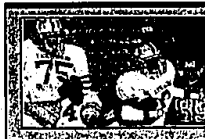


This Halley's success has British flavor 7A



Pre-grid operators 1B

Officer offers tips to foil car thieves 6A



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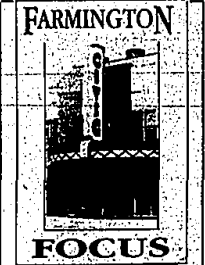
Monday, September 9, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Fifty Cents

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FARMINGTON FOCUS

ATTENTION, all who are interested in nature and the outdoors: The Farmington Natrallists will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Spicer House in Heritage Park on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

Herman Melnik, a Farmington resident and an expert on organic gardening, will speak on the purpose of trees. A children's program on trees will start at 7 p.m. with Melnik's lecture set for 7:30 p.m.

THEY'RE PLANNING a tree festival for this weekend at St. Alexander's Catholic Church on Shawwassee between Inkster Road and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Singer Marvin Ruffin, cousin of David Ruffin, will highlight the annual Fall Festival with a performance at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, at the church. The event, which runs Sept. 13-15, will feature entertainment, rides and food.

IS THERE life after retirement? That question might be answered at an ElderMed program at Farmington Hills' Botford Hospital beginning at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, in the Education Center of the hospital, 28050 Grand River.

The Rev. Kurt Stutz, Botford chaplain, will host a panel consisting of the Rev. Oscar Ice of the Greater Detroit Interfaith Roundtable, Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple, and the Rev. Edward Eonam of Project Compassion.

The speakers' topics, respectively, will be interfaith and inter-cultural issues, the Jewish humanistic viewpoint on retirement, and the transition to nursing home living.

Seating is limited, so reservations (471-8020) are a must.

ElderMed at Botford is a free, lifetime membership program for adults age 60 and over. Members can participate in events such as the monthly luncheon series called Table Topics.

For more information about ElderMed, call 471-8020 weekdays during normal business hours.

COME TAKE "A Taste of Farmington" . . . That's the advice of the local chamber of commerce and the Farmington Community Center, which co-sponsor the annual event.

Billed as a "gastronomical treat featuring delicacies from local eateries," the event will be 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Cost is \$10 per person. Call 474-3440 or 477-8404 for more information.

MEMORY LANE — From the Sept. 13, 1951, Farmington Enterprise:

- Farmington's new Post Office on Farmington Road near Orchard Street was to open officially on Oct. 1.
- Item from the Around the Block column: "It's harvest time . . . and we know it. Our friend Alvin Boswell over on Robinson Street favored us once again with a bountiful display of giant vegetables."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48338, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



photos by JOHN DISCHER/staff photographer

Charlee Fulton, who lives on Country Club Circle, complains about Detroit Edison service at the Farmington Hills City Hall. She says she can't get "priority service" from Edison, even though her son has a medical condition and depends on a machine.

City plays hardball with Edison

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are ready to pull the plug on Detroit Edison unless improvements are made quickly.

The 20-year franchise agreement between the city and the electric utility expires next February and the city wants to add stringent provisions to the renewal.

"I will not vote to renew that franchise unless these improvements are made," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi at a special meeting Wednesday evening at City Hall.

Following a July 7 storm which left many customers without electricity for days, Vagnozzi drew up a "seven-point plan" to address the frequent problem of power outages in Farmington Hills, especially in the northwest sector of the city.

Several citizens volunteered to serve on a study committee with city officials. Vagnozzi said Thursday. They are: Joe Mannino, Dennis Bagley, Ernie Sharpe, Barbara Keogh, Bob Cherry, John

'I will not vote to renew that franchise unless . . . improvements are made.'

— Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi

Gavin, Bruce Deshere, Phil Cwagenberg, Steve and Diane Alegnani, Russell VanDyke, Jonathon Taylor and Richard Frankel.

This committee will monitor Edison progress. As of Thursday, Vagnozzi had not selected the council members who will serve.

HILLS OFFICIALS had touted Wednesday's meeting as a first. Residents affected by outages had a chance to air their complaints with Edison

officials on hand to respond.

But some of the more than 40 residents who showed up became impatient with Edison officials' technical explanations. Although eight Edison people came, only two gave presentations.

