

Singles club is only one of its kind, 1B



Wrestling results, 1D

Contest challenges detective skills, 10A

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MUSICAL find. Pianist Tom Alpenburg has been rediscovers. Alpenburg, who entertained regularly at the Roman Terrace Restaurant, recently closed because of a fire, is now playing at Country Epicure on old Grand River in Novi. He plays Tuesday through Thursday from 6-11 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 1 p.m. The Observer received a number of phone calls from readers searching for their favorite Alpenburg-style hits after the fire.

BIG increase. Accidents in Farmington Hills increased 40 percent during recent winter storms, according to traffic safety Officer Donald Fradette. "I'd say probably 90 percent are due to drivers driving too fast for the road conditions," he said. The storms gave students an early winter break, closing Farmington, Wallied Lake, Clareneville and most other area schools for two days in a row.

Quote of the week

"Government by committees is wrong. Your function is to carry out the will of the people, not your own private agenda."

— Hills resident Marty Krohner, talking to the city council Monday. Story, 1A.

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Building Scene

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Compromise ends Hills study panel

Related stories, 8A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer
A compromise hammered out between opposing Farmington Hills City Council factions has put an end to the council's controversial three-member financial study committee. But some residents remain cautious.

Exploring the financial issues facing the city should not be limited to a committee, resident Carole Boyd said. "It should be the whole council," she said. "I know it means a lot more work. But that's what you signed up for."
The short-lived committee died Monday in a 7-0 vote after a compromise was worked out last week between Mayor Jean Fox, a committee opponent, and councilmen Terry Sever and Jonathan Grant, two of

the committee members.
IN RETURN for their votes to abolish the committee, Sever and committee chairman Grant demanded a commitment that the city's major financial issues would be studied and resolved.
Discussion and action on committee member Lawrence Lichtman's mission statement outlining financial issues for study was delayed until a special March 13 meeting.

At that time, council is expected to discuss how to structure the study. "I don't really care at this point in time how it's studied or who studies it," said Sever, who stressed that the city must develop a new approach to its financial problems.
The three-member committee was to study how the city might accommodate the needs of interest groups that could potentially compete for tax dollars. Its agenda included a new library, more parks and recre-

ation land, a community activities center, renewal of the .05-mill parks and recreation tax and the Year 2000 report recommendations.

GRANT PROPOSED dissolving the committee and adopting the mission statement. He also suggested that the full council restructure the study committee at a special Saturday morning meeting.

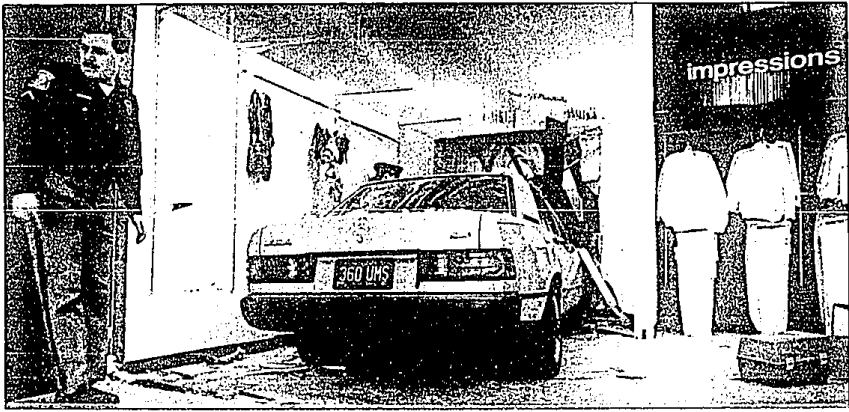
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Car crashes through store

By Casey Hans staff writer

Three people suffered minor injuries in downtown Farmington Monday when a Mercedes-Benz crashed through the front wall of a T.J. Maxx store, landing in the store's dressing room.
"All of a sudden, there was this tremendous boom. I thought of a bomb," said Jane Lark, who was shopping at the store in the Downtown Farmington Center and getting ready to try on some clothes. "You just felt like the building was coming down."

The driver suffered a sprained ankle and two other people in the store sustained head and shoulder injuries and lacerations when they were hit by debris. One woman was in the store's dressing rooms when the car plowed through.



Farmington public safety officer Joe Schornack surveys the scene at T.J. Maxx Monday, where a Mercedes-Benz crashed

THE INJURED were taken to Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills where they were treated and released, according to a hospital spokeswoman.
Police are still investigating the crash.

