

Farmington Observer

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STUDENTS gear up. Farmington Public Schools senior high students are gearing up for a 24-hour radio telethon April 14-15.

Proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan Pediatric Rehabilitation Center.

Student disc jockeys and media celebrities, including Bruce Kirk and Dick Purten, will broadcast over Metrovision cable Channel 10, based at North Farmington High.

SWAPPING Ideas. Farmington Hills is paired with Birmingham for Mayors' Exchange Day Monday, May 22 — Government Day during Michigan Week.

Farmington did not take part in the Greater Michigan Foundation drawing that paired cities March 22.

"The draw is a little bit too unpredictable," said Robert Schultz, assistant city manager. "We'll get together with another city not in the draw, and one we particularly want to visit, and arrange something."

QUOTE of the week

"I said to my daughter, Kim, 'My God, our house is smoking!'"

— Farmington Hills resident Bonnie Bielicki, after turning onto Grand River from Middlebelt Monday afternoon and noticing that smoke was rising from their house at Jacksonville and Grand River (see story this page).

Accused serial rapist arraigned

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

The man accused of being Oakland County's serial rapist stood calmly in khaki prison garb and mumbled "mute" Wednesday to 17 charges of sexual assault and armed robbery in attacks on three Farmington Hills women in November 1987 and March 1988.

Not-guilty pleas were entered on behalf of Steven A. Szeman Jr., 25, of Rocky River, Ohio, at his arraignment Wednesday afternoon before District Judge Michael Hand in 47th District Court. A pre-examination conference for the former West Bloomfield resident is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, in the Farmington district court.

Szeman faces two counts of armed robbery, six counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and four counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct in the attacks on two sisters Thanksgiving night 1987. He also faces one count of armed robbery and four counts of first-degree criminal sexual assault in the attack on a Farmington Hills woman March 31, 1988.

In graphic detail, Hand read the charges against Szeman, which described sexual attacks and robberies



John Stevin assistant prosecutor

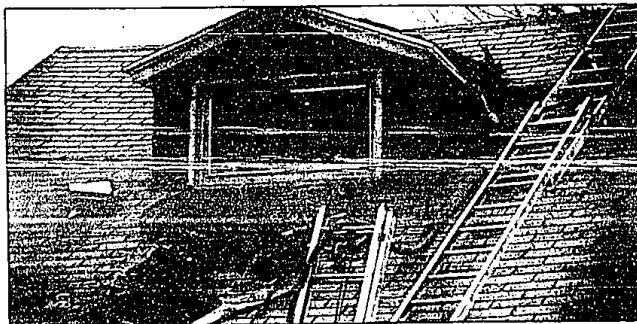
committed against the three Farmington Hills women. Szeman, who requested a court-appointed attorney, stood before Hand in stone-still military style, making no comments other than his plea to each charge.



Steven A. Szeman Jr., 25, was calm and reserved as police from Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham ushered him

into 47th District Court in Farmington Wednesday.

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Farmington Hills firefighter Wally Kurzeja surveys fire damage from the front window of the upstairs bedroom in the Bielickis' home.

Family safe as fire guts room in Hills home

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Bonnie Bielicki was stunned when she turned onto Grand River from Middlebelt shortly past 1:30 p.m. Monday.

"I said to my daughter, Kim, 'My God, our house is smoking!'"

After pulling into her driveway on the 21500 block of Jacksonville, the southeast Farmington Hills resident ran inside through the back door.

Her husband, Rickie, a truck driv-

er, had just walked into the kitchen from the back bedroom, where he had been painting the ceiling. "What's going on?" she yelled.

"What's smoking?" Rickie said he didn't smell anything. But Kim, 15, yelled that smoke filled her second-floor bedroom after opening the door leading upstairs.

The three quickly rounded up the family dog and ran to safety. No one

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Take a book — traffic will be slow on 696

Lanes will bog down as workers shift into high

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Motorists are advised to seek alternate routes now that work is in full swing again on the second year of the two-year \$21.5 million widening of I-696 in Farmington Hills and Southfield.

"This year is when the fun will begin," said Paul Garceau, Michigan Department of Transportation assistant district engineer.

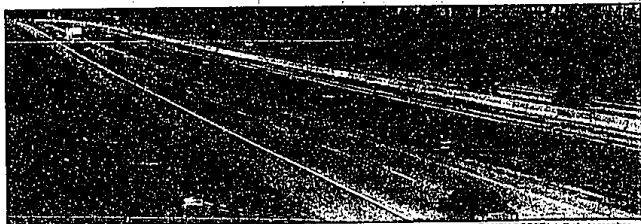
MDOT officials are leaving the decision up to motorists which alternate routes they should take to avoid

slow-moving traffic in the construction area. But signs along adjoining roads and freeways give motorists plenty of advance warning they are nearing a construction area.

Motorists are asked to observe the maximum 45 mph speed limit in the construction area. "It really comes into play this year," MDOT on-site engineer Tom Maki said.

With temporary lanes in place during construction, vehicles in both directions will be traveling in close quarters. "The lanes will be smaller.

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Work has begun in earnest on the \$21.5 million widening of I-696 in Farmington Hills and Southfield, Saturday, the eastbound lanes, as seen here from the Middlebelt Road overpass,

will be moved closer to the westbound lanes to allow for construction of the new permanent lanes.

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Check Out the More Than 7 Pages of APARTMENTS In Today's Observer & Eccentric Newspapers!



Ronald Lemieux looks out his living room window, which was smashed by vandals using a chunk of concrete early Monday.

Car, home windows shattered; damage estimated at \$6,000

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Vandals hurled cement chunks, bricks or rocks through windows of six houses in Farmington and Farmington Hills before dawn Monday. Eight windshields also were shattered in the attacks.

Damage was estimated at \$6,000.

"This is crazy. What kind of defense do you have?" asked Ronald Lemieux, a 12-year resident of Hill, near Power and 11 Mile.

In Farmington Hills, vandals broke a living room window on Hill, a family-room sliding door on Orchard Lake Road near Springfield, a bedroom window on Raphael, two storm windows on Raphael and a kitchen window on Springfield. In one case, the rock damaged a decorative table near the window. The houses are all in the central part of the city.

In Farmington, a second-story window of a house on the 24000 block of Farmington Road was attacked.

Windshields of eight vehicles parked in driveways also were shattered. Nothing appeared broken from the cars and pickups. Broken beer bottles were found around some of the attacked vehicles, police said.

LEMIEUX FIGURES the vandals attacked his tri-level home after midnight, when he and his wife, Janeece, and their two children were asleep.

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