

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Backroads art: A Farmington Hills photographer drives the highways and byways looking for fitting subjects for his lens. /3A

COUNTY NEWS

In for Patterson: A Birmingham attorney who worked on the Engler campaign is the newest member of the Oakland University board. /5A



The stamp thing: Folks queue up in the Birmingham post office to trade money for sticky Elvis Presleys. /12A

SPORTS

Court action: Boys basketball teams began league play Friday night in the Western Lakes Activities Association. /1C

TASTE

Foods that cure: Here's a prescription for good health. Include lots of fresh fruits, vegetables and grains in your diet, and you'll have more energy and feel better. Learn how to nurse your cold, and what foods are good for you. /1B

Winner Dinner: Slimmer Winner Dinner featuring marinated chicken breasts is low in fat, but not flavor. Another plus, this dinner can be made a day ahead leaving you more time for exercise. /1B

STREET SCENE

Sticking to it: Rehearsing in places heavy with death metal bands could influence more naive bands, but for Walk on Water, the experience has made the group stick to its hard alternative rock roots. /4B

CABLE TV WEEKLY

Local access: "Groove Session" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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School tax gets broad backing



A school tax renewal doesn't normally draw community-wide attention, but after two millage rejections, the school board is seeking and getting broad community support for its Feb. 2 tax renewal proposal.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Several government and civic officials are backing the Farmington School District's tax renewal proposal.

Those expressing support include the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, State Rep.

Jan Dolan, and some city council members.

Both councils have passed resolutions in support of the schools combining three elections in one proposal.

The election takes place Tuesday, Feb. 2. The three-in-one proposal asks voters to renew 12.0834 mills

worth \$31.1 million of the schools' operating budget.

"They (school officials) have really done their homework on this," Dolan said. "They've taken in the consideration of the Headlee rollbacks and they're consolidating the elections. The costs of elections are expensive."

Such vocal support wouldn't seem to be necessary for a renewal. But after two millage failures in the past, the school board is leaving little to chance.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan has made presentations to groups

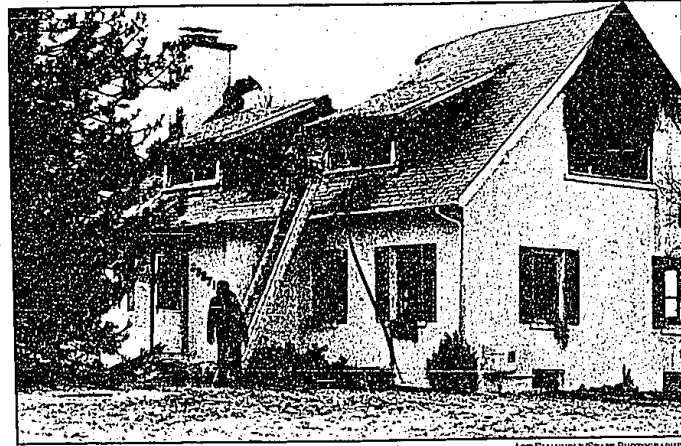
such as the chamber of commerce. The board has asked for support from elected officials and civic leaders.

Jody Soronen said it's the first time she can remember the chamber endorsing a millage proposal in her 10 years as director.

The 19-member board decided to back the renewal at its Dec. 10 meeting following Flanagan's presentation.

"My board tends to be a conservative group," Soronen said. "This is

See TAX, 2A



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deadly fire: Farmington Hills firefighters examine what's left of the house on Harlan Drive following a blaze that resulted in the death of a man Saturday.

Man, dog killed when fire guts Hills house

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Fire swept through a Farmington Hills house Saturday morning, killing the occupant and his dog and gutting the structure, which dates to 1916.

Killed was Tony Mendez, an auto salesman. Mendez rented the house at 83871 Harlan in the Ramble Hills subdivision in northern Farmington Hills.

His wife, Colleen, and their three children were staying with relatives at the time, neighbors said. Tony and Colleen Mendez were divorcing, neighbors added, and Tony Mendez didn't normally live there.

A neighbor, Jeanette Donol, said

she called 911 when she noticed the fire at 6 a.m. Saturday.

"My husband and I ran over, and my other neighbor was running around trying to indicate to the firefighters where the people might be," she said.

Richard Marinucci, Farmington Hills fire chief, said despite the frigid temperatures, the fire had spread to "just about every room." Mendez was found dead in an upstairs bedroom, he added.

"He was not in bed," Marinucci said. "He was near a window, which may indicate that he was trying to get out."

The cause of the fire is being investigated. "We don't know the real

cause right now," the chief said. "The fire appears to have started in the center of the house in back."

Mendez, who was in his mid-30s, sold BMW automobiles for the Erhard dealership in Bloomfield Hills, neighbors said, and he had been at the auto show in downtown Detroit the night before. The family had lived in the house about a year.

The white concrete house was constructed 76 years ago as part of an estate. A steel farm occupied the area at the time.

"For years and years it's something, and all of a sudden it's nothing," said Robert Donol, Jeanette's husband, as they watched firefighters poke through the wreckage.



Bernard Scarborough

Repeat offender faces long sentence

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police were stunned when they first learned a convicted murderer had spent only 10 years in prison in Texas before being paroled, coming back to Michigan and attempting the same crime.

This time Bernard Scarborough, who pleaded guilty to assault with intent to commit murder in a Farmington Hills case, will likely spend a lot longer behind bars. He will be returning to Michigan after he ends his prison term in Texas.

Scarborough, 32, will be sentenced for the Michigan assault — involving the attack on a 24-year-old Royal Oak woman who worked in Farmington Hills — on Jan. 29 before Circuit Judge Debra Tyner. He faces up to life in prison for the assault and for being a habitual offender.

He will likely have to serve more prison time for the 1980 rape and murder of a Texas co-ed, a crime for which he served 10 years before being paroled and returning to Michigan. He had been sentenced to 60 years for that crime.

"When we hear (from the Michigan Department of Corrections) that he is eligible for parole, we'll recommend to the parole board that he come back and do some more time," said Dan Guerra, public information officer with the pardons and paroles division of the Texas Department of Corrections in Austin. "The ultimate decision is up to them (Texas Parole Board)."

Warren Williams, public information officer with the Michigan De-

See OFFENDER, 6A

Paper works for you

A representative of the Farmington Observer will speak on "Making That Newspaper Work For You" at a breakfast meeting of the Interagency Council of Farmington/Farmington Hills 7:30-7:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

The Interagency Council is an umbrella group for many community organizations. The public is invited to attend. For more information on the group's activities, call Mary Comden, president, at 471-6460.

About that millage

The Farmington Public Schools will host an informational meeting regarding the upcoming mil-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

lage renewal at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, at school headquarters, 32500 Shilwassee Road, Farmington.

The meeting will be cablecast live on Channel 10 for MetroVision subscribers.

Several school officials — including Superintendent Michael Flanagan and Assistant Superintendent for Finance Bruce Barrett — will be on hand to answer questions about the renewal of 12.0834 mills to be decided by Farmington District voters in a Feb. 2 special election.

Chamber luncheon

Diane Holden of Michigan National Bank will give an economic forecast for 1993 at a Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce meeting noon Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 38123 W. 10 Mile.

Cost is \$13 for chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Call the chamber at 474-3440 by Jan. 19 for reservations or more information.

Memory Lane

From the Jan. 15, 1953 edition of the Farmington Enterprise: Fallen branches, slick streets and ice-coated tree limbs were part of the scene in Farmington as residents got their first real taste of winter in 1953.