



Farmington Observer

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Millage vote sparks lobbying efforts

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Voters in the Farmington school district can expect to get plenty of information — pro and con — about the special millage election scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 5.

A parent group is planning its strategy for getting the millage passed, while one of Farmington Hills' largest businesses — already on the record opposing the millage effort — plans to keep a high profile throughout the campaign.

Parent Carol Luckscheiter, co-chairwoman of a newly formed group called Friends of Farmington Schools, said her group will meet with parents from throughout the district this week to decide how they will approach the public with information.

A political action committee with the same name organized to help pass a bond issue for a new elementary school in 1988-89; Luckscheiter said it has not yet been decided if the group will form as a PAC.

So far, she said, she's had a mixed reaction from the community about the two-proposal

February ballot, which will ask for 2.7 mills for operations and another 1 mill for capital projects.

"Some areas are really supportive and others not at all," she said. "It really varies."

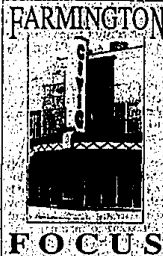
MEANWHILE, Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company continues its stance that the school district needs to pare spending even further before it asks taxpayers for more. The district has already pared \$1 million from its \$92 million budget.

"We want to see a lot of debate over this,

and we're going to participate in this," said Patrick Anderson, assistant vice president for government affairs for the Hills Insurance company. "We don't want this to slide past without anybody knowing about it."

In a letter to superintendent Michael Flanagan Dec. 6, Anderson said he would also be watching closely to ensure the district does not use any tax money, including school district supplies and services, to promote a "yes" vote in the election.

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FOCUS

ORIGINALITY counts, then the judges in the Metro Bank Christmas tree contest are going to have a tough time overlooking the entry with the Operation Desert Shield theme.

Designed by the tellers in the Metro Bank's downtown Farmington branch, the tree is decorated with military trinkets and armed service insignia and the like.

The tree was perched on a table in the trailer that's being used while the old building is being torn down and rebuilt. This week it will be moved to the lobby of Metro Bank's headquarters at Grand River and Haledale.

The contest involved various bank departments. Members of the board of directors will judge the entries and announce the winner this week. People in the winning department will be treated to breakfast at the Botford Inn next week.

DICK TUPPER, Farmington councilman and director of this year's Goodfellows effort, thanks all the local good fellows who braved the cold and traffic on collection day, Nov. 23.

Also deserving thanks, Tupper said, are the many donors who contributed \$15,100 to the annual charity drive, which helps the area's needy.

Tupper also asks anyone with the time and inclination to help pack food and toys. Call him at 473-1840 for an assignment. Again this year, the Farmington Goodfellows are working at the Village Commons in a vacant store front.

TRASH COLLECTION will be on a holiday schedule in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Under a joint contract, the hauler collects on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but not on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Trash collections during those weeks will be delayed one day.

MEMORY LANE — From the Dec. 14, 1950 Farmington Enterprise:

A request by the Clarenceville Board of Education to have a traffic light installed at Eight Mile and Middlebelt roads was turned down by the Wayne County Road Commission. The volume of traffic at the intersection was not heavy enough to need a light, authorities said.

Jim Bates scored 17 points to pace Farmington High's basketball victory over Rochester High School.

Hudson Pacemakers for 1951 with the "step-down" design were available at Tavern Auto Sales on Grand River.

Classified Ad: "FOR SALE — Cow with calf, feeder pigs. Call after 4 p.m. 11300 Tuck Road."

The Farmington City Commission approved a plan by Dr. Joseph Gadow to build a hockey rink next to the city ice skating area on Shawwassee behind Farmington High School.

George Makris, boxing coach at Michigan State College, was the main speaker at the annual Farmington High School Football Bust, sponsored by the Farmington Kiwanis. About 120 attended the event in the school gymnasium.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 2188 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photographer

Mark Schiefsky, a 1987 graduate of Harrison High School and a senior at the University of Michigan, stands before Greek-style pillars at Angell Hall on the Ann Arbor campus. Schiefsky will

go to Cambridge University in England next fall to study Greek and Latin classical literature through a Power Exchange Scholarship.

