

Automania — a first for car buffs, 1B



Boys hoop, 1D

Hills corrects some flooding woes, 4A

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Farmington FOCUS

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SIGN of the season. Farmington Hills Mayor Joe Alkateeb will light the holiday tree for the second annual Farmington Area Jaycees holiday tree lighting ceremony at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, on the Farmington Historical Museum grounds, 33805 Grand River. First United Methodist Church of Farmington choir will provide a musical selection. Guests will include Miss Michigan Kelly Garver of Farmington Hills. Refreshments will be served.

IN memory. A plaque dedicated to the Farmington-area servicemen who died during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War was unveiled Nov. 8 at the Groves-Walker American Legion Post 946 in Farmington.

The plaque, bearing the names of one Korean and eight Vietnam veterans, was accepted by Commander Frank Walker for permanent display at the post, 11775 Grand River. Those who made the ultimate sacrifice were: Oliver B. Craine Jr. in Korea and Florian A. Bugni Jr., Nathan E. Crouch, John W. Grover, Henry Kolakowski Jr., Elzila R. Pitcock, Thomas F. Riggs, Charles G. Selman and Roy K. Williams Jr., all killed in Vietnam.

The dedication followed the annual Veterans Day dinner, which featured speakers Charles Larson, past commander of the American Legion Department of Michigan, and Helen Currie, current president of the Michigan American Legion Auxiliary.

NEARLY 10 months after it was damaged beyond repair in an early morning fire Feb. 17, the Elias Brothers Big Boy restaurant at 24301 Halsted has been leveled.

Demolition took place in mid-October. The fire was ruled arson.

"We have suspects and our investigation is continuing," said Detective Darrel Kruse of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Structural damage was estimated at more than \$300,000.

LENDING a hand. Raymond Hogue Jr. of Farmington Hills joined fellow members of the Greater Detroit Area Food Industry in support of the Variety Club of Detroit's Cash for Kids coupon redemption program benefitting youngsters at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Cash for Kids will raise money for the newly dedicated Variety Club Cardiology Center at the Detroit-based hospital. The center, made possible by a \$1 million pledge from the Variety Club, will feature equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of children with complex heart problems.

FOOTNOTES: A look back in history — Since the building's dedication in 1876, the upper story of the former Farmington Township Hall has been the home of Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 151 F & AM.

State decertifies Williamsburg

'If they come up to speed, there is no reason why they can't have their patients back.'

— Raj Weiner, chief Bureau of Health Facilities

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Williamsburg Convalescent Center in Farmington Hills is one of five nursing homes that has lost state certification to provide skilled care to its patients.

An undetermined number of the nursing home's patients will be moved temporarily to nearby nursing homes that have passed certification reviews with flying colors.

said Raj Weiner, chief of the Michigan Department of Public Health's Bureau of Health Facilities.

This is the first time state health officials have invoked a state law allowing patients to be temporarily removed from homes considered substandard. The law allows the state to temporarily license up to 150 additional beds in approved nursing homes in specific geographic areas, Weiner said.

"If they come up to speed, there is

no reason why they can't have their patients back," she said.

Williamsburg Convalescent Center, 21017 Middlebelt, was originally certified to provide elderly patients with skilled care — including intensive nursing care and physical therapy — and basic care.

BUT STATE health officials — in an annual survey of home services — found that Williamsburg did not have the required registered nurse

coverage and was deficient in the delivery of skilled care services, said Dr. Richard Yerlan, chief medical consultant for the Bureau of Health Facilities.

Earl Furbish, Williamsburg's administrator, was unavailable for comment.

The deficiencies in Williamsburg's skilled care services resulted in the nursing home's decertification.

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RANDY DONST/staff photographers

The roof of a Farmington Hills machine shop collapsed during a late night fire Wednesday. No serious injuries were reported as a result of the fire at Forge Protection Co., 31800 Eight Mile, west of Orchard Lake. Farmington Hills and Farmington firefighters were dispatched

to the cement block building shortly after 9 p.m. Above, firefighters stand on a collapsed wall while battling the blaze through snow squalls. The cause of the fire was still being investigated at midnight. No damage estimate was available.

Schools, union ratify new pact; spans 3 years

By Casey Hana staff writer

After working for nearly six months without a contract, custodial, maintenance and food service workers for Farmington Public Schools have ratified a new 3-year pact.

Negotiators for the Farmington Custodial Maintenance and Cafeteria unit of the Michigan Education Support Personnel Association reached an agreement with the district Nov. 24.

The union ratified it Tuesday afternoon by a split vote, 104-73. The CMC-MESPA unit's previous 3-year contract expired June 6, 1986.

