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"Notice of Delinquent Tax Parcels Subject to Foreclosure"  
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Farmington Observer.

# FARMINGTON Observer

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## City officials make an offer for job

BY JONI HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER

The city of Farmington moved a step closer to replacing city manager Frank Laubhoff Saturday, offering the position to an Isabella County administrative controller.

Mayer Jim Mitchell said officials made a "general offer" to Vincent D. Pastue, who was on his way to Florida for a family vacation when consultant Frank Gerstenecker made the call. Pastue was still out of town at press time.

"It was pleased that he was able to meet with us," said Mitchell. "My understanding is that he drove down (to Florida) Saturday, and his family was waiting for him to do the interview."

Pastue told officials he wanted to do a little homework before accepting an offer of employment. "He wants to come in and meet with our department heads and probably get a comfort level with the job," Mitchell said.

Pastue ended up on the top of Mitchell's list after the first round of public interviews, which were held Dec. 7. That impression only gained ground during the second round of questions Saturday, which Mitchell described as "more probing."

"He was very calm and very deliberate with his answers, and I might add, very complete," Mitchell said. "He showed us the depth of his knowledge and experience."

Council members appeared split between two unidentified candidates after the initial interviews. Mary Bush went into Saturday's meeting with the

PLEASE SEE OFFER, A7

Our Towns

### Legion stipend

The American Legion Post 390 is continuing its scholarship award program in the Farmington and Farmington Hills areas. This scholarship is awarded to a student whose parents or grandparents are serving or have served in the United States armed services. The student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better to apply and the scholarship is awarded based on outstanding involvement in school and civic affairs as well as academic excellence. Scholarship applications will be available in the guidance counselor's offices after Dec. 15.

### Kids on Campus

Your youngster can prevent the winter doldrums by enrolling in Schoolcraft College's Kids on Campus program. The program for young people from kindergarten through the 12th grade begins Saturday, Feb. 8. Students will find excitement, challenges and activities to expand their knowledge in a variety of enrichment classes in math and science, computers and electronics, creative and performing arts, learning skills and test preparation classes. Most classes last six or eight weeks and cost \$50-\$100. New classes include Radical Robots, with the class building and programming a four-foot robot; JavaScript, with students creating Webpages; and Preparing for Middle School, during which students learn about the challenges and adjustments of leaving the elementary grades.

The popular Kids on the Scene classes, including Video Production, Detective School for Kids and Chess, continue. Children and a parent can learn about serious cooking in Big Chefs & Little Chefs, and create delicious main dishes and desserts together. For information or to request a Kids on Campus catalog, call 734-462-4448.

### At Longacre

The Longacre House of Farmington Hills presents: Swing Into the New Year, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 31. Welcome 2003 by popping the cork on champagne in front of a fire in the grand living room of this beautiful 1869 Georgian mansion. This grand celebration will include a five-course gourmet dinner featuring a choice of Longacre prime rib, Bohemian Almond stuffed cornish game hens and salmon en croule. Guests will receive two drink tickets, after which a cash bar is offered. At every table, there will be a bottle of champagne for the midnight toast. Reservations are required; all proceeds will benefit the Longacre House, a nonprofit community organization. For more information, call (248) 477-8404.

## Farmington couple caption the news

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Gregory and Deborah Frohiep share something in common with many married couples - they occasionally get into heated arguments. In this case, though, their Farmington neighbors can't hear.

The Frohieps speak to each other in fluent American Sign Language. The hand-gesture-based language is commonly used by deaf people to convey letters, words and phrases. Gregory has been deaf since age 6, so he learned ASL out of necessity. Public schooling was frustrating, because there were no interpreters to help him. When he began attending Rochester, N.Y.'s National Technical Institute of the Deaf at 19, everything changed.

"When I went there, I excelled because I finally had access to an education," Gregory said. Deborah began learning ASL 13 years ago by choice and earned her degree at Madonna University. She also studied at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., which former President Abraham Lincoln helped establish. Today, it is the only liberal arts university in



BILL BRESLER / OBSERVER

PLEASE SEE COUPLE, A6

Gregory Frohiep prepares equipment to add closed-captioning to video.

## Hills IT company wins top slot at camp

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills IT support company was one of three firms to win the top slots at the SmartZone Entrepreneur Boot Camp during a celebration ceremony at the Ann Arbor IT zone last week.

More than 100 people attended to watch a mix of IT and biotech companies present business plan pitches to a panel of

investors.

Technical Software Consulting Inc. has developed, in collaboration with Continuous Care, Ezeclaims.com, a Web-based software management system for third-party claims administrators, insurance companies, businesses that administer their own disability claims and government agencies.

Their program allows companies to track their claims cost and how many

claims have been paid, pricing, state reporting and wage calculation all in one place through a Web browser, said Gary Grewal, manager at TSC, located in the Metrobank building on Grand River and Drake.

The technology idea grew out of talks about developing the program with an insurance company that was working

PLEASE SEE SOFTWARE, A7

## O & E seeks top educators

Beginning in January, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will honor two teachers monthly from throughout our circulation area for their excellence in the classroom.

Nominations can be e-mailed to cyoung@oehomecomm.net, faxed to (734) 953-2232 or mailed to Cathy Young at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Nominations must be received by 5

## Grace family boasts 4 generations at FHS

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

In a day when families are scattered all over the country, it's a surprise to find one that can boast four generations graduating from the same high school.

The Grace family, owners of Grace Insurance on Grand River in downtown Farmington, can say just that. Glenn Grace said he, his father Gerald and grandfather Clair all graduated from Farmington High School. So did Glenn and his daughter Adriane, who left FHS just this

past spring.

In fact, the family numbered among the earliest settlers in Farmington, after moving west from Farmington, N.Y., said Glenn.

Glenn and his wife Deanna, also a Farmington High graduate, have an interesting history themselves: they graduated one year apart but never really hung around in the same circles in school in the early 1960s. They ended up meeting in the late 1970s when Deanna showed up at the office seeking insurance for her condo.

PLEASE SEE GRACE, A7



Adriane and Glenn Grace

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