Edison, a virtual monopoly, plans to spend more than \$3.5 million this year to improve service for customers in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield and Commerce Township, according to recent press release.

The improvements include a \$3 million transmission line to supply power to a new transformer at Edison's Drexel substation in Farmington Hills. Work was completed July 28.

Edison will increase the capacity of the substation, located at 12 Mile and Drake roads, from four to eight circuits.

In addition, the utility is constructing and replacing distribution lines in the area.

"We are increasing the substation's capacity, which means increased reliability of service to 7,700 customers served by circuits origi-

Residents complain of power outages

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents complained bitterly about the service — or lack of it — from Detroit Edison.

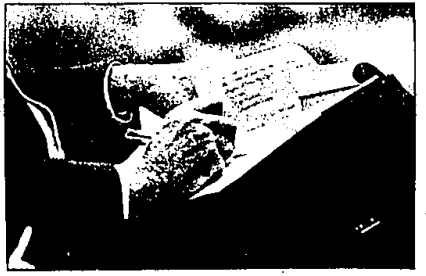
And Edison officials were there to listen.

Residents seemed almost willing to accept the power outages caused by the July 7 storm that clobbered the Detroit area. But they can't stomach the interruptions that

come on clear, sunny, 70 degree days.

"You need to get back the people's trust," Joseph Giachino, an Oak Forest Drive resident, told Edison officials at a meeting Wednesday at the City Hall. "You don't have it."

Phil Cwagenberg, who lives on Fleetwood Drive and represents the Farmington Homeowners Association,



A Detroit Edison spokesman scribbles notes as a Farmington Hills resident speaks.

Fire forces evacuation of Mills plant.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A manufacturing oven at Mills Products apparently overheated Thursday, causing used paint chips to ignite and employees to evacuate the building.

No one was injured.

At 3:30 p.m., the entire Farmington Public Safety Department was called to the scene, as well as Farmington Hills firefighters for backup, after product in the 10-foot square furnace ignited and attempts by employees to extinguish the fire were unsuccessful.

The fire was contained in the oven, but flames were fanned when the door was opened, said Gary Goss,

'The company is still investigating. It may have been caused by the oven being left on overnight, which was not the company's practice.'

— Gary Goss
Deputy public service director

deputy public safety director.

Public safety officials estimated about \$5,000 in damage was done to the plant ceiling by water and sprinkling systems and nearby filling cabinets were damaged by radiant heat.

"The company is still investigating," said Goss. "It may have been caused by the oven being left on overnight, which was not the company's practice."

The manufacturing oven there is used to take paint overspray from a manufacturing coating process, and melt the chips down into small parcels, which are then properly disposed of in an environmentally safe manner, Goss said he was told. He said the paint chips were not considered accidental.

Company owners could not be reached for comment.

The 120,000-square-foot landmark plant sits on about six acres of land on the north side of Eight Mile, just east of Farmington Road. It is Farmington's largest industrial building and one of the city's oldest industries.

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Board on video? Trustees want more answers

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school trustees want more information about cablecasting board meetings, including suggestions about how it could be done and how much it would cost.

The issue was raised most recently during the school board campaign during which all three candidates supported the idea.

Trustee Susan Rennels, successful incumbent in that June election, led a discussion of the issue last week, saying she continues to be in favor but is concerned about where the meetings would be held and that they be done professionally. Without making an official motion, the board directed Superintendent Michael Flanagan to come back to them with more information.

"Our primary reason for cablecasting should be to get information out to the public," Rennels said. She suggested the meetings remain at the school district's central office "where we have copiers . . . phones . . . and documents" and also suggested the board consider using TV-10, the education cable channel with studios based at North Farmington High School.

ALTHOUGH A majority of the school board appeared to support the effort, feelings were not unanimous. "I don't share your feelings on this, particularly if I have to take this show on the road," said board President Jack Ceton. "People must be pretty bored if they want to watch a council or board meeting."

Trustees James Abernethy and Jack Inch said if cablecasting were approved, they would be concerned about getting a good sound system. "If you cannot hear every question that's asked, if you cannot see the reply, no one will watch more than two minutes," Inch said.

Abernethy said he was also concerned that student entertainment

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The PennySaver is now Suburban Cable Weekly. Watch for it in our Monday issues!

