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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Clicking: See award-winning work by a Farmington Hills man who was named "Photographer of the Year" by Detroit's professional photographers. /A2

Healthy eats: A group picks the Farmington area's healthy restaurants. /A3

COUNTY

Tragedy strikes: Residents of northern Oakland County mobile home parks talked with area officials in the aftermath of a devastating tornado. /A5

TASTE

Cherries: Tart or sweet, cherries are one of summer's jewels. Besides, these fantastic fruits taste good, and are good for you. /B1

SPECIAL SECTION

Big week: See our insert for all the details and a map to help navigate Farmington's Founders Festival, which runs July 6-13. The week-long event includes the parade on Saturday, shown above.



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It's a home delivery



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Kelly Ann Madigan wasn't born a second and she already knew where the bathroom was in the house. That's only because her mother suddenly gave birth to the 8-pound baby girl in the Farmington Hills family's bathroom shortly after midnight June 30. Mom, daughter and

dad are doing fine. Farmington Hills firefighters were called to the impromptu delivery room. They helped cut the umbilical cord and made sure the child's passage ways were cleared. Until help arrived, though, mom and dad were on their own. "I was standing in the bathroom and I told my husband, 'I feel the head' and then there was the head," said Judy Madigan, who needed to have labor induced for her first two

children. "He grabbed a towel off the rack and cushioned the (child's head) and we all kind of hit the floor together." Judy was taken to Providence Hospital, treated and released. Kelly Ann joins brothers Max, 5, and Jack, 2, in the Madigan clan. Grandparents



STAFF PHOTO BY SEARON LEMUEUX
Hey sister: Max, 5, and Jack, 2, join dad James and mom Judy in welcoming their new sister, Kelly Ann.

Please see DELIVERY, A6

A place to shine



Moment in the sun: Chuck Falsetti polishes his new Mercedes in the driveway of his Meadowbrook Park subdivision, where his family has lived since the development was built 13 years ago. Neighbors tend to meet each other and talk over things like new cars and kids.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SEARON LEMUEUX

It's the Hills Identity crisis can't foil good life in Meadowbrook



Editor's note: This is the third in an ongoing series of stories about your neighborhoods — people who live in the subdivisions and on the streets that make up Farmington and Farmington Hills.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The mailing address says it's Northville and the map says it's Farmington Hills, but people who live in Meadowbrook subdivision are simply happy to call it home. And, in their opinion, there's not a more peaceful, clean and friendly place to live. Because the upscale sub's proximity to neighboring Wayne County community, the area is served

by the Northville post office. All four Meadowbrook quadrants — Forest, Park, Hills and Estates — are within Farmington Hills proper.

"Sometimes you might be at a sales place and you'll say, 'I live in Farmington Hills and this is where I am at but I have a Northville mailing address,'" said Mary Tobe, who lives on Rutgers in Meadowbrook Park. "It's more of a technical thing."

Make no mistake, though. Families are not torn between two cities. "Northville is a charming town, but Farmington Hills is where our base is and where we pay our taxes," Mary Tobe said.

The Tobes' four children — Christian, 14, Justin, 12, Heidi, 10, and Edie, 7 — all attend Farmington Public Schools. The four lead active lives, leaving par-

Please see MEADOWBROOK, A6



Steak out: At left, Justin and Don help Mary Tobe put the steaks on the grill outside their Meadowbrook Park home. Above, children playing in the streets bring subdivision families together.

Storm fills basements, cuts power

BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

Farmington-area residents emerged relatively unscathed from one of the worst storms in Michigan history Wednesday evening.

Tornadoes, lightning and high winds raged through Saginaw, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, contributing to the deaths of at least nine people and the destruction of countless homes, buildings and property. However, local damage seemed to mostly consist of flooded basements and people without power.

"We made out pretty good, I think," said Gary Goss, Farmington director of public safety. "Tree limbs down, things like that, no major damage."

As of Thursday morning, the Farmington/Farmington Hills area had about 9,400 of the 230,000 power outages in Southeast Michigan. Callers to the Detroit Edison Customer Service line were told that 90 percent of those would be restored by late Friday.

"We will be working well through the day on Saturday to complete the restoration effort," said Mary Kay Bean, spokeswoman for Detroit Edison. "Extra crews are being brought in from other states to get the job done."

Farmington Hills police had extra personnel on duty Wednesday evening to handle emergency calls and deal with complications from the storm.

"The majority of the calls were from citizens reporting malfunctioning traffic signals and flooding basements," said Hills Police Chief William Dwyer, "including my own. I worked on it until 2 a.m."

It was estimated that about two inches of rain fell within an hour in Farmington Hills. Many ditches and storm drains were overloaded, which resulted in many

Please see STORM, A2

A successful raffle

Local businesswoman Deb Watson's raffle to benefit the American Cancer Society netted \$737.

And it made Marilyn Chisholm of Novi richer to the tune of a complete set of 10 of the teeny bennie babies sold last spring exclusively by McDonald's restaurants.

Watson raffled off the set, with all proceeds going to the cancer society and Chisholm's name was drawn last Saturday.

Watson decided to do something to benefit the society after fighting colon cancer. She was diagnosed last January and reports that she's feeling fine after a second surgery and another round of chemotherapy in the works.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Watson operates Deb's Crafts in the Village Mall at the corner of Grand River and Farmington roads. She is also known as the "goose lady" of Farmington for the cement geese she makes and sells — including complete wardrobes for the stone critters.

Founders Fest notes

When the Farmington Music Patrons host the annual Bingo game at Founders Festival next weekend — it'll be a 50-50 game. Half the proceeds of each winning game goes to the winner

and half to the music department at Farmington High School.

The Bingo tent will be on the south side of Grand River in the Farmington Insurance Agency's parking lot.

And speaking of parking... finding a spot might be a challenge for most people who visit Founder's Festival. Handicapped visitors, though, already have a spot reserved.

Salem United Church of Christ will offer its entire 40-space lot for vehicles transporting one or more handicapped person and displaying an official card from the Secretary of State.

The church lot is north and west of the Grand River and Farmington Road intersection, at 33424 Oakland.