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Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Kiosk coming: Groups and residents will have a chance to pin something on downtown Farmington... as long as it isn't tacky. /2A

Garden party: The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills will present "La Fete Au Jardin" — The Garden Party — on June 5, /3A

Without flats: Along with math, students in Farmington Public Schools will also learn how to solve problems minus violence. /3A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS



Birthday Barbie: Mattel's Barbie turns 35 years old this year, still sitting pretty on the bestselling shelves of area toy stores. /9A

That's service! Malls & Mainstreets salutes another retailer who gives service beyond the call of duty. /9A

TASTE

Barbecuing: Experts share tips. Enter our homemade barbecue sauce contest. /1B

Recipe Make Over: Fruity yogurt pie is fat-free. /1B

SPORTS

Softball contenders: The Harrison and North Farmington softball teams were in contention for division championships Friday. /1C

Tennis results: North Farmington fared best among city teams in the final Western Lakes Activities Association standings. /1C

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Residents say go home, depot



Latecomers found parking tight and seats scarce as an overflow crowd jammed Farmington Hills City Hall Thursday. The planning commission considered two controversial development proposals.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It was as if someone had announced they had tickets to a Barbra Streisand concert at the Farmington Hills Planning Commission meeting Thursday.

But 10 residents gave commissioners an earful about a proposed Home

Depot development on the north side of Northwestern Highway near 14 Mile.

Another 26 took their turn at the microphone to talk about the prospect of a new Kmart on the south side of Northwestern, just east of Orchard Lake Road. The planning commission meeting, which started at 7:30

p.m., finally ended at 1 a.m. It was a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 who heard city attorney John Donohue discuss the process the two proposals were going through. The Home Depot project, which had been rejected by the city council at a location on 12 Mile east of Orchard Lake earlier this year, didn't fare much better at the new site.

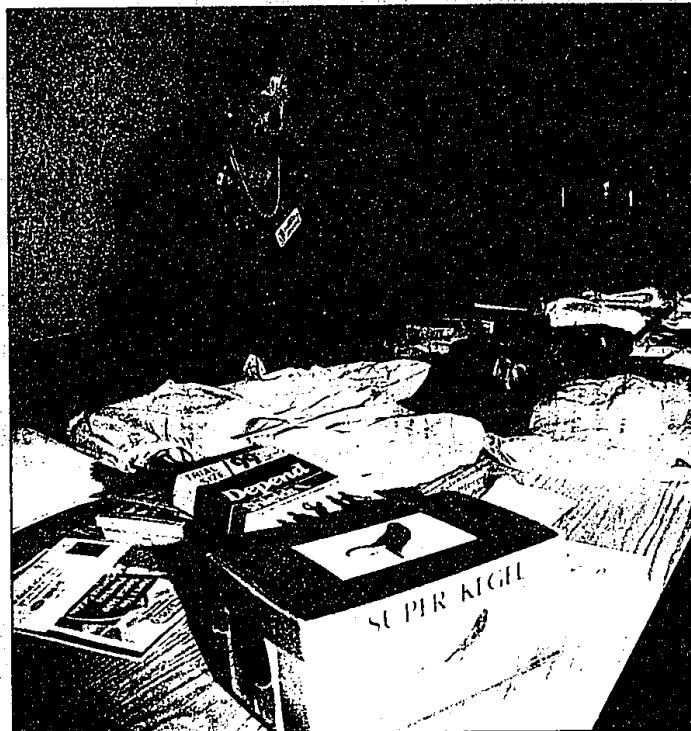
In fact, boos and hisses could be heard as proponent John Ferrick made his pitch to have the 12.41-acre parcel considered as a planned unit development (PUD).

"This is going to be a monster building," said Chris Wawniewski, president of the Kimberly North Subdivision Association, on the north side of 14 Mile in West Bloomfield. "This is supposed to bring safety improvements? There's a middle school (Warner) nearby."

Wawniewski's remarks typified the concerns brought by residents, mostly from West Bloomfield, about the giant home improvement retailer, which already has 277 outlets nationwide and plans to have at least 16

See RESIDENTS, 2A

Group helps members feel in control



By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Although the aids for Depend undergarments have been on television for years and stores are dedicating more space to products for incontinence, it's a condition that still causes embarrassment to some and even serious mental anguish.

