

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 40 Monday, March 6, 1978 Farmington, Michigan 24 Pages Twenty Five Cents



It was a real humdinger of a storm that hit the Farmington area this past week, as is exemplified by this automobile which got the worst of the deal from the falling tree (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

Out of house and home Ice storm blasts residents

By RON GARBENSKI

It was grilled hamburgers by candle light last week for many Farmington Hills residents. For others, it was nights spent at the homes of relatives or friends because their houses were without heat or power. Hills residents suffered these and many other inconveniences last week as a result of the worst ice storm to hit southeastern Michigan in more than 30 years. "It was a pretty hectic situation," said Maurice Vermeulen, director of customer and marketing services for Detroit Edison's Oakland Division. "We're not fighting a losing battle, we will eventually fix our homes put up one line, another one goes down somewhere else because of the high winds," he continued. Roughly 5,000 to 10,000 residents in west-

ern Oakland County were without power Friday afternoon. And the problem wasn't getting any better for homeowners. The ice storm began last Monday night and continued through the week. Strong gale winds still were being recorded late Friday night. FIFTEEN SECTIONS of Farmington Hills went without electricity for more than two days as trees and high winds knocked down power lines serving local residents. As of Friday night several areas in the Hills still were powerless. Without power for refrigeration, food spoilage damage ran into the thousands of dollars, city officials said. And flooding posed another major problem as rains backed into basements and shut down several residential roads for days.

As Farmington Hills experienced the wrath of the ice storm and strong winds, the City of Farmington was holding its ground. We were lucky," said David Jones, Farmington's director of Public Services. We only had one street in the city that went without power for about two or three days. All our other problems were just with trees over the roads and some of brush on all the streets. The problem failed to improve as fast as many area residents had hoped because late last week winds as high as 40 mph still were knocking down power lines. Until these winds started blowing the afternoon, Friday, we were handling the problem pretty well. But it looks now like the problem is getting worse and more customers are calling to say their lines are being down because of the winds, explained Vermeulen.

One patrolman started working 12 hour shifts Tuesday afternoon and were doing everything they could to help with the problem, Hobbs continued. Power lines and trees went down all over the city. We did the best we could but these things are really late coming, especially guarding down wires waiting for line crews to arrive. Other problems that plagued the Hills were knocked out street and traffic lights. Trees over roads and water flooding roads and fields. Our men were out most of Tuesday night working in all parts of the city and doing downed trees and marking roads that weren't passable," said Robert Shaw, Hills DPW maintenance supervisor. THE CITY had about 12 large trees knocked down and at least a half dozen roads were impassable," he continued. Most of these were in the subdivisions and hundreds of residents trying to leave the area.

Down home Joe Clark lauded as first official bi-city artist

By CORINNE ABATT

The hillbilly snap-shooter, Joe Clark of Farmington Hills, is the first artist-in-residence for the Hills and the City of Farmington. The announcement of the winner of this first award was made yesterday, Sunday, March 7, at a special ceremony at the 12 Mile library. Bud Geest, master of ceremonies, presided over the event which included the dedication of the outdoor sculpture, "Huronque," given to Farmington Hills by Dr. Allen Zieger.

While the internationally known photographer, Clark received the \$750 prize made available through a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts he in turn is making a gift to the cities.

THIRTEEN of HIS photographs, chosen by the judging panel and framed, will be a permanent traveling exhibit. Mrs. Jan Hales, one of four judges who chose Clark from a large number of nominees, said plans are to exhibit Clark's 13 photographs in both libraries and both city halls.

There also will be a loan exhibit of his work on display at the 12 Mile library. Clark, born in Cumberland Gap, Tenn., came to Detroit as a carpenter with a yen for photography. As his wife, Bernice, tells the story, while on his lunch hour one day, he heard an itinerant preacher stress the importance of having the courage to turn your back on security and do what is really meaningful. He went back to the job, explained his feelings to his boss and walked away from the trade. He later became a night watchman in Detroit which left him free to photograph during the day.

