

PETER BALDWIN

District Chief Al Smolen (left) talks with firefighter Lynn McDaniel during the live training burn at the old Country Garden Shoppe.

Firemen learn in practice fire

Farmington Hills firefighters sharpened their skills with the help of a vacant building on Sunday morning, Aug. 20.

The building was donated to the Farmington Hills Fire Department for the purpose of a live training burn.

Firefighters from Station 2 (Wheeler) ran through two perimeter training exercises before the building was demolished. No firefighters went inside the burning wood structure.

Formerly home to the Country

Garden Shoppe, the site, on the east side of Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile, near K mart, is slated to become a strip of stores.

"Such exercises make training evolutions realistic," Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

"Without these donated buildings, we would not be as efficient or as safe in fighting fire as we are today. We are always looking for people wishing to donate structures for these valuable training opportunities."

To donate a building, call the fire department at 553-0744.



Firefighters Mark Borman (at the nozzle), Mary Potts and Dean Schultz use a 2½-inch hose line during the live training burn at the old Country Garden Shoppe on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Recycling movement on roll in Farmington, Hills

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

People are going out of their way to dispose of trash in Farmington and Farmington Hills — and both public works departments are delighted.

Both cities opened recycling centers last month.

"We're very pleased with the results and participation of the community," said Dan Rooney, Farmington Hills department of public works superintendent. "We have a fairly consistent stream of traffic. We're

very pleased."

Weekends seem to be the busiest for the Farmington Hills center, at the DPW yard on the west side of Halsted, between 12 Mile and I-696. It was much the same story at Farmington's center in the city's DPW yard on the north side of Nine Mile, west of Farmington Road.

So far, newspapers have the distinction of being the most popular disposable item at both centers. Both cities have sent a truckload of newspapers to the recycling vendor. Newspapers aside, trash trends differ between the two cities.

FARMINGTON HILLS, the only one of the two accepting tin and metal cans, has already sent out a truckload of tin and glass. High-density plastics, those opaque and colored containers for milk, liquid detergents and bleach, have been tossed more often than expected in Farmington Hills but not often enough to collect a truckload yet, Rooney said.

Meanwhile, Farmington's sent out a truckload of plastics and motor oil, said Kevin Gushman, assistant director for public services. "We didn't think anything would fill up that quick," he said. "There's been a

steady stream of people."

The glass bin hasn't been filled once yet in Farmington. "Glass isn't being used a lot. And then it breaks and consolidates in the dumpsters," Gushman said.

The Farmington center is open 24 hours a day. The Farmington Hills center is open from 7:30 a.m. to dusk. Residents of both cities can use either yard.

BOTH CITIES accept the following:

- Non-deposit glass containers in clear, brown or green. Rinse and remove lids.

- Newspapers bundled in twine or string or put in paper bags. Magazines, telephone books, glossy publications such as catalogs and plastic bags aren't accepted.

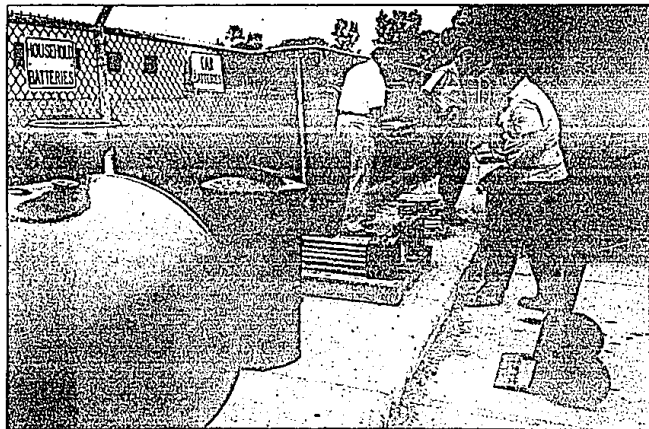
- Car and household batteries intact with all caps in place.

- High-density plastic. Don't dump clear plastic containers or those from cottage cheese or yogurt. Rinse and remove caps.

- Used motor oil from engine changes. Transmission fluid, antifreeze and other engine fluids aren't accepted.

- Only Farmington Hills accepts tin or metal cans. Remove tops, rims and flatten.

The response has prompted Farmington Hills to send its recycling brochure into a second printing of 4,000 copies. Some of those will be passed out in the schools. The city already has distributed the first printing of 1,000 copies.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Farmington city manager Robert Dondman (left) and Mayor Richard Tupper load newspapers while maintenance worker Greg Kuc-

zowski places car batteries on a wood pallet at the city's recycling center on Nine Mile, just west of Farmington Road.

Schools talks continue throughout weekend

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and continue to work with a mediator."

Shortly after, Alley said, "We are getting closer. The fact that it's 1:15 a.m. and we're still here I think is excellent. We're extremely hopeful we can reach a tentative agreement on all three contracts."

AT 2:45 a.m. today, Flanagan was optimistic that settlements with all three unions, representing 1,255 employees, could be reached by 6:30 a.m.

"It's a touchy time," he said. "We're getting closer."

The contract for the 740-member teachers union — the Farmington Education Association headed by president Jim Miner — expired Friday.

Contracts expired June 30 for the 300-member Farmington Educational Support Personnel union, headed by president Sally Krause, and the 210-member Custodial, Maintenance

'We are getting closer. The fact that it's 1:15 a.m. and we're still here I think is excellent.'

— Zan Alley
chief union negotiator

and Cafeteria union, headed by president Richard Hollowell. They've been working under extended agreements.

ON FRIDAY, Flanagan said he was "very disappointed" the unions empowered their bargaining teams to call a strike "when we as a district have been trying to reach an agreement in good faith with all employee groups — particularly when the board has proposed no economic rollbacks.

"We believe that everyone — staff, students and community — loses in a strike situation."

Responding on Friday, Alley said Flanagan hadn't addressed "the statement that the board has proposed rollbacks in working conditions."

One teacher concern going into the weekend involved a district proposal to increase instructional time for elementary students by shortening the lunch break from 60 to 30 minutes.

The district's position was that elementary classroom time in Farmington is shorter, on average, than in other districts. Middle and high school students also have a 30-minute lunch break, Zurynec said.

The tentative agreement provides for the 60-minute lunch break with 15 minutes to be added to either the beginning or end of the elementary school day after transportation department review.

Teachers also hoped to discuss site-based decision making, AIDS and hepatitis B, alcohol and drug testing, involuntary transfers, integrity of the conference planning period, class size and filling vacancies.

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by Anna Klein II
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