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lief, and it should stay that way," Dolan, 65 and a widow, stresses her involvement in community causes like CPR (Campaign to Promote Responsibility), a state project that works with service-type groups to help young men and women avoid pregnancy and AIDS, while increasing their self-esteem.

"It's taking a positive step," said Dolan, one of four legislators working on the plan. "We've been saying, 'Let's give them freedom of choice.' Now we're asking them to take responsibility."

Dolan, a former Farmington Hills councilwoman, said she has a special concern about the way the urban area has developed. She headed up a state task force on the subject and "worked to repair all the harm that's been done"

through policies like tax abatement.

On development issues, she usually stresses local officials working together to solve common problems.

"We have to encourage communities to work together," she said. "What happens in Novi impacts Farmington Hills. No city is an island unto itself."

On reapportionment — by the state — of funds for local school districts, Dolan said, "I don't want all our school districts to become mediocre, but that's the way we seem to be headed."

But on the controversial tax-cutting Proposal C — known as Cut 'n Cap and very unpopular with school people — Dolan said she'd probably vote for it, although she's "not speaking for it."

"Since the legislature was unwilling or incapable of dealing with this issue, I am supporting and will vote for Proposal C. At this point, it is probably the one change I use of providing any immediate tax relief to my constituents."

Dolan, a former hospital dietitian, secondary school teacher and administrator of an adult day care center, holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Akron.

She said there's been at least one frustration in her state career, though. "I get discouraged sometimes because the committee chairs have too much power," she said. "A bill they don't like just won't get anywhere. I got used to the open government we had on the (Farmington Hills) City Council."



SHARON LEMHEK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Moving along: People power is needed to keep traffic rolling during a power outage in downtown Farmington.

## Thursday power outage creates hassles for many

**BY CASEY HANS**  
STAFF WRITER

A minor power outage at the noon hour Thursday caused a major inconvenience for the Farmington area.

The outage, which lasted less than two hours, blocked power to businesses and residences from Farmington north into Farmington Hills from about 10:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

It affected 5,000 Detroit customers, according to Detroit Edison spokesman Scott Simons.

Three electrical circuits to Farmington area substations

were affected when the lines were struck by lightning Thursday morning, Simons said.

Farmington public safety officers routed a heavier lunch hour traffic through the city, where traffic lights at the main intersections of Grand River at Farmington Road in the city center and Farmington Road at Freedom were dark.

Businesses downtown were also without power. Larry Salton of Clothes Encounters said customers continued to shop despite the lack of light.

"Most people didn't know it had gone out," he added.

Ten buildings in the Farmington Public School District lost power, including four administration facilities, Farmington High School, the Farmington Alternative Academy, Alameda Early Childhood Center, Larkshire Elementary, East Middle School and the Cloverdale special education center.

The two high school programs were dismissed and afternoon kindergarten sessions canceled, after Edison told school officials the problem would take three to four hours to repair. Other schools remained in session.

## Drugs from page 1A

sumers in the form of higher medical premiums and other costs.

Thursday morning's program was co-sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Advisory Committee and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills police said he was pleased with this year's turnout for the seminar; the last time the department hosted a similar program in 1988, about 80 attended.

Also speaking was attorney Elizabeth Hardy, who discussed the new Americans With Disabilities Act and recent state handicapped rights legislation. She said there are many "gray areas" in the new laws which will have to be worked out in the court system and, eventually, interpreted by case law.

Hardy explained that employees who have been diagnosed as drug addicts or alcoholics are considered disabled, and cannot be discriminated against either as a current or prospective employee.

Those who are casual users or substance abusers, but not diagnosed, do not fall into this category.

Some highlights of the law include:

- In interviews, the employer cannot ask about disabilities directly.
- Drug testing is allowed and a person not hired if they are found to have drugs in their system. A test for alcohol in the system is not allowed, because it is considered a "medical test."
- Hardy advises employers not to ask any questions which might

indicate a past history of drug abuse, which could label that person "disabled."

■ She recommended a company not have detailed job descriptions, unless there is a person on staff to revise them monthly. Keep to the essential functions, and don't list marginal ones.

Regardless of the type of employee substance abuse problem, Hardy said it is important to handle them sensitively. "It's very important you deal with these issues confidentially, or you could face defamation claims," she said.

## Artists to appear at store

Hallmark Keepsake Ornament artists Don Palmiter and John (Collin) Francis will appear 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 25, at Betty's Hallmark, Middlebelt, and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Palmiter and Francis also will be available to sign ornaments purchased by consumers.

Individuals wanting to learn more about America's most widely collected Christmas ornaments can meet the artists and find out how keepsake ornaments are crafted.

Keepsake ornaments revolutionized American Christmas trees — and created a new collector's market — when they were introduced in 1973.

The initial collection of six decorated ball ornaments and 12 yarn figures expanded most people's choice of tree decorations beyond the standard solid color multi-pack glass balls.

During the appearance by Palmiter and Francis, interested collectors also will have the opportunity to join the Hallmark Keepsake Ornament Collector's Club, the nation's fastest growing collector's group.

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