That was in the late 30s and early 40s and Clark has been at it ever since, rising to the top of the heap with pictures in many of the best-known national magazines—"Look," "Life," "Saturday Evening Post," "Oddities" and "Coronet."

His love of his homeland, the mountains of Tennessee, has never faded and at least a dozen books of his photographs focus on a disappearing way of life. Considering himself a photojournalist rather than a photographer, Clark has told the story of industrial Detroit many times, many ways.

Now, with his wife and son, James, Clark works the studio on New Table in Oak Park where the challenges and kinds of assignments are as broad in scope as the dictionary. Commercial accounts, travel, portraits, candid—make up the daily lives of these talented professionals. If Clark has any specialty, it is feature pictures, photographing the needs of the moment—dramatic, poignant, tragic or beautiful.

THE FIRST artist-in-residence grant, sponsored by the Farmington Community Arts Council, under president, Marlene DeLanger, is intended as an annual event. The purpose is to foster interest in the arts and encourage community participation and appreciation. "Huronque" was given to the city last summer. The base for the sculpture-tomb, designed by architect Sirvan McCalm, was a continuation project of the arts council and the Farmington Hills Council. Dr. Zieger, executive director of Bedford General Hospital and a lover of fine art, said he hopes it will encourage others to make gifts of the fine art to the city. Mayor Earl Oppenheimer officially accepted Zieger's gift last Sunday.



Farmington Hills photographer Joe Clark always puts M.B.S.S. after his name that stands for hillbilly snap shooter. (Staff photo by Craig Newman)

Buses vandalized, suspects nabbed

One juvenile is in police custody and a second will be questioned today in connection with vandalizing 39 Farmington School District buses late Wednesday night, causing many senior high school students to be late for classes Thursday morning.

A Farmington Public Safety Department spokesman said the juvenile was apprehended by police Thursday morning and later confessed to damaging the school buses. Another juvenile will be interviewed today about his role in the incident. Sparks plug were distributor caps and wires were removed by the juveniles from 39 of the district's fleet of 56 buses. The buses were parked at the maintenance yard across from the Administration Building, 2200 Shawwassee.

Several fire extinguishers and first aid kits also were removed from or scattered around the buses and William Prisk, Farmington schools business manager. At 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Prisk didn't have a damage estimate available. Most of the damaged buses were repaired by 9 a.m. Thursday and ready to take students to school.

With 39 buses out like this, many of the buses were late getting out on their runs Friday and last week. "We doubled up on many of the runs in order to get students to school on time. As soon as we fixed the vandalized buses, we got them back out on the road."

HIGH SCHOOL students were the most affected by the down buses because they usually ride early buses to school. According to Prisk, elementary students were on time for classes because they were repaired by then. The district didn't discover the damage until early Thursday morning when bus drivers reported to work shortly before 6 a.m.

Because of bad weather, extra bus drivers were called in to help start the buses and it was at that time the wires were found missing. Two mechanics usually are at the yard in the morning to help with problems the buses have, but the district called in at two other mechanics and several other maintenance personnel to help fit the engines.

Subdivision foes fight over paving

By STEVE BARNABY

Springbrook subdivision residents in Farmington Hills will find out at this week's council meeting whether another public hearing will be conducted on paving. The subdivision has been divided on some

ments over paving, with those opposing the project accusing subdivision officers of gerrymandering the area to make the vote come out in favor of paving.

In a letter addressed to city council, the concerned residents committee in Springbrook protested the way two sections of the subdivision had been cut from the paving proposal.

"The gerrymandering which has been done in our subdivision is disgusting and I am very much opposed. Also, I have been informed that no new petition was circulated to allow neighbors to express their desire for paving under new circumstances—partial paving," said the letter which the committee urged residents to send.

Springbrook residents had been surveyed through a postcard campaign conducted by city officials to determine residents' desire for paving the entire subdivision.

