

# FARMINGTON Observer

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## Turkey talk

Experts answer  
questions  
about  
preparing the  
holiday bird.  
B1



## Race for Hills mayor under way?

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills city elections are a year away and at least one council member is making it known she plans to run for mayor.

Council's Vicki Barnett said she agrees it's too early to start a campaign, but there's no point in hiding her intentions. The mayor's position will be

vacated next year by longtime council member and current Mayor Nancy Bates, who will complete her two-term limit.

Bates said she does not plan to run for the council. So far, only Councilman Jon Grant has hinted at a run for the



Barnett



Grant

including Chris Cummins, vice president of the Farmington Area Republican Club.

"Yes, people have asked me to run and my stated goal is to find the strongest Republican for that office," Cummins said.

Grant, who has three more years on his council term, said, "One reason I would consider it is I'd be a good person (for the seat) so that office would not become more than what it is intended to be."

Grant pointed out the city's weak-mayor form means the

post is ceremonial. The job typically entails conducting city council meetings and attending functions as the city's official representative.

"I don't want to see it turn into a political position," Grant said.

If Grant chose to run as mayor and lost, he would not lose his remaining term on the council.

PLEASE SEE RACE, A6

## Our Towns

### Holiday benefit

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills is now selling Christmas cards to benefit the children of the center.



The cards are available in the lobby of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center located at 27400 W. 12 Mile. The cost is \$10 for a box of 18. For more information, call (248) 626-1527 or contact Betty Jones at (734) 421-7306.

### Shabbat Rocks

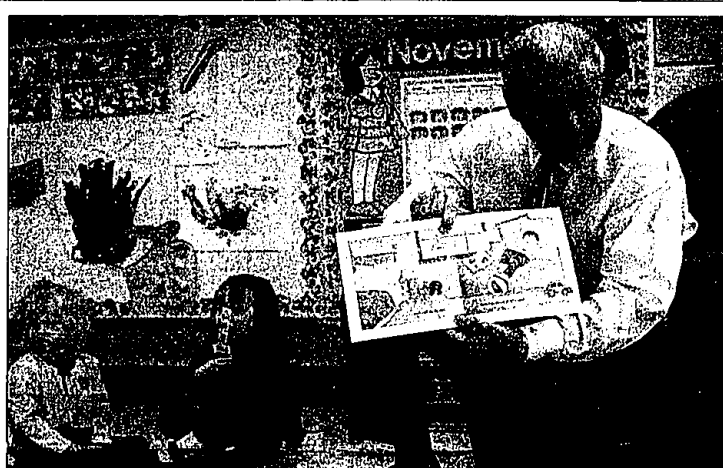
Shabbat Rocks, the innovative worship ceremony introduced during the spring of 2001 at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, is now available as an experience for the home or car. The new "Shabbat Rocks, Volume 1: Kabbalat Shabbat" CD captures the spirit of lively, musical reverence across 26 songs ranging from traditional melodies to original compositions by Cantor Howard Glantz, who created Shabbat Rocks and brought it to life with the assistance of the other clergy and staff at Adat Shalom.

The goal, according to Glantz, was to create an exciting and fresh way to observe Shabbat that reflects the joy and deep holiness of the weekly ritual.

The CD was funded by the Lillian Elros Kaufman Endowment for Special Musical Projects at Adat Shalom. "Shabbat Rocks is a statement about Shabbat," said Glantz, who performs the Shabbat Rocks and its autumn and winter companion Havdalah Rocks ceremonies at Adat Shalom with Rabbi Daniel Nevios and Herb Yoskowitz and others. "It says that Shabbat itself can really 'rock.' The 'Shabbat Rocks, Volume 1: Kabbalat Shabbat' CD is currently available at Adat Shalom Synagogue, Greetings From, and Warren Say-More Pharmacy. Call (248) 651-5100.

### City lights

The city of Farmington Hills is hosting its 10th annual Holiday Lights ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake. The trees at City Hall will be illuminated along with a 20-foot candle, representing the city's commitment to peace and unity. The festivities will also include entertainment by the Encore Chorus from East Middle School, a visit from Santa and refreshments at the fire station headquarters following the ceremony.



ERIC BRONSON/OBSERVER

### Book 'em

Anyone who doubts reading is fundamental should take their cue from Farmington Hills Chief of Police William Dwyer, who took time out to read to pre-schoolers at Alameda School Tuesday.

## Nominations sought for Turnaround Awards

Do you know a student in grades 7 through 12 who has made a significant change in his or her life?

Nominations are being taken for the Farmington Public Schools'

Turnaround Achievement Awards, which recognize students who have demonstrated positive changes in academics, behavior, school activities or other areas of their lives. Examples from among last year's honorees were students who had raised their grades, improved school attendance or bounced back from life-changing experiences.

"This program focuses on kids who might not otherwise receive positive recognition," said Jon Hubred, editor of the Farmington Observer, which co-sponsors the awards. "It's a heart-warming experience to see families

PLEASE SEE AWARDS, A2

## Hills law firm wins \$6 million suit

BY DOUG JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills law firm has won a \$6.15 million medical malpractice lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne was the defendant in the case.

The law firm of Russell Gregory and Jesse Reiter with

offices at 37000 Grand River represented the plaintiff. The verdict was entered Wednesday.

A jury found the hospital "professionally negligent" during the birth of Kimberly Cole of Dearborn Heights. She survived the birth but has a milder case of cerebral palsy according to Reiter.

She will need future surgeries, can use her limbs, but

could have poor dexterity in her hands and may have a learning disability.

Oakwood spokeswoman Martha Shea said the corporation will appeal the verdict.

Annapolis, a 286-bed facility which serves many patients from Westland and Garden City, is in Wayne and is part of the Oakwood Healthcare System operating several hospitals in southeast Michigan.

They also operate offices and centers in Garden City and Westland as well, including the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Center on Central City Parkway.

"They (Oakwood) dug their heels in on this," Reiter said. "They took a very hard line. They should have said we have an error here."

PLEASE SEE SUIT, A6

## After 28 years firefighter plans to 'redefine' life

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Tom Shurtleff never intended to be a firefighter.

"I wanted to be a cop," he said.

He even took the test to be a police cadet with Farmington Hills at the tender age of 18.

But thanks to the suggestion of the lieutenant at the time, Shurtleff decided he might be better suited as a paid on-call

firefighter. Looking back, it was the right move to make, said Shurtleff, who will be retiring from the fire department this month after 28 years, 25 of them working as a career firefighter. He shakes his head and smiles at the thought that his career turned out the way it did.

"I hate to say the word retire," the lieutenant said with a laugh. "I prefer to say redefine."

PLEASE SEE SHURTLEFF, A6



Firefighter Tom Shurtleff will retire from the fire department this month after 28 years.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Holiday Walk  
Coming Thursday in the At Home section: This year's Holiday Walk at Meadow Brook Hall celebrates the glamour of the '30s.

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