

# Spring winds reap a fallen harvest

Farmington and Farmington Hills made it through two days of rough weather without major property damage or personal injury.

Heavy winds knocked electrical power out of about 32,000 Oakland County homes earlier this week. But "our storm damage was confined to a few downed power lines," said a Farmington Hills police spokesman. "There was no excessive property damage."

The most annoying problems for Hills police were downed power lines and the number of burglar alarms that were activated by high winds clocked

at up to 60 mph and.

"We had an excessive number of alarms go off," the spokesman said.

Although Farmington also experienced downed power lines, police report no major damage because of the high winds.

A power outage in the Kimberly subdivision, north of 11 Mile, was the cause of the closing all day Tuesday of Beechview Elementary school, school officials said.

Cloverdale Developmental Center experienced a near miss when winds ripped loose a new canopy. But in the

knick of time, school personnel managed to catch the canopy before it blew away.

The only other damage caused to the school district were a "few broken windows," officials reported. School building roofs are still being checked for damage.

Detroit Edison crews were expected to have the remaining 9,600 Oakland County homes still without power back in service by late Wednesday, according to Lori Kessler, utility company spokeswoman.

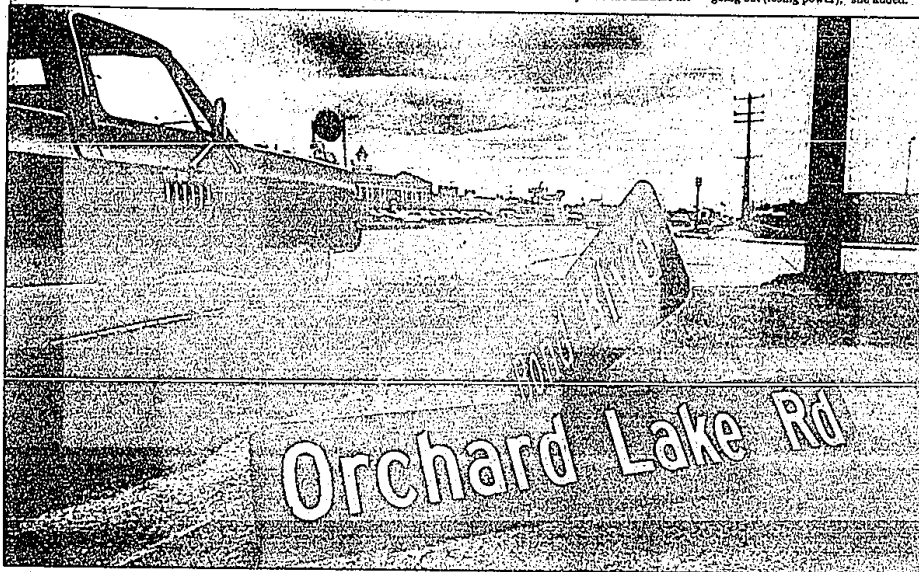
"Oakland County was the hardest hit

in our service area," Kessler said, adding 32,000 county homes were without power on early Monday.

Edison officials were unable to specify which communities suffered the greatest number of power outages.

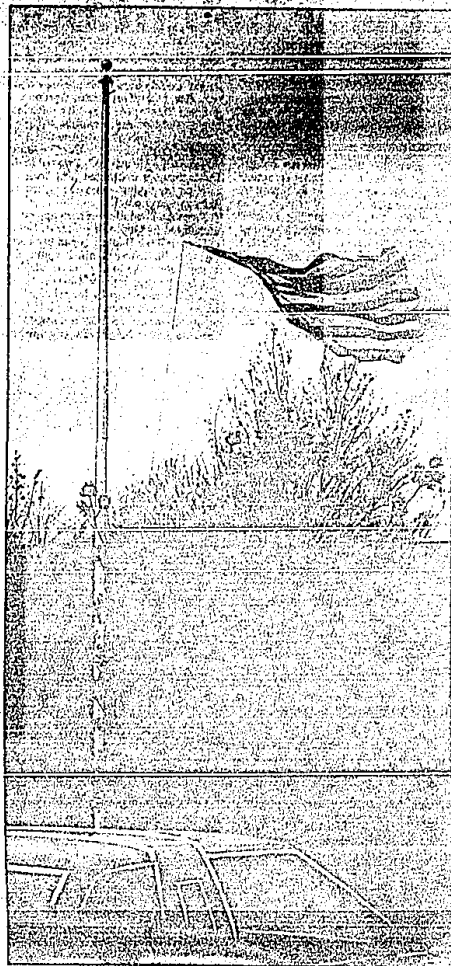
Approximately 1,100 Edison employees, many of whom were called back from vacations, have been working to restore power to 105,000 homes without service in southeastern Michigan, Kessler said.

"As we were restoring services, the winds continued and other people were going out (losing power)," she added.

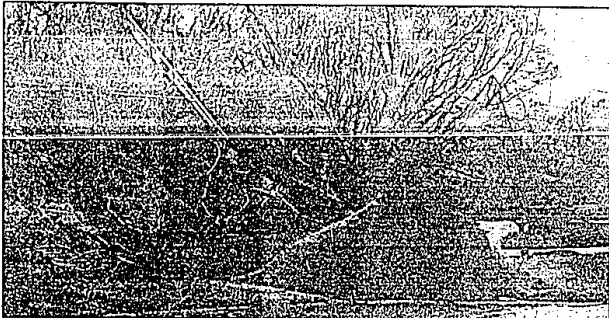


Staff photos/RANDY BORST

Oakland County and Farmington Hills road crews spent the day retrieving street signs which fell victim to the high winds.



Old Glory took a beating on many flagpoles around the city.



Felled trees and downed power lines combined to disrupt life around Farmington and Farmington Hills. Edison crews (left) were a familiar sight on subdivision streets, and the buzz of chain saws was frequently heard. Residents of Holly Hills in Farmington Hills, where these photos were taken, had to contend with the power outages and trees that lost their grip on the ground.

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