Virginia Veronica Britt-Stricklen of Detroit had backed her 1986 Mercedes-Benz into a parking space in front of the store, and apparently left the engine running, according to deputy public safety director Gary Goss. "As she began to step out, the

car went forward," he said. The driver then apparently got back into the car to hit the brake, but hit the accelerator instead.
"The car accelerated, squealing its tires all the way through the wall," Goss said.

THE CAR went through a plywood partitioned wall, which was once a window, traveling about 100 feet from the parking space and landing about 40 feet into the store, Goss said.

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Farmington calls for vote on sewer project bond issue

Related stories, 2A

By Susan Buck staff writer

The Farmington City Council called Monday for a special bond election May 22 to ask voters for \$12 million for a sewer separation project.
Scheduled to start this fall, the project will separate older, combined sewers, improve other parts of the sewer system citywide and build a 3.2 million-gallon retention tank to hold sewage until it can be sent to Detroit for treatment.
It is expected to take 18 months to complete.

"It's not a question of whether we

"It's not a question of whether we are going to do it, but how."
— Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager

are going to do it, but how," said Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager.
THE PROJECT, the largest in the city's history, will cost each household \$120 to \$212 per year for the next 20 years depending on:
• Whether the sale of bonds is approved by voters.
• Whether the city receives a low-interest loan from the state, or
• How much water each house-

hold uses if the bonds are not approved and a user fee is tacked onto water and sewer rates.
Council member William Hartsock made a motion at Monday's meeting, which was supported by council member Ralph Yoder, to support the ballot proposal.
The state of Michigan, through its Revolving Fund Loan Program, has

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Observer launches weekend news team

Better coverage and overnight news. That's what the Farmington Observer is now offering its readers.
Our new weekend news team will be in the office to cover breaking stories on Saturday and Sunday. The goal is to bring you a more complete, comprehensive paper on Monday morning.
If you see breaking news in Farmington or Farmington Hills, or in any of the Observer & Eccentric coverage areas, call 591-2305 between noon and 8 p.m. Saturdays and noon and 4 p.m. Sundays.

Dolan plans to seek 2nd term in House

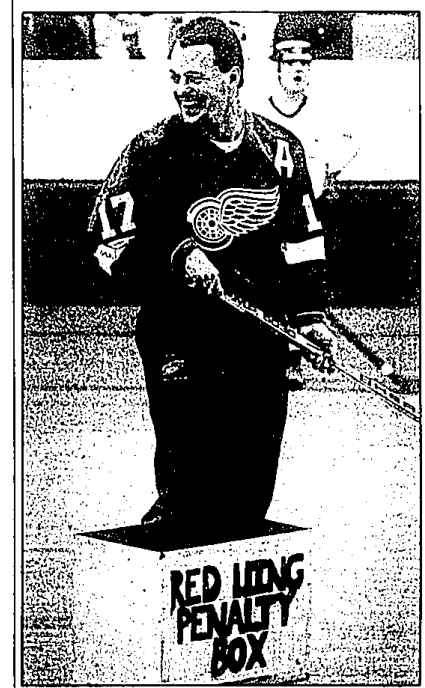
By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills hasn't made it official yet, but she said she intends to seek re-election to a second term in Lansing.
"I love what I'm doing," said the former Farmington Hills city councilwoman. "If the voters want me, I'll be happy to be back. I just love it up there in Lansing."
Dolan, 63, and her campaign manager Farmington Hills city councilwoman Nancy Bates, aren't aware of any opponents yet for the two-year 69th District seat. The district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield Township and the villages of Bingham Farms, Franklin and Beverly Hills.

"If the voters want me, I'll be happy to be back. I just love it up there in Lansing."
— Rep. Jan Dolan

"I haven't heard a word. And I don't know whether we'll have a primary," Bates said, adding she is not aware of any Republicans interested in taking on Dolan.
But Democrat and Farmington Hills city councilman Aldo Vaguzzi promises that a Democrat will run although he said it will be tough to unseat Dolan.
"We will have a candidate. There's

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Penalty time

Students at the Farmington Training Center had a special "penalty box" for Detroit Red Wings who visited the school for a scrimmage this month. Haro, Red Wing Gerard Galant serves his time out of the game with a smile. For more photos and a story, see Page 3A.

RANDY BOSTI/staff photographer