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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Getting burned: Barbecues aren't allowed in any Farmington or Farmington Hills apartment units or on a balcony. We have more grill safety reminders./A3

TASTE

Burgundies fine: Wine columnist Ray and Eleanor Heald say there's plenty to choose from in the 1995 vintages currently arriving in America./B1

Pure corn: Michigan sweet corn is here and Taste editor Keely Wygonik tells how to freeze it, or cook it up right now./B1

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

FashBash report: They came. They saw. They parted. Their patronage produced \$600,000 for the DIA./B4

Summer coolers: Celebrate the heart of summer with Faygo and Kool-Aid./B4

ARTS & LEISURE

Walker returns: Loren Estleman's PI Amos Walker is back after a long absence in one of two new books published by the local author./C1

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Feds offer storm victims aide

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills residents who suffered property damage from the July 2 storm could be eligible for federal assistance.

President Bill Clinton declared four counties, including Oakland, as federal disaster areas. Several townships ripped those areas as well as thunderstorms that produced large

hail, damaging winds and flooding.

Though the Farmington area was largely spared, some residents who experienced flood-related damage could be eligible for grants or loans.

"We're just trying to give people the opportunity to apply for assistance if they're affected," said Pete Baldwin, Farmington Hills deputy fire chief. "A lot of people might not know (the declaration) includes Farmington Hills."

"It doesn't diminish if you had a

loss yourself."

Some homes in Farmington Hills appeared to have flood damage, Baldwin said.

Fire department officials checked with waste haulers who report picking up water damaged items in areas south of 13 Mile, between Drake and Farmington roads, and north of 13 Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington; and 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

Fire officials intended to pass out

flyers in those areas Thursday and Friday. As of Friday afternoon, the fire department had not received any calls, Baldwin said.

"We're trying to stress you may be eligible for this because this is through (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and not through us," Baldwin said.

Baldwin along with officials from Birmingham and Southfield met with Oakland County Emergency

Please see STORM, A8

Many flavored sub



Day in the life: A nightly ritual in The Hamlet sub — at left, the kids line up for the ice cream truck when it rolls through the neighborhood. Above, 6-year old John Rose enjoys his snowcone, which seems to be the most popular item among the kids. Below, Laurie Haynes unpacks her car after vacation, while watching the kids playing in the sub's spacious, unfenced yards.

STAFF PHOTOS BY EUSTACE METCALLE

Well mixed

The Hamlet is true melting pot

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The varied makeup of The Hamlet sub would rival Sybil's collection of ID cards.

Families young and old are interspersed in homes ranging from 5 to 40 years in age in the Farmington Hills neighborhood, which is sequestered off 10 Mile and east of Orchard Lake. Kids are just as likely to be monitored by grandmothers as by mothers.

And those families include African-Americans, Indians, and Chinese, with residents crossing religious lines from Catholic to Jewish. Professions range from automotive workers

representing the Big Three to educators teaching grade three.

"It's a good example of Farmington Hills' diversity," said Jean Rose, whose family has lived in The Hamlet since the sub was built nearly five years ago.

From a development standpoint, the subdivision also mirrors the disparate states of suburban growth. Homes built in the 1950s that once enjoyed the rural tranquility of being secluded off a dirt path are surrounded by larger, newer houses and a paved street.

Dave Kubitsky remembers when the DNR officers needed his boots to wade through the surrounding wetland. A pond populated by ducks is the only remnant from those moist memories.



The Hamlet incorporated his and other houses into their new subdivision five years ago. A new development is proposed east of the sub, which is rural and only has one home.

"You just watch one piece of land go after the other," said Kubitsky, who grew up in the Farmington area. "That's progress."

Please see HAMLET, A2

Tests set to find extent of injury to Hills teenager

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

See related story page A2

The extent of injury to Melissa Garr's brain might be determined as soon as today, while her pneumonia is also being aggressively treated, according to the latest update about her condition, Friday from the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Melissa's father, fire Lt. Michael Garr, is in daily contact with the department about the teenager's status in the pediatric intensive care unit at University of Michigan Medical Centers in Ann Arbor.