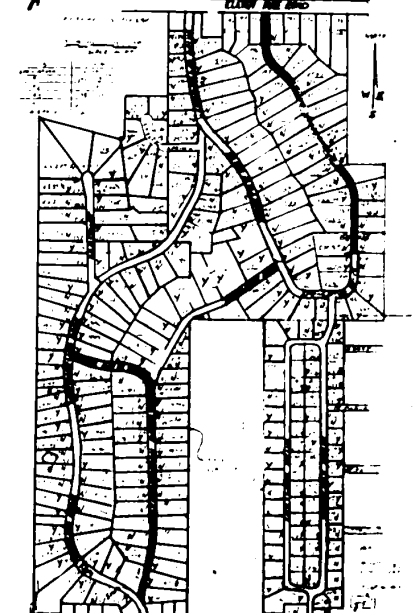
When opposition arose to paving the entire subdivision, the council decided to conduct a second hearing on Feb. 22 to consider partial paving.

Opposition forces my streets were excluded from the vote would appear to be in favor of partial paving.

Streets excluded from the paving were O'Neil, between Westmoreland and Springbrook; Springbrook, between Westmoreland and O'Neil; and Springbrook, from 11 Mile south stopping at lot 124.

Many of those opposing the asphalt paving project feel that the original surveying project should prevail. A postcard campaign they say, was never conducted to determine how residents felt about partial paving.

The council is considering paving with either five or four inch asphalt. Each individual lot owner would be assessed to finance the project.



Gerrymandering?
You decide whether a gerrymandering attempt has been made in the Springbrook subdivision paving controversy. The shaded streets: Springbrook, between Westmoreland and O'Neil; O'Neil, between Westmoreland and Springbrook; and Springbrook, between Elvan Mills, south to lot 124; were the excluded areas in the partial paving consideration. The 'Y's in the individual lots are yes votes. The 'N's are the no votes.

2 students need homes

The International Cultural Exchange is looking for Farmington area families who could provide two Educator students with a home away from home.

The two 20-year-old men are students at Oakland Community College at Orchard Ridge. They have been in the United States since last August studying English at OCC.

The International Cultural Exchange asks American families to provide room, board, love and affection for foreign exchange students. If your family would like an international experience without ever leaving your living room, call Ms. Heidi Halla at 642-8073.

Banquet honors Falcon athletes

The annual Farmington High School Winter Sports Banquet will be at 8:30 p.m. Monday, March 8 in the school cafeteria. The school will honor coaches and athletes of the Falcon basketball, gymnastic, swimming and wrestling teams. The pep club and cheerleaders also will receive recognition. All parents of Farmington High students are invited to attend.

Robbery suspects arrested by police

Farmington Hills Police have arrested two men and are searching for a third suspect wanted in connection with the Jan. 12 robbery of the Holiday Inn of Farmington, 2122 W. 10 Mile in which \$18,200 in cash was stolen.

Clair M. O'Brien, 35, of Novi, was held over to Oakland County Circuit Court following a preliminary hearing in 6th District Court Feb. 27 before Judge Michael Hand.

Hand was set at \$50,000 following his arraignment, but was raised to \$200,000 by Hand after the preliminary examination.

Lawford Ross, 46, of Dearborn, was arrested Thursday, March 4, by Ann Arbor police on a warrant, issued by Farmington Hills.

He was arraigned before Judge Hand Thursday afternoon and bond was set at \$100,000.

A court date will be set Friday, March 12.

Ross also is wanted by the Farmington Public Safety Department on three counts of armed robbery.

A warrant has been issued on the third suspect and Hills detectives are still searching for the robber.

According to Hills police, the man, armed with a shotgun, entered the hotel during early morning hours and forced their way into the main office.

They subdued the desk clerk, striking them several times and then left with the money after loading the victims with sedatives.

inside

Name	Section A
City or Co.	3
Street	6, 8
Suburban Life	Section B
Community calendar	1
Classifieds	Section C

COFFEE QUERIES

The Farmington area PTA is putting the questions to the school district officials. If you want to see the second installment of the answers turn to Page 16A.