Since September of 1992, many people who previously thought they were alone with the problem have met in a support group at Botaford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Linda Mondoux, nursing services administrator for the Botaford Continuing Health Center, facilitates meetings and arranges for presentations and discussions on issues of incontinence, which is loss of control of the bladder and urinary tract.

"It's helped me a lot to see that other people share the same problems I have," said Alma Turner of Southfield, a charter member of the group. "I think it relaxes you. You find out things and pass them on."

Michael Kosak of Farmington said several doctors simply told him to accept his condition as part of the aging process. But any time he traveled or often when he was in social situations, he would become embarrassed.

"I get emotional about it," he said. "The doctors just told me to accept it, but then I heard about this group, and it's really helped."

At its May 16 meeting, Mondoux talked about different products that can help people who are incontinent, and also those products that will not. In addition, three vendors provided displays and information on their products.

Mondoux, who was named Outstanding Gerontology Nurse of the Year in 1990, says she consistently sees more than 40 people at the monthly meetings. Along with developing a better understanding of the problems, she's also learned something about the difficulties of finding products that work.

See GROUP, 4A

Feeling comfortable: Linda Mondoux displays aids for people who suffer from incontinence. "The idea is to help people feel comfortable with a product," she says.

AND HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Don Cowan

Student code walks softly, carries big stick

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The revised student code of conduct is as hard as a marshmallow rock or as soft as an iron trampoline. It depends on who's reading it.

The new code outlining misbehavior and punishment was presented to the Farmington Board of Education May 17. The document has been updated to address modern-day offenses such as abuse of technology, sexual harassment and gang activity.

A committee including central office administrators, principals and an

attorney, worked on the revision. Their attempt was to make the code precise.

Reviews were mixed.

"I'm not sure it spells out clear consequences," said board president Cathleen Webb. "Some of it sounds open-ended . . . I don't know if it might appear soft."

Building and Student Services director Don Cowan said the code may appear vague in some areas for a reason. For one, administrators need flexibility when handing out punishment.

More so, they don't want to inadvertently provide loopholes, Cowan said.

Added school district attorney Kingsley Cotton: "This is a student code of conduct, not an administrator's code of conduct. You have situations where the parent goes on the attack . . . They'll say, 'They didn't send a letter home, so my kid is not responsible.'"

Some language will be toned up, Cowan said. He added that the administration is also working on devel-

See CODE, 3A

Rescue the Rouge

Get out the rubber boots, the work gloves and the determination to save a stream. Rouge Rescue '84 is coming up. The Farmington Hills portion of Rouge Rescue '84 will be 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at the corner of Belfast and Westminster in the southeastern section of the city. The location is west of Middlebelt Road and north of Eight Mile. A tributary of the Rouge flows through the area. The volunteers will help remove debris and logjams that have accumulated over the past few years. City crews will be on hand with their machinery to handle the heavy work. As in past years, lunch will be provided by the city.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

For more information, call Jean Barrett, of the city's Department of Public Services, at 473-9520.

Drawing benefits MDA

Kathy Davis was a big winner — she received two \$350 tickets to Tuesday's Barbra Streisand concert at the Palace of Auburn Hills. But the Muscular Dystrophy Association had an even larger benefit. The charity gained about \$2,800 thanks to the generosity of Farmington restaurateur Dennis Page. Page bought four Streisand tickets and then raff-

led them off at his eatery, Page's Food & Spirits on Farmington Road, on Saturday, May 14, to benefit the MDA. He'd sold 540 tickets at \$5 each. Gary Bartel, an 8-year-old Farmington Hills boy who suffers from a form of muscular dystrophy, performed the drawing. "It was great," said Maggie Segal, program service coordinator for the MDA. "He (Page) is a wonderful, compassionate man. It was fantastic to receive that much money for a first-time event." Runner-up Hugh Cata won two \$125 tickets to the Streisand concert, and third-place winner Gary Hollyer won a golf package at Copper Creek in Farmington Hills.

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