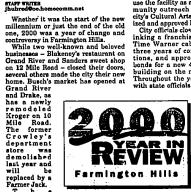
Both were black, between 6-feet-11 and 6-feet tall, with thin build. One was wearing a red FUBU shirt, a face mask, blue pants and black skull cap; the other was dressed in a red and black swenter and black pants and wore a scarf to hide his face.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call the Hills Police Department, 473-9660.

### Election, zoning, I-275 were big news stories in the Hills

By JONI HUBERD STAFF WRITER jhubred@oe.homecomm.net

replaced by a Farmer Jack.



Farmer Jack
The
streetscape on
Grand River changed dramatically
with the demolition of an abandoned
boat yard and several other businesss, to make way for a proposed new
shopping center. The city's first tattoo
parior opened in April, in a strip mall
near 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.
The show went on for the Farmington Players, who moved into temporary quarters at Borders while their
historic barn is being replaced by a

new theater building. Their plans to use the facility as a base for more community outreach fits well with the city's Cultural Arts Master Plan, finalized and approved late in the year. City officials closed out their year by inking a franchise agreement with Time Warner cable, ending nearly three years of contentious negotiations, and approving plans to sell bonds for a new 47th. District Court building on the municipal campus. Throughout the year, they struggled with state officials over local contributions for tax abatements and successful to the catablishment of a youth on the contribution of the contribution of the contribution of the contributions for tax abatements and successful the contributions for tax abatements and some contributions for tax abatements and some contributions of the co

Kinchen and
Areej AlJawahri, both of
whom attended the 2000 National
League of Cities conference in Boston.
Kinchen and Al-Jawahri were also
elected governor of Boys and Girls
State, a mock government event sponsored by the American Legion.
Students from Harrison, Farmington
and North Farmington High Schools

#### Fire and ice not nice



Hot spots: Farmington Hills firefighters battled a blaze that caused \$150,000 in damage to a home in the 29000 block of Grayfield early Tucsday afternoon. No one was at home when the fire started; investigators are still trying to determine the cause.