Student to travel with the classics

By Casey Hans
staff writer

When Mark Schiefsky heads for England next year, a new world will open for him as he launches into intensive studies of classic Greek and Latin literature.

Someday, he hopes to become Professor Schiefsky.

The 20-year-old University of Michigan senior from Farmington Hills was recently awarded the Power Exchange Scholarship, a full two-year scholarship to Cambridge University, allowing him to study the classics in depth and prepare for a career in university-level teaching.

"It's the best thing that could happen to me, with what I want to do,"

said Schiefsky. "I need the time to show I can do classics as well as I can do science."

A 1987 graduate of Harrison High School, Schiefsky went to U-M intending to major in the sciences before finding his niche in classical literature during the past year. He will graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree with a double major in

classical studies and physics.

HIS MOVE away from the sciences and into the humanities has helped him blossom.

"I've been overjoyed," he said about his current study of translations of Greek and Latin classics.

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3 charged with abduction, extortion

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Two Detroit men and a Farmington Hills woman are charged with kidnapping and extortion after a 29-year-old Hills woman reported being held against her will, threatened and sexually assaulted.

The Nov. 7 incident is believed to involve a \$200 drug debt.

Charged are Detroiters O.C. Cruder, 21, and Russell Eric Glenn, 25, and Melissa Yvonne Ebinger, 22, of Farmington Hills.

They stood mute and not guilty pleas were entered for them when they were arraigned Saturday before 47th District Court magistrate Jim Brady, who set a cash bond of \$100,000. The three remain incarcerated in the Oakland County Jail, pending their preliminary examination Friday morning, said Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills police.

Upon conviction, the kidnapping charge carries a term of up to life in prison and the extortion charge up to 20 years.

THE VICTIM told Farmington Hills police she had gone to a crack house in Detroit where she was abducted, put into a van, forced to have sexual intercourse with three men, then moved to another vehicle where she was eventually brought to her home in Farmington Hills.

Police arrested the three defendants there.

The victim tried to escape when

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Drunk-driving victims remembered at vigil

By Casey Hans
staff writer

They came "to remember, to heal, to hope" — the slogan that graced the altar for this year's Oakland County MADD candlelight vigil at Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

More than 100 came to the Farmington Hills church Monday to share the common thread that binds them together: the grief and memories of family members lost in drunk driving mishaps.

Many also shared hugs and tears. "People may not know me, but they know how I feel," said Greg Bien, president of the Oakland County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who lost his 4-year-old daughter Nicole to a drunk driver.

"This night is special because it's for us."

Nicole's brother Chris wrote a poem, as did many others, in memory of their loved ones. "I tried to be tough when times were very rough," Chris said. "I'm an only child today. When people bring her up I don't know what to say."

FIFTY-THREE people died in Oakland County due to drunk driving during the past year, down from the previous year but "still too many," Bien said. There were 1,446 alcohol-

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— Greg Bien
president
Oakland County MADD

related traffic accidents in which 2,260 people were injured.

MADD members spend their year lobbying for new legislation and harsher sentences on drunk-driving cases, and encouraging local police agencies to make drunk-driving arrests a priority.

"All these things were done for one reason — to put an end to this senseless tragedy," Bien added.

Numerous members of victims' families spoke out during the hour-long vigil Monday, remembering children, parents, nieces, sisters and friends.

Lenore Lighthall's daughter was one of the victims who died on Oakland County roads this year, killed while out on her first date. "He called for my daughter before she was grown, because she was

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SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photographer

Danny Mason of Troy looks up at his father, Jim, during the service. In the middle is Danny's brother, Jimmy. They were remembering the boys' uncle, John Oatley.

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