

Just talking turtle with a TMNT, 1D



Football results, 1C

Neighbors oppose plan for recycling center, 4A

# Farmington Observer

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## Group carries on with waste control plans

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Members of a regional seven-city garbage authority say they have no time to waste with spiraling garbage handling and disposal costs.

Robert Deadman, chairman of the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, said his group will forge ahead on plans to control the waste stream as quickly as possible, despite recent action by Oakland County

postponing action on a county landfill site and opening a waste-to-energy plant.

"We're very disappointed" in the county action, Deadman said at a joint city council meeting of member RRRASOC communities, held Oct. 10 in Southfield. "If we have to, we'll simply find our own solutions to meet those goals. If it has to be, then so it shall be."

RRRASOC represents the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills,

Southfield, Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom and South Lyon.

The county's action also caused the RRRASOC board to defer consideration of an intergovernmental agreement, which would allow communities to jointly fund the building and operating of solid waste facilities. "We are very concerned that the county's commitment... is at this time, in serious jeopardy. We cannot recommend proceeding with any contractual agreement with Oakland County," Deadman said.

THE JOINT city council meeting — the first since May of 1989 — detailed progress made by the group since the authority was formed. It is likely more of the joint meetings will be held in coming months as larger projects get under way, Deadman said.

No action was taken Wednesday, but the RRRASOC board made several recommendations which will be taken up by individual city councils at future meetings:

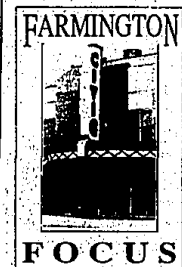
• To add Lyon Township as a

RRRASOC member.

• Develop the balance of curbside recycling programs in 1991. Southfield has already started its program and both Farmington and Farmington Hills will begin their programs next July.

• Build a material recovery facility, with a target opening date in 1992. Officials are still awaiting word on whether their selected, controversial site on Haggerty Road

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### FOCUS

POP THE corn, dim the house lights, switch on the projectors... a new movie house is open for business in Farmington Hills.

West River, a nine-screen theater complex with more than 2,000 seats, opened Oct. 5 in the West River Shopping Center on Grand River Avenue just west of Middlebelt Road.

Some of the opening night features were "Sound of Music," "Ghost" and "Postcards From the Edge." Business was brisk, said theater manager Carl Brasile, a Farmington Hills resident.

The new theater, owned by United Artists Theatre Circuit Inc., has so-called "state-of-the-art" projection and stereo sound equipment, Brasile said.

"We also have lots of help at the concession stands to make you next in line," he said.

H AUL OUT those bottles and cans... and help the North Farmington High School band and orchestra students and boosters. The band students will hold their Fall Bottle Drive Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Kroger supermarket, Farmington and 14 Mile Roads.

The drive will take place in the rear parking lot from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will go through nearby subdivisions collecting bottles and cans.

H EAR YE! Hear ye! A meeting to discuss the Shawassee Hill sledding issue is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30, in the media center of Farmington High School on Shawassee west of Orchard Lake.

The joint meeting of the board of education and the city council will address safety concerns and hear residents' views of Shawassee Hill, which has become a popular winter sledding spot over the years.

Earlier this year, school officials put off an idea for landscaping the hill after people complained about the possible closing of the hill to sledders.

S PEAKING of the Farmington High media center (library), the renovated and enlarged facility is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays during the school year.

A media specialist will be on hand to help students and residents, but "people should keep in mind that this is a high school collection, not a public library," said Peggy Schmidt, media resources director.

M EMORY LANE — From the Oct. 19, 1990 Farmington Express:

Would-be safe-cracker tried — and failed — to pry open the safe in Principal Gerald V. Harrison's office in Farmington High School... Efforts were under way to raise \$300 for a reward for information leading to the conviction of the driver who struck and killed Barbara Jean Currell, 6, on 10 Mile Road near Middlebelt.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Jim Cummings, an employee of Downing Street Fireplace in Farmington Hills, uses the tools of his trade — a wire brush on a

fiberglass stalk — to clean a chimney of a Farmington house. It's the busy time of year for people who clean chimneys.

## Chimney sweep

### Sooty business is woman's joy

By Tom Esler  
staff writer

N ANETTE MOORE started out doing "light paperwork" at Downing Street Fireplace in Farmington Hills at age 19.

