

Starting all over after closed head injury, 1B



Mikel quits, 1D

Deadline nears for history contest, 10A

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

IT'S Child Safety Week Thumbs Up to Kids in Farmington.

The city council proclaimed the week as requested by Maryann Horecky, marketing director at Tally Hill, Farmington Hills.

The shopping center is participating in the kids identification sign-up program in cooperation with the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The police agencies in both Farmington and Farmington Hills participate in the child identification program by fingerprinting children and returning the fingerprint cards to the parents or guardians for safekeeping, Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said.

THIS Memorial Day, the U.S. Air Force will be honored. The Air Force will command the spotlight during the Memorial Day parade in Farmington Monday, May 26. The 90-minute parade along Grand River will begin at 10 a.m. It will end at the memorial monument on Grand River near Oakland.

The city council has authorized the Department of Public Safety to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation for a road closing permit and to assure that the city will indemnify the state against liability relating to the parade.

NEWLY elected. Farmington Hills Historic District Commission chairman Jean Fox last weekend was elected to the Michigan Historic District Network board of trustees.

The network seeks legislative and governmental protection and upgrading of Michigan's historic districts.

MOVING up. The Farmington Hills Zoning Department recently made two promotions.

Barbara Aldrich, a community development secretary, and Jo Spencer, a zoning division aide, were both promoted to zoning inspectors.

REMINDER: This is National Library Week, National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week follows.

FOOTNOTES: "When the first settlers came to this area, they found it heavily and quite completely covered by forest. However, they used the differences in the kinds of forest as a basis for determining the quality of the land and the soil. The pioneers sought the oak-hickory forests where roads and trails were easily constructed and where land was more easily cleared for agricultural use. They seemed to take no cognizance of the fact that these readily prepared soils were soon depleted."

So reads an excerpt from "Farmington: An Original Entity, Being the Natural History of Farmington," published in 1976 by the Farmington Hills Historical Commission.

Water woes plaguing Hills

'We want to stress we don't have answers for all of these (water problems).'

— Thomas Blasell, public services

3 eye school seats

By Casey Hane staff writer

A Farmington Hills man will join two incumbents vying for two four-year terms on the Farmington Board of Education in the Monday, June 9, district election.

Newcomer Paul Blizman, 45, an attorney and 12-year Farmington Hills resident, will join incumbents R. Jack Inch and Janice Rolnick, both eight-year board veterans, in seeking voter approval for the two non-partisan board seats.

The three turned in nominating petitions, which had the necessary 20 verified signatures, by the 4 p.m. Monday, April 7, filing deadline, according to Scott Bacon, administrative assistant for finance and services for Farmington Public Schools.

No other petitions were given out, he added.

THE THREE have until 4 p.m. today to withdraw from the race; if the deadline is missed, the candidate's name will automatically appear on the ballot.

Blizman is a law partner in the general practice firm of Melamed, Blizman and Dalley of Southfield. He was previously a social work professional for the state at the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School and in foster care and adoption work in metro Detroit.

A member of the Farmington Optimists Club, Blizman lives on Herndonwood in Farmington Hills. This is his first attempt at running for public office.

Inch, 54, teaches economics at Oakland Community College, where he has been employed for 17 years. Prior to that, he taught with Detroit

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By Joanne Maliszowski staff writer

They all had stories to tell about drainage problems in Farmington Hills.

One resident extended an invitation to use his back yard for white-water rafting. Another resident told of a canoe ride in his back yard. And still another resident talked of her dog swimming behind her house.

The residents were among a small group invited to a Farmington Hills City Council study session Monday to discuss the city's drainage problems.

"We want to stress we don't have answers for all of these," said Thomas Blasell, public services director. City staff presented residents and council members with a list of 26 drainage problems that are the responsibility of either the city or property owners.

Major drains — Caddell, Minnow Pond and Upper Rouge — that allow water out of the city were not discussed. But adoption of the city's master storm drainage plan, completed in 1982 by consultants Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc. of Bloomfield Township, is expected sometime this year. The plan analyzes current major drains as well as documents proposed improvements to the city's system.