The Farmington Board of Education approved the proposed contract by a 6-0 vote Tuesday night, with Trustee Helen Ditzhazy absent.

School Superintendent Graham Lewis presented it to the board in the absence of the district's director of labor negotiations, Robert Coleman, who was out of town this week.

THE BOARD discussed negotiations and contract provisions in a closed session before the regularly scheduled meeting with members of the negotiating teams.

Employees will enjoy between 5 and 5 1/2 percent pay increases during the life of the contract, with re-openers on both wage rates and fringe benefits during the last two years, according to information from the district.

They will also receive recognition for receipt of specified awards and licenses, certification, plus successful completion of national competency tests in several areas.

A vision care plan will be implemented Feb. 1, 1987, and several other fringe benefit improvements were agreed upon, the district said.

Future employees of the bargaining unit will serve a one-year probationary term, according to contract terms. Contract language will also be reorganized and clarified.

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Convicted driver is sought for sentencing

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A bench warrant has been issued for the arrest of a former Farmington Hills driver — convicted of manslaughter in a 1985 traffic death — who failed to appear for sentencing.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Norman Lippitt was expected to enforce a six-month jail sentence Monday for former Farmington Hills resident Connie Doa, 24. When Doa

failed to appear for sentencing, Lippitt issued a warrant for her arrest, Lippitt's law clerk said.

"She was supposed to start her sentence today," the clerk said. Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Larry Kozma confirmed the bench warrant and said the court would wait until Doa was located.

"We can't continue without her being here," Kozma said, adding it isn't his job to locate Doa.

Doa, a Novi resident, was to be

sentenced Monday after the state Court of Appeals rejected her argument in mid-November that she had a previous agreement with the sentencing judge. The alleged agreement, Doa argued, was that she would not be sent to jail after she was given a psychological exam.

Judge Martin Breighner (who served as interim judge until Lippitt was appointed to replace Judge George LaPlata) sentenced Doa to five years probation and six months

in jail. But Breighner waited on the jail sentence, pending a psychological exam.

DOA WAS convicted of manslaughter in the death of Beverly Ann Lambert, 20, of West Bloomfield. Lambert was killed when the car she was driving was struck head-on by Doa's car. The accident occurred about 11:30 p.m. March 18, 1985, on Muirwood Drive, near Conifer, at the Muirwood Apartments.

Farmington Hills. Doa was living in Muirwood at the time. Lambert had a friend who was living there.

Doa's blood-alcohol level, taken after the collision, was .13 percent — three-tenths of a percent higher than the .10 percent blood-alcohol level at which people are considered legally drunk.

Doa's attorney, Stanley Kurtzman

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Special time

By Bob Sklar staff writer

She lives in the California canyons of Beverly Hills, a few minutes from the city but in a country setting populated as much by raccoons, deer and owls as people.

"It's absolutely beautiful," says Martha Smith, the 1970 North Farmington High School graduate who for four years has played Francine Desmond, a savvy, sharp-witted intelligence agent on the CBS spy/comedy series, "Scarecrow and Mrs. King."

Smith returned to Farmington Hills last week to co-host the 60th annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Detroit. She and co-host John Karlan of "Cagney and Lacey" were perched in front of the Detroit Institute of Arts for the hour-long CBS telecast.

And what a treat it was. "It was great," said Smith Saturday morning, shortly before flying home to host a Christmas party Sunday in Hollywood.

"I flew into Detroit Tuesday evening and spent all day Wednesday rehearsing and meeting with various city and parade officials. But Thursday, the sky broke sunny and it was a glorious day."

SMITH SAID she was fortunate to be paired with John Karlan. "He's not only one of my favorite actors,

'The holiday spirit was there, and the people of Detroit really turned out.'

— Martha Smith parade co-host

but he's a joy to work with."

Smith took special delight in telecasting the parade she always watched on TV while growing up in then-Farmington Township. "It was a bit hectic doing the telecast but both John and I had a good time. The holiday spirit was there and the people of Detroit really turned out."

Smith was supposed to co-host the parade last year, but Hollywood commitments mixed that at the last minute.

Co-hosting the Detroit parade was fun, but Smith particularly enjoyed spending Thanksgiving with her parents, Bob and Ellie, who live on Kendallwood Drive.

"Martha's still very family even though her time is limited," her father said. "We try to get together two-three times a year."

As for "Scarecrow and Mrs. King," Smith isn't certain whether

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North Farmington grad co-hosts holiday parade



Martha Smith stars in "Scarecrow and Mrs. King" as an intelligence agent.

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