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TODAY

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A day for kids: The Farmington Founders Festival is in full swing. Tuesday was Kids Day in Shawwassee Park. /3A

And where were you?: A Farmington Hills man remembers exactly where he was July 20, 1969. He was helping put men on the moon and bring them safely home again. /11A

OPINION

'All compromise': Perhaps it can be peace with honor in the development battle at 12 Mile and Middlebelt. /14A

Good skates: Hey, somebody came up with a use for an empty parking lot. There should be a civic award. /14A

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Soccer festival: Some of the area's best teams competed in the annual Wolverine Tournament. /1B

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Council backs off on project OK



Think again, Farmington Hills City Council. Some angry residents were able to convince the council to reconsider its earlier approval of a controversial commercial and residential development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It took almost 1,000 names on petitions and a packed house at Monday's Farmington Hills City Council meeting to get the message through. But after several frustrating attempts to get the council's attention,

residents who live near a proposed shopping center and residential development planned for the southeast corner of Middlebelt and 12 Mile roads were able to convince the council to reconsider its preliminary approval of the project. The council had approved a 180-

house development with a shopping center on the land by a 4-3 vote over the strenuous objections of residents June 20.

But Sharon Stein, a resident of nearby Brookhill subdivision, brought in petitions with 977 signatures that would place additional restrictions on the project, including among others, fewer houses on the 92-acre property.

After several residents again stated their problems with the project, the council voted, 6-1, to reconsider it. Mayor Larry Lichtman voted

against reconsideration, adding that the planning commission, four council members, the city's planners and traffic engineers had endorsed the project.

After giving council members copies of county campaign expense reports that showed contributions from the developer, Gary Janna, to Lichtman and council members Nancy Bates and Jon Grant, Stein said the mayor should have abstained from voting on the project.

See PROJECT, 7A

A dream come true



AND HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Crowned: Megan Smith was crowned Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills 1994-96 last night by last year's winner Julie Dugan during the "Dare to Dream" pageant. She wowed the audience with a viola solo.

Hotelier keys inn on legacy

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Creon Smith bought the Botaford Inn from longtime owner John Anhalt on a mission to preserve history.

"Like I said, if it was good enough for Henry Ford, it's good enough for me," Smith said about the Grand River Inn the automaker once owned.

Since taking over the 157-year-old Farmington Hills landmark in November, Smith has begun a new chapter in the Botaford legacy.

Special nights have been added, featuring live entertainment such as blues. There's also country line and ballroom dancing offered.

The restaurant's food, in terms of quality and variety, has been improved, he said.

Ongoing cosmetic enhancements will take place to keep the inn in pristine condition.

"You're handling a landmark, the oldest inn in the state of Michigan," said Smith, 41, who was general manager of the Mayflower Inn in Plymouth. "You can't make any rash decisions."

"We've tried to make decisions in a very methodical way."

The responsibility is enormous, he said. Smith knew what he was buying into, though.

He was the general manager and part owner of the Mayflower for 20 years, a landmark hotel in downtown Plymouth. Prior to that, the Raleigh, N.C., native worked at the Pick Durant Hotel in Flint.

His experience at the Mayflower provided a crash course in the ups and downs of operating an historic hotel.

"The Mayflower was and still is a wonderful hotel," Smith said. "If it's one thing I learned from that situation is remembering three things — I was told this by someone — there are three kinds of ships you want to be careful getting on."

"One is a battleship. One is a courtship, and one is a partnership. You had three different people and three different ideals. It's very difficult to make that situation successful."

See INN, 4A

School board members elect to keep same seats

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Recently elected members of the Farmington Board of Education were sworn in, but the board swore off the musical chairs that customarily follow.

Trustees R. Jack Inch and Cathleen Webb, who were re-elected handily in the June school election, took

'I absolutely guarantee I will very gladly step down after another year, because I was looking forward to doing it this year.'

Cathleen Webb

the oath of office at Monday's board meeting. Usually, trustees then vote on officers for the school year.

In an unusual move, the board voted 6-1 to keep the same positions for another year.

That means Webb returns as president with Joe Svoika as vice president. Susan Lightner and Inch remain secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The purpose is to make Superintendent C. Robert Maxfield's transition smoother in his first year, board members said. Maxfield has been on

See OFFICERS, 2A

Uptown's in the act

The 90th edition of the Farmington Founders Festival is in full swing, and the Uptown Farmington shopping center will be very much part of the festivities on Saturday, July 16.

A classic car show (1974 models and older) will be held that day at the center at Grand River and Mooney. Registration will be at 8 a.m. and awards will be presented at 6:30 p.m.

The Festival Parade through downtown Farmington will start at 10 a.m., and free beverages and doughnuts will be offered at King's Garage in the Uptown center before and during the parade.

Other Uptown events:

- A petting zoo and pony rides from 8:30 a.m. to noon.
- A Find A Nickel contest beginning at 1:30 p.m.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

- A watermelon-eating contest at 2 p.m.
- A pie-eating contest at 3 p.m.
- Watership Down, a five-piece band, playing 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Target readings all day.
- Food and beverage booths set up by several Uptown businesses.

Hills residents honored

Two Farmington Hills residents, John Tomney and Ronald Monfette, were honored recently by Livonia's Schoolcraft College for 20 and 30 years of service, respectively, to the college.

They were honored at a Recognition Luncheon with 48 other Schoolcraft employees who received pins and congratulations from the college's board of trustees.

Tomney serves the college as director of admission, and Monfette as director of instructional administrative services.

Memory Lane

From the July 16, 1994 edition of the Farmington Enterprises:

- Kenneth Clark, a 15-year-old Walled Lake boy, was seriously injured after he rode his bicycle into a moving car at Grand River and Eight Mile Road.
- It was announced that Clyde Besney would head Farmington's Public Works Department for two weeks while Fred Sallow was on vacation.