Now she's 25 and owns the place.

And these autumn days — busy ones for anyone involved in the fireplace and chimney cleaning business — her life revolves around hometending raccoons, creosote buildups, soot, paying bills and meeting the payroll.

"It's the opportunity of a lifetime," said the Westland

resident who's acquired the business and a husband since graduating from John Glenn High in 1985.

She and her crew can be found on area rooftops inspecting and cleaning chimneys, while routing out a raccoon or two in the process.

Raccoons are really quite common in suburban chimneys, she said. They make a home on something called the smoke shelf about half way up a chimney flue and come and go from the top.

"Raccoons think it's their house and you're trying to kick them out," Moore said. "They can be dangerous. We've had them running around customers' homes and

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## 2 arrested after robbery at bank

By Joanne Maliszewski  
and Casey Hans  
staff writers

A traffic jam and the help of residents led to the arrest of two Detroit men in the theft of cash and checks from a Farmington Hills auto dealership employee at a Manufacturers National Bank Oct. 9.

"It was a lot of nice work from everyone," said Detective Sgt. Chuck Nebus of the Farmington Hills police.

Nebus credits the quick apprehension of the pair shortly after the robbery to help from a Novi resident, a Livonia resident, a Farmington public safety commander and Farmington Hills officers and detectives. Police are also investigating a

possible link to a similar robbery Oct. 1 at Comerica Bank, 29446 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

Antonio J. Parker, 23, and Troy D. Napper, 22, both stood mute to one count each of unarmed robbery at their arraignment Oct. 11 before 47th District Judge Fred Harris of Farmington Oct. 11. Not-guilty pleas were entered on their behalf.

BOTH FAILED to post a \$100,000 corporate surety bond set by Harris. Parker and Napper remain in the Oakland County Jail.

A preliminary examination on the charges is scheduled for Oct. 22 before Harris. Conviction of unarmed robbery, a felony, carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. An employee of Bill Cook Buick-

Mazda was about to deposit an undetermined amount of cash and checks at Manufacturers Bank about 2:47 p.m. Tuesday when she noticed a man walking next to her. The man tried to grab the bag of cash and checks she carried under her arm.

When the employee fought to hold onto the bag, the man hit her shoulder with a closed fist, according to a Farmington Hills police report, and took the bag.

The man then fled up a nearby hill. An 18-year-old Novi man who witnessed the incident went after him. The man got into a car, driven by another man, in the employee parking lot, and the two fled with the Novi resident following them, ac-

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## Knauer denounces trashing of signs

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Judicial candidate Rick Knauer denies having anything to do with the destruction and removal of some political signs for 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris.

"If somebody is trashing his signs, I wish they would stop. It can't be any good to me," said the Farmington Hills resident who is squaring off against Harris in the Nov. 6 general election for 47th District judgeship. "We have had nothing whatever to do with it. We will have nothing to do with it," Knauer said. "This would be criminal. I would hardly run for judge and commit criminal acts."

The damage and removal of some

of Harris' political signs are detailed in reports filed at the Farmington Hills Police Department and the Farmington Public Safety Department. About 11 of Harris' political signs were damaged or stolen in various locations in Farmington and Farmington Hills, Oct. 5-9, according to police reports.

"Signs do disappear. I've been doing this (managing campaigns) since 1974. You lose signs but you don't lose them in that kind of numbers," said Al Holtz, Harris' campaign manager.

KNAUER CONFIRMED that Holtz called him about the sign incidents. "He vehemently denied it. I'm

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## Brickner campaign is 'all in the family'

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

When Barry Brickner decided to take on Republican state Rep. Jan Dolan, his kids set up a stand outside their home and made signs for their father's campaign.

"The kids have gone out campaigning with me," said Brickner, father of Kelly and Shawn.

His children's interest in Brickner's Democratic bid against

freshman legislator Dolan to represent the 69th District in the state House might run in the family, Brickner says he's been a "closest politician" all his life.

"I've been politically oriented all my life," Brickner said. A two-term precinct delegate, Brickner decided to throw his hat into the big league ring after meeting with the Farmington Democratic

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Barry Bricker of Farmington Hills and his wife Cheryl said they knew what they were getting into when the 39-year-old attorney decided to run against incumbent Jan Dolan for a seat in the State House in the 69th District.

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