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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

A new deal: Farmington school officials are considering a budget with ninth-grade sports back in it. /2A

Field of dreams: The Farmington Hills field of dreams is about to become a reality. Founders Sports Park will be officially dedicated 11 a.m. Saturday, May 14. /3A

Fondly remembered: Fred Samra, a Farmington insurance agent for 41 years, died Thursday after a heart attack. /5A

STREET SCENE



Heavy: The Brand New Heavies realize that their jazzy, soulful sound is a hard pill for Americans to swallow, but slowly and surely they're inching their way into radio. /6A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Shag shorn: Goodbye to the bob. Hello to layers. Local hair stylists say the shag is back in town! /8A

Author! Author! Alexandra Stoddard's book signing at Borders brought out readers who just had to meet their inspiration. /8A

OPINION

About that bill: Here's what Jan Dolan, state representative from Farmington Hills and this edition's guest columnist, has to say about a controversial bill. /9A

TASTE

Eating healthy: Local bakers reduce fat, not flavor in breads and muffins. /1B

SPORTS

Track kingpin: Area boys teams competed Saturday for the championship of the 24th-annual Oberverland Relays. /1C

INDEX

Classifieds . . . B-D
Auto D
Index 5B
Employment . . . C-D
Real Estate . . . B-C
Crossword . . . 5B
Malls 6A
Obituaries 5A
Personal Scene . . 4D
Police, fire calls . 11A
Sports 1C
Street Scene . . . 1C
Taste 1B

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Neighbors: Put house in order



It was quite a sight when the historic Kirby White house was rolled a mile down Farmington Road a year ago. But there's been too little movement on its restoration since then, neighbors say.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Jan Sutcliffe admits she has an attitude about her neighbor. Since he's moved in, she says, the neighborhood has gone to hell.

That neighbor, Wayne Elliott, has not really moved in, but he has

moved a historic 5,000-square-foot house onto his property at 10 Mile and Farmington roads. But almost one year after the May 23, 1993, move, little has been done to improve the house, which is Sutcliffe's up-close view.

"I never expected this to happen in

a city like Farmington Hills," she said.

Sutcliffe, a training and development manager at Alexander Hamilton Life in Farmington Hills, and her husband, Tom, who works for Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, specifically shopped for a house in Farmington Hills. The couple bought the then-2-year-old house in 1990 in a neighborhood of comparable houses on spacious 1-acre lots.

"We knew it (Elliott's lot) could be only used for residential," she said. "We just assumed someone would

build a house like the rest of the neighborhood."

In the meantime, the First Presbyterian Church, at Farmington and 11 Mile, needed to expand. It had used the mammoth Kirby White house for children's Sunday school classes, offices and other uses, but needed a more modern, efficient addition.

A happy beginning

When the church and the Farmington Hills Historic District Commis-

See ROUSE, 4A



SHAWN LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Unhappy neighbor: Janice Sutcliffe doesn't like having Wayne Elliott's hulk of a historic house for a view out her window.

Officer 'considered himself lucky'

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Even though Farmington Hills police officers knew that one of their own would soon lose his fight with cancer, they were still devastated when the news of his death came.

Bert Cook Jr. died from cancer Wednesday evening, but officers — from Chief Bill Dwyer to those he worked with in the detective bureau to those he trained — were still in shock Thursday.

Cook, 37, is the first Farmington Hills officer to die while on active duty. He will receive full police honors at his funeral Monday at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in downtown Farmington.

"It's devastating," said Dwyer, who had promoted Cook to sergeant only two days before his death. "He was a great husband and father. He was a very polished professional who never said anything negative about the city. He was almost the mold of a perfect police officer."

The 14-year police veteran had started his career as a cadet and worked in several divisions, including patrol, field training and crime prevention. But he had a knack for dealing with children and families as a juvenile specialist in the detective bureau and before that in crime prevention.

"He was highly organized," said Lt. Gordon Ross, Cook's supervisor.

"He was consistent and dependable," said detective Sandie Rochford, who worked with Cook in the juvenile division. "You deal with a lot of emotional issues, like runaways, child abuse and neglect."

"We deal with this sort of thing day after day," said Rochford. "But for the people we see, it's their first time. They often have a hard time. Bert was always calm and reassuring."

Mayor Larry Lichtman, City Manager Bill Costick, Inspector Tom Godwin and Lt. Richard Murphy were on hand May 2, along with other officers, at the promotion, given at Cook's Farmington Hills home.

See OFFICER, 5A



Sgt. Bertis Olen Cook Jr.

Police say teens sorry they painted the town

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington police say two teen-age boys have admitted going on a vandalism spree causing \$3,000 in property damage in Farmington Meadows April 30.

Though gang graffiti was involved, police don't believe the boys are gang members. Instead, police say the two kids are sorry.

"They said they were not members of any 'gangs,'" Farmington Public Safety commander Chuck Lee said. "I

believe them. They said they know what (gang) wannabes are, and said they weren't wannabes either."

"They both said, 'It was a dumb, stupid thing for them to do.'"

Police will file petitions with Oakland County Probate Court asking

that both juveniles be charged with malicious destruction of property, Lee said.

A 15-year-old went with a police officer Thursday and apologized to

See PAINT, 3A

Singing with glee

The Detroit City Lights barber shop chorus will present its annual Spring Show with the Wayne State University Men's Glee Club at 8 p.m. Friday, May 30, and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31, in the auditorium of Mary High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, Farmington Hills.

Could it happen here?

Presumed Guilty, a segment of the TV show "Prime Time Live," will be shown and commented on at 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 10, at a community forum at the Farmington Training Center, 3300 Thomas, Farmington. The program, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Council.

In "Presumed Guilty," alleged instances of inappropriate law enforcement procedures are investigated. After the film, people will discuss whether a similar incident could happen in the Farmington area.

Strike up the band!

A tradition of summer concerts by the Farmington Community Band in Heritage Park will be continued this year with Thursday performances at 8 p.m. May 19, June 23 and July 31.

The season opener on May 19 will feature light musical numbers. On June 23, the community band's Jazz/Dance Band will play jazz favorites. The season will conclude with the July 31 performance.

Directed by founder/conductor R. Paul Barber, the Farmington Community Band consists of more than 60 musicians from 20 communities.

Memory Lane

From the May 11, 1964, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Wayne Dryden pitched a six-hitter and knocked in three runs to help Farmington High beat Waterford, 5-1, in Inter Lakes League baseball.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21896 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.