

FARMINGTON Observer

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Our Towns

Top teachers

Faith Clay, a fourth grade teacher at Bemis Elementary School in the Troy school district, and Vicki Shaw, a third grade teacher at Gill Elementary School in Farmington Public Schools, are the February Teachers of the Month for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Both the Troy and Farmington districts are on mid-winter break this week so look for the Teacher Feature with picture and story honoring Clay and Shaw in next Thursday's editions of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Scholarship

Farmington Hills Dentists Dr. David Clark and Dr. Carolyn Romick are sponsoring their 4th annual scholarship for local high school seniors. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one individual graduating from Farmington High School, North Farmington High School or Harrison High School. The scholarship is directed toward students who plan to pursue a curriculum in math or science at a four-year college or university upon graduation from high school. The scholarship is merit based. Students should have a 3.5 grade point average or higher, and be involved in extra-curricular activities in their school, community or church. Scholarship applications will be available through the guidance office of the local high schools beginning March 17. For more information, contact your guidance counselor or Dr. Romick at (248) 855-4850.

Chili Cook Off

The Mydols will perform at the Farmington/Farmington Hills eighth annual Chili Cook Off on March 9 at Page's Food and Spirits in downtown Farmington. All proceeds from the event will go to the Farmington Hills Police Department's K-9 unit.



Flyer fan
Michelle Hall and a feathered friend cheer for the Farmington United hockey team during their Tuesday night regional playoff game against Redford Catholic Central. The game was moved to the Compuware Arena in anticipation of a large crowd and over 3,500 fans filled the arena. The Farmington Flyers lost the game 4-3. See today's Farmington Observer sports section for the story and photos.

Hills crime stats down in 2002

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Crime statistics for 2002 show Farmington Hills continues to be an even safer city than in its previous, award-winning year. The 2002 data shows a 13.5-percent decrease in serious crimes compared to 2001, said Police Chief William Dwyer. In November 2002, a research company that collects FBI data announced Farmington Hills ranked 25th-safest among large cities in the nation for 2001. Cities with 75,000-plus populations that reported crime data to the FBI for the six most serious crime categories were included in the rankings. Statisticians measure the categories of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft. Overall arrests were also down in 2002, from 3,463 to 3,060. Dwyer credits community policing programs, aggressive enforcement, community awareness and involvement. "Crime prevention is a cooperative effort, teaming law-enforcement professionals with the community they serve. Together we have worked to make Farmington Hills a safe community to live, work and play," he said. He noted Farmington Hills police officers were honored by the department's Citation and Awards board more than 100 times in 2002 for outstanding performance in carrying out their duties. Seventeen civilian citations were also given to citizens for their unselfish involvement in helping the police solve a variety of crimes that included burglary, bank robbery, and a standoff with a barricaded gunman. Comparing the most serious group A crime offenses, there was a decrease in murder from 1 in 2001 to none in 2002; assault fell from 517 cases to 828; burglary fell from 368 to 343; larceny from 1,391 to 1,378; vehicle theft from 153 to 101. There was an increase in forcible sex offenses from 26 in 2001 to 61 in 2002, due largely to charges of

PLEASE SEE CRIME, A10

BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION

For more information, contact your guidance counselor or Dr. Romick at (248) 855-4850.

Hills family tired of defective sirens

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

A blaring weather siren woke Farmington Hills resident Will Hoss at 2 a.m. recently, with no storm in sight. The alarm, located about a mile and a half away from Hoss' home, malfunctioned. He and his family are getting a little tired of hearing the system go off accidentally day and night. "It's been like that for four months," he said. "I'll turn on when there's clear, blue skies." He suspects the defective alarm is located at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. Tracey McGee, emergency management coordinator for Oakland County, oversees the emergency alert sirens county-wide. She said her office has gotten reports from a defective alarm that officials are inspecting along 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. "There are two sirens along there, but the manufacturer

couldn't find a problem in either one, so we're working on replacing the radios for them," she said. The systems there are almost 25 years old and "since they are mechanical and contain aging radio components, they can do

PLEASE SEE SIRENS, A10

Middlebelt detour set

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

Motorists who use the Middlebelt 121/1-606 bridge will be forced to take a detour this summer, as the aging structure will be replaced by the Michigan Department of

PLEASE SEE DETOUR, A10

Granholtm fund-raiser lunch nets \$3,750 for Mercy High

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Loud applause helped introduce the last item offered for bid at the Mercy High School auction Saturday, according to one observer. The "Lunch With Jennifer Granholtm" item had caused furor among anti-abortion protesters and supporters in the weeks leading up to the event. The auction of more than 600 items helped raise funds for the private school, which is located on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills. Granholtm has said she personally opposes abortion, but supports every woman's right to choose. Abortion opponents have called her to task on the stand, because of her

PLEASE SEE GRANHOLTM, A6



Judy Parran, affiliate vice president of Right to Life Michigan, came to pray at the abortion protest.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Focus on Wine
In Sunday's Taste section. Read up on Rada's Cellars, one of Michigan's best wine estates. In Focus on Wine by Ray and Eleanor Heald

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