THE MEETING'S purpose was to explain drainage problems in the city with plans to include some of the priority problems in the 1988-97



Bartlett resident Frank Carrico says the flooding in his rear yard is so bad — up to 2 1/2 feet — that he was able to canoe through it.

capital improvements budget, City Manager William Costick said.

While some of the problems are the responsibility of homeowners, others can be solved with proposed road improvements or included as major projects in the updated capital improvements plan, he added.

Despite the array of drainage problems — flooded roads, driveways and yards — council and staff acknowledged that Farmington Hills is not unique.

"Most cities have drainage problems. The city of Troy has tremendous drainage problems. Still has,"

Costick said, adding the city has also spent millions of dollars in solving the problems.

In some areas of the city, flooding is causing problems with homeowners' septic tanks and wells, residents said.

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Sniper fire peppers cars

Trio of teens charged

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Three Farmington Hills teenagers face felony charges after their alleged sniper fire left six passing cars, a nearby house and a nearby building riddled with bullet impressions Monday afternoon.

The shots allegedly came from a second-floor window of a house on 13 Mile Road, near Drake.

It was a miracle no one was injured in the afternoon shooting spree, said Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department. The motive is not known.

"Several of those shots that struck the passing vehicles narrowly missed the people inside," he said. "In one car, a bullet hit the roof right above the driver's head, narrowly missing her two children in the backseat."

Asked whether the bullets were aimed at the cars or the people inside them, Nebus responded: "The warrants speak for themselves."

ARRAIGNED TUESDAY before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, David Wayne Lambdin, 17, stood mute to one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder. Conviction would bring a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

Lambdin also stood mute to one count of malicious destruction of a building over \$100, punishable upon conviction by up to four years in prison.

William Joseph Bolger, 17, and Gerald Michael Atkins, 18, each stood mute to single counts of mal-

icious destruction of personal property over \$100. Schaeffer set bond at \$5,000 for Lambdin and at \$2,000 for both Bolger and Atkins pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Not-guilty pleas were entered on each defendant's behalf.

Another 17-year-old Farmington Hills resident was released pending further investigation, Nebus said.

ABOUT 4:30 p.m. Monday, police began receiving calls of cars and car windows being shot at along 13 Mile, east of Drake.

In the front yard of 35245 13 Mile, the house where motorists thought the gunfire had come from, officers met two teen-agers

and asked permission to go inside, where two other teen-agers also were reported to be, Nebus said. "While detaining the four teens, police checked the house for weapons," he said.

Police found spent shell casings in an upstairs bedroom, believed to be where the gunfire came from. They also found spent shell casings in the driveway, Nebus said.

"The house was then secured while we continued our investigation and sought a search warrant," he said.

A witness told police she heard what sounded like firecrackers about 3 p.m., then saw a man about to be Atkins in the backyard of his house shooting a rifle. He later went inside, according to police reports. The teen's parents were away in Florida, Nebus said.

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Jewelry heist

Stolen car is driven through storefront

With building renovations, "they (thieves) are going to have to come through with missiles."

— Al DuQuet, DuQuet Jewelers

By Casey Hane staff writer

Thieves drove a station wagon through the front of a Farmington jewelry store early Sunday and left with valuables worth more than \$5,000, investigators and store owners said.

It was the second Sunday morning in a row that DuQuet Jewelers, 31620 Grand River, was burglarized by thieves who smashed a vehicle through the front of the store, according to the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

The store, in the Farmington Plaza, remains open for business, the owners said.

Officers said they impounded a station wagon, reportedly stolen in Detroit, which was driven into the storefront about 4:10 a.m. Sunday. A 30-year-old Farmington Hills man was arrested near the scene and



Al DuQuet points to the structural improvements being made to his Farmington jewelry store.

was questioned and released, pending further investigation, Deputy Director Gary Goss of the Farmington Department of Public Safety said.

OFFICERS ARRIVED at the

scene within one minute of receiving the break-in call and discovered the running car lodged in the building front. The arrested man was discovered at a coin carwash across the street by Farmington Hills police of-

ficers. Estimates of valuables taken range from \$5,000 to \$30,000, according to information from store

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