Melissa Garr, 16, a student at Farmington High School, was critically injured when a 18-foot-long limb from a nearby tree inexplicably toppled 40 feet and struck Melissa in the head, knocking her to the cement pool deck. The double impact resulted in a skull fracture.

She was at the Farmington Glen Aquatic Center, baby-sitting three children, at the time of the freakish accident. There were no visible signs that the tree was a safety hazard, police said.

In the Friday update, from training officer Thomas Shurtleff, it was reported that medications used to keep Melissa in a coma — in order to control brain swelling — were completely stopped as of Thursday afternoon.

"Over the next two days the effects of the coma medication will completely wear off. Late Saturday or possibly Sunday, the neurosurgeon will conduct extensive tests to determine the extent of injury to Melissa's brain," read the update.

Physicians continue to treat her pneumonia, which developed over the past week. "This (treatment) involves a lot of movement and exertions which Melissa is tolerating with the assistance of some pain medication."

A respirator is helping with her breathing. The Garr family, meanwhile, expressed gratitude to those who have offered their prayers and good wishes and reiterated the request that people not go to the hospital to see Melissa.

"At this point they're dealing with a wait and see situation," said Farmington Hills deputy Chief Pete Baldwin last week. "They're doing things in shifts, so they're down there all the time."

Drivers anxious for M-5/10 Mile fix-up

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Chat Dorda makes it a point to avoid the cumbersome web of an interchange near Grand River/M-5/10 Mile Road, especially during peak traffic hours.

But he can't avoid it totally, which is why he attended Thursday's informational open house about the planned interchange improvements, hosted by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Drawings for the three-phase \$7 million project — which is tentative

ly planned to be built in 1998 — were displayed for Dorda and others to review.

"I go through that interchange three or four times a day," said Dorda, after leaving the first of two 90-minute sessions at the Radisson Suites Hotel. "It's just horrible. I wonder how this thing was approved and put up in the first place. It's like somebody sat in there and planned congestion."

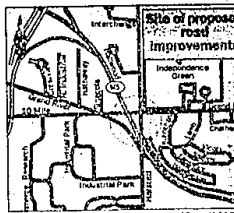
Durk Moore, who owns a shop off the M-5 service drive near the Radisson Suites, said he worries every day about the safety of

"employees coming and going." "It's kind of a short-term fix," Moore said. "But it's going to be a help, no doubt about it."

How bad is the traffic around his business? "You have to get out here at five o'clock."

Moore said he was surprised "they're not going to do something with the (Grand River) bridge" that crosses M-5. According to a 1991 study, approximately 33,000 vehicles per day used that narrow overpass, said MDOT project development engineer Natalie Bekmonis.

Please see ROAD, A2



HELEN FURCERIAN/STAFF ARTIST

Free political training

Do you yearn for the political spotlight? Well, there's a training program available.

Called the Michigan Political Leadership Fellowship Program, it's offered each year at Michigan State University for 24 folks chosen for their leadership potential.

The program gets good marks from Farmington Mayor JoAnne McShane, who graduated from it in 1995, along with Farmington schools Trustee Cathy Webb. Farmington Councilwoman Mary Bush is a current fellow.

"This is a wonderful growth opportunity for any person in the community to participate in and gain education and experience at no cost to them," McShane said. "The non-partisan training and leadership skills acquired within the fol-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

lowship program are invaluable."

Ten weekend sessions are planned, with five in East Lansing and five planned in areas around the state on one weekend out of every month from February to November.

The cost — including meals and lodging but excluding travel to the sessions — is funded by university and private donations.

Anyone interested may request an application form call McShane at (248) 477-2705 or the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at (517) 365-6672 or faxing (517) 432-1544.

Fest full

Thirsty folks at the Farmington Founders Festival got their fill and helped fill the coffers of Farmington Families in Action all at the same time.

A sales table and water raised \$598 for the group's efforts to combat substance abuse.

The tables were staffed by staff and patient/volunteers from Cromwell Family Chiropractic with help from Gary Jacobson of the Farmer Jack in the Downtown Center. Carbonated juice was provided by the Good Food Company and sales help was also provided by volunteers at the Farmington High School Bingo Tent.