

Casserole comeback

Hearty, easy one-pot meals are big in winter. B1



FARMINGTON Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 116 years

SUNDAY
January 12, 2003
75 cents

www.observerandcentric.com

©2003 HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Our Towns



A special message for former city manager Frank Lauhoff was posted on the Farmington Civic Theatre's marquee.

X's and O's

A special marquee created in honor of former Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff's retirement drew attention on Grand River early this week. "Goodbye Starling Frank Lauhoff OXO" was displayed through Thursday, when Lauhoff's retirement dinner was held at Farmington Hills Manor on Orchard Lake Road. At the dinner, officials made it clear the OXO stood for "hugs and kisses" and not the alleged movie's rating.

Contest winners

The Farmington Public Schools District has named a winner in the annual Michigan School Public Relations Association Communications Contest. Diane Bauman was presented with a "commendable" award in the Ind. PA25 Annual Report Category for the entry, Farmington Public Schools 2000-2001 Annual Report.

Chef's Cookout

The Historic Longacre House will host another Chef's Cookout from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17. The menu will include a choice of New York strip steak or swordfish with citrus butter as an entree. Dinner includes appetizers, salad and dessert and will be served in the cozy atmosphere of the house's living room, with a fire in the fireplace.

Memberships are available; members receive a 10-percent discount on their Chef's Cookout ticket. For more information, call the house at (248) 477-8404.

At C'Ville High

The Clarenceville Athletic Booster Club will hold a jurying event for future craft shows at the high school media center, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 18. Bringing a sample of your crafts to the event. The jurying (judging) is done in person with the actual items only. Do not bring pictures. For more information, call Sue Mahoney (248) 777-8671.

The group will jury again in September. The school is at 20155 Middlebelt in Livonia. A small portion of south-eastern Farmington Hills is in the Clarenceville School District.

Pastue accepts city manager post

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Vince Pastue, an Isabella County administrator/consultant, formally accepted the Farmington city manager position Tuesday after meeting with department heads. "He called me Tuesday and

accepted the position," Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell said. "He thinks we have a good city and was impressed with the department heads." Pastue's wife, Annette, echoed that sentiment. "He came home and said, 'They know their stuff,'" she said during a phone conversation

Friday. Pastue and his oldest son, Nicholas, 19, were out of town Friday at a hockey tournament in Cheboygan. The couple also have another son, Ryan, 11. Pastue's first task will be meeting everybody to get a better sense of the community, he said by phone Friday.

Then it's getting down to business. "I will be meeting with Patsy (Cantrell) to talk about the budget, finances and the state of revenue sharing," Pastue said. Cantrell is the clerk/treasurer. Vince begins work Feb. 17 and will be paid an annual salary of \$170,000, Mitchell said. He's required to give Isabella County

six weeks' notice. He will look for an apartment in town while Annette remains with their sons in Clare until summer; they will move after the boys finish the school year. She hopes to visit Farmington during break.

PLEASE SEE MANAGER, A5



Lampshade brigade

Eager to put their staid and low-key images behind them, members of the Farmington City Council put on quite a show at Thursday night's retirement dinner for Frank Lauhoff. Mayor Jim Mitchell, JoAnn McShane, Mike Harrison and Mary Bush joined more than 250 guests in honoring the former city manager. More photos and the story, page A3.

City tables request for sidewalk sign

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Council tabled until April a request from Ann Mariani, owner of Anna's Cafe & Baskets, for outdoor seating and a portable sign.

The business is located in Village Mall and fronts Grand River. Mariani wants to place four standard plastic chairs outside her storefront, flush with the building, and use a portable sign which is 24 inches tall by 18 inches

wide on the sidewalk outside her business. "These are the typical A-frame type signs that city council has received requests from other business owners for use in the central business district," said Assistant City Manager Bill Richards.

PLEASE SEE SIGN, A6

County board filled with freshmen

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

With a founding of the gavel, Oakland County Clerk G. William Caddell officially swore in an unprecedented number of new county commissioners Thursday at a ceremony in Pontiac.

Of the 25 commissioners sworn in by Caddell, 19 are new to the body, the largest turnover ever witnessed in the commission chambers.

Commissioner Thomas Law, a Republican who represents Beverly Hills and portions of West Bloomfield and Bloomfield townships, said he has never seen anything like this incoming class during his 22 years serving on the county board.

"This is the most new members we've had since I've been around here, and I've been around a long time," Law said. "There's never been more than two, three of four new members,

PLEASE SEE BOARD, A6

Chamber honors business partners at annual dinner

BY JOHN HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will honor two "Good Partners" at its 39th annual meeting and Business Awards dinner, held Thursday in Novi.

The annual event is sponsored by the Farmington Observer and Detroit Edison Co. The chamber's Good Partner recipient will be Keith Wilson, Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC; the Good Partnership award goes to the Robert Bosch Corp.

"We're very fortunate we have corporations in town that view the community as important and are part of it," chamber vice president Ann Topouzian said.

The Robert Bosch Corp. has demonstrated

its commitment to the community through very visible support as well as staff involvement in local organizations. The facility, which houses the world-wide company's automotive headquarters, has hosted the annual Communiopia Ball, which raises money for the Farmington Hills/Farmington County Foundation, Popouzian said.

"They also have representatives throughout the community in a variety of areas... the Economic Development Corporation, the YMCA, Farmington Pioneers Festival and the schools. They have also been a co-sponsor of the Chamber EXPO. They're the type of corporate citizen Farmington and Farmington Hills should be proud to have in our community."

PLEASE SEE CHAMBER, A6



Keith Wilson, general manager of Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC, is the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber's Good Partner honoree.

LOST: Palmation with collar and chain...
"If it wasn't for your paper we would never have gotten our dog back. Thank you so much."
1-800-879-8888
PUT OUR CLASSIFIEDS TO WORK FOR YOU!

CONTACT US
Newspaper - (248) 477-5450
Newsroom fax - (248) 477-9122
Classifieds - (1-800-579-9848
Home delivery - (734) 591-9500

Hometown COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

INDEX

Apartments	D7	Movies	B6
Automotive	E8	Obituaries	A7
Classified	D2	New Homes	D1
Classified Index	D3	Service Guide	E6
Crossword	D5	Sports	C1
Jobs	E2	Travel	B8

LOOKING AHEAD

A NEW BOOK
Coming in this week's At Home section: The winner of the Ugliest Bathroom Contest now has a beautiful bathroom.



World of Floors
EXTENDED 1 MORE WEEK
NEW YEAR'S SALE
\$1 Per Yard
Call for details