

Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Taking issue: Not everyone believes a newspaper report that says Jewish residents are leaving the Walled Lake School District in favor of West Bloomfield Schools. /3A

Items seized: Farmington Hills police arrested seven men near the Crestview Court Detroit Newspaper distribution center after they discovered baseball bats, nails and masks. /5A

Court time: A Farmington man stood mute at arraignment on drug charges Friday. Police had found marijuana growing in the basement of his Alta Loma Street home. /5A

Officer mourned: The Farmington Hills Police Department is mourning the death of Officer Gary Bradley, who died Friday. /7A

BUSINESS

Sid's advice: In the investment world, it's the slow and steady investor who wins the race, says Observer columnist Sid Mittra. /8A

TASTE

Emerald jewels: A fresh string bean is a delicacy. /1B
Tastebuds: Eggplant has ancient roots, and is growing in popularity. / 1B

SPORTS

National champs: Observerland talent helped Vardar III win the under-18 boys soccer title. /1C
Baseball Barons: The South Farmington team opened AABC regional tournament competition Friday in Battle Creek. /2C

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Retail anniversary: Parisian Department Store looks back on its first year in the Metro-Detroit market. /7C

LOTTERY

The Saturday Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$2 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Saturday, Aug. 5, are:

- DAILY 3: 116
- DAILY 4: 0171
- LOTTO: 31, 44, 22, 2, 17, 1

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Hills officials back tax



Bill Costick city manager



By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills city officials plan a thorough campaign to sell voters a public safety tax.
 "We're almost at the charter (tax) limit so we can't do anything more for the police and fire departments within the current budget structure," said

Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick.

Final language for a 1-mill public safety tax for 10 years will go to the city council for approval at the Aug. 14 meeting, Costick said. With expected city council approval of putting the question on the ballot, voters will decide the issue in November.

The increase would cost the owner of a \$183,000 house (the city average) in Farmington Hills \$76.50 a year in additional taxes.
 There are no more major efficiencies to make or nonessential programs to eliminate in the area of public safety, Costick said. And with fewer new development dollars coming in, the city has still had to contend with rising demands in the public service area.
 The tax would provide .5 mills for fire department needs and .5 mills for the police department. The tax would

See TAX, 4A

Country ways in suburban setting



Man and horse: Jeff Stewart, who lives in a historic home on 13 Mile Road, feeds one of his horses, Nutmeg. A grandfather clause allows the Stewarts to keep animals.

Some residents like life down on the farm

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER
 They say you can take the boy out of the country, but never the country out of the boy.
 Some Farmington Hills residents are clinging to that motto. Because their property has been grandfathered to allow farm animals, a few residents are doing what

they can to keep as much of that country way of life in this city of 90,000.
 Jeff Stewart — a 27-year Hills resident who lives with his wife Sherrie and daughter Meghan, 11, on seven acres they share with his mother on 13 Mile Road — finds more often than not, neighbors come by to protest him for keeping horses.

"They're happy to have the farm-like atmosphere," he said.
 Stewart, who sells annuities, also serves as a beautification commissioner and parks and recreation commissioner for the city.
 He and his wife moved the historic Elber Durham house, built in 1845, from its site next to the Botsford Inn on Grand River to their 13

mile "farm." And since he came to the Hills from Livonia at age 12, his family has owned horses.
 "I bought my first horse in Northville and rode it home," he said. "It was a long ride, and it was a dirt road."
 Some other residents have taken

See FARM, 2A

Edison tree trimming practices anger city man

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
 Detroit Edison's annual trimming of tree branches has one Farmington resident ready to snap.
 Gary Musto, who lives on Shilwell, was irate after a tree-trimming company visited last week. Edison has tree branches removed 10 feet away from power lines.
 Such tree maintenance helps prevent power outages, Edison officials said. That does little to please some residents.
 "I've had it," Musto said. "There's only a few of us who have a mature

tree in their front yard."
 Musto claims crews "hacked 10 trees in half" five years ago. Six to seven trees died as a result, he added, and had to be replaced.
 Trees are trimmed according to National Arborist pruning standards, Edison spokesman Scott Simons said. Trimming is done in 3½- to 4-year cycles.
 Outside firms specializing in cutting branches near electrical wires are contracted to do the work.
 Power outages have been reduced 40 percent since the program started

in 1991. The amount of time people have been without electrical service has also decreased by 60 percent, Simons added.
 A recent wave of storms, though, knocked out power in several areas of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Some people were without electricity for four days.
 "When you have winds up to 60 miles an hour and wind gusts up to 80 miles an hour, you're still going to have power outages," said Simons, who added 75 percent of the outages were tree-related.
 "We're trying to strike a balance

between aesthetics and service reliability."
 The balance is not being met in Musto's opinion. The maple in his yard has been trimmed before, leaving the front of the tree exposed.
 When weighed down by snow, Musto said the branches lean over his home. He asked the tree-trimming company — a Cleveland, Ohio, firm — to trim those branches over his home. Workers said they would but didn't, according to Musto.
 "When I asked them again," Musto said, "they were obnoxious about it."

See SERVICE, 2A

It's Kleenex time as Holocaust survivor shares thanks

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
 For Gliese Feldman, thank you comes in the form of tear drops.
 She shed a few of those Friday morning for the many "heroes" who saved hers and other lives during World War II.
 The Farmington Hills resident shared her gratitude and her harrowing story of how she and her family survived while other Jewish people perished in the Holocaust with an audience at Farmington Branch Library. In attendance were a few U.S. World War II veterans, who were also present at a flag-raising ceremony in front of the library to honor

them on Gliese.
 "It's Kleenex and water time," said Feldman, 64, who began to choke up at the end of her story.
 "Everytime I thank the veterans, I cry like a child."
 Awarded Farmington World War II Commemorative Committee Chairman Jack Cerd expressed his appreciation to Feldman for appearing.
 "No, thank you," Feldman said. "I owe my life to you and all of your buddies."
 And a few others, whom Feldman speaks of in glowing terms.
 They include two doctors who treated her for rheumatoid and helped hide her from the Nazis, a Catholic priest who knew she was Jewish but remained compliant while she sang in the church choir and acid the treasury.

Examples of compassion
 Another person Feldman reveres is one she never met: Marquie de Lafayette. She stayed in the aristocrat's home — which was used as a clinic — during the reign of terror.
 All of these people were shining examples of compassion and courage in one of the blackest times of humanity.
 "I love those people who got involved, even though it meant risking their lives," Feldman said.
 "They were like saints."
 "Did you hear what happened to people who helped the Jews? They would be sent to camps or

See SERVICE, 2A