

Farlington Observer



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THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Council meets: *Farlington Hills City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 24 at city hall.*

TUESDAY

And Santa too: *Farlington Hills hosts its annual holiday tree lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 25 in front of city hall.*

WEDNESDAY

Holiday closings: *Farlington Community Library branches close at 5 p.m. Nov. 26 and reopen Friday.*

THURSDAY

Happy Thanksgiving: *No trash pickup on Nov. 27; pickup is moved back a day on both Thursday and Friday. City halls, schools are closed Friday.*

INDEX

■ Arts & Leisure	D1-5
■ Business & Finance	C1-4
■ Classified Index	E4
■ Autos for sale	L7
■ Crossword	H4
■ Employment	K2
■ Home & Service Guide	L3
■ Real Estate	H1
■ Rentals	H5
■ Health & Fitness	E4
■ Malls & Mainstreets	B4-5
■ Movie Guide	D4
■ New Homes	G4
■ Obituaries	C5

Board: Help us spend \$9.5 million



In April, a check for \$9.5 million will be sent to the Farlington Public Schools, as part of a state Supreme Court ruling and settlement. The district will hold a public hearing on how to spend the windfall.

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

To be sure, Farlington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield is happy that the so-called *Durant case* between the state and its public school districts is finally settled. That settlement, which now awaits

Gov. John Engler's signature, will bring an estimated \$9.5 million to the Farlington district. The state Supreme Court awarded \$211 million to 84 districts that filed suit against the state for not funding programs it mandated. Those districts originally sought \$492 million.

"The state did what it had to do and no one should be blamed directly," Maxfield, a key member of a liaison committee representing the litigant districts, said following Tuesday's school board meeting. "It's an 18- or 19-year problem. Finally, they addressed it with a good compromise."

During the meeting, trustee Priscilla Brouillette praised Maxfield's role in helping the case move through a messy, legal tangle that some thought would never be untied.

"We all have so much appreciation

and pride in Dr. Maxfield's work in resolving this," Brouillette said. "We're very proud you're from our district and (that) this came together so well."

The liaison committee fought to make sure the *Durant* settlement would "impact all districts, not just the litigant districts," Maxfield said.

The 1980 case stemmed from a lawsuit named for Donald Durant. It claimed that the state violated the 1978 Headlee Amendment by failing to pay for state-mandated programs such

Placard see CASES, A6

Partners with the community



Awarded:
Veteran
veterinarian
Dr.
John
Richardson
shares
thanks
and
a few
jokes
with
the
crowd
after
being
awarded
the
Good
Partner
Award
by
the
Chamber
of
Commerce.
He
remem-
bered
when
it
was
called
the
"Board
of
Commerce."

STAFF PHOTOS
BY
BRYAN MITCHELL

Chamber lauds Dr. Richardson, Botsford Hospital

Community work honored at dinner



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Business leaders took their eyes off the bottom line to celebrate the profits of being in a supportive community during the Farlington/Farlington Hills Chamber of Commerce annual dinner Thursday.

Two of the Farlington area's bedrock businesses — Botsford General Hospital and Plaza Veterinary Clinic owner Dr. John Richardson — were honored with chamber's Good Partnership Award and Good Partner Award respectively, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Both were also subsequently honored with proclamations from state

Rep. Andrew Rackowski, Oakland County Commissioner David Moffitt, and U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg's office during award presentations at Relish Grill.

Botsford Hospital's community involvement spans a multitude of events — Foundation for Families, Youth and Children's annual Community Ball, Farlington Public Schools Mentoring Program and Healthy Kids with the YMCA.

Awards presenter Steven Pope, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers general manager and chamber board member, held up two pages to illustrate the hospital's involvement.



Congratulations: Botsford Hospital Chairman "Gersh" Cooper (left) gladly accepts the partnership award from Steven Pope, general manager of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"And it's single-spaced," Pope added. "I have been asked, 'Why is Botsford Hospital so involved in the community?' We see ourselves as not as just serving the community, but also being part of the community," said Gerson Cooper, Botsford Hospital president. "Farlington is a wonderful community."

"We share (The Good Partnership Award) with all of you. We share an

Placard see AWARDS, A4

Firefighters train to deliver ALS by March

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farlington Hills firefighters will soon be able knock off nearly four minutes of the time residents can receive Advanced Life Support help during medical emergency.

Those four minutes can make a make a world of difference, especially in cases of cardiac arrest, diabetic reactions and respiratory problems, a Farlington Hills fire department spokesman said.

So far, 31 firefighters have been trained and certified in Advanced Life Support. Another seven are taking classes and are expected to be certified in May.

Fire officials have set March 1 as a target date to start the service. The department is awaiting county and state certification.

"What we'll be able to do is bring the emergency room to the patient," said Kevin Berache, Farlington Hills fire EMT supervisor.

"All the data indicates that the faster you administer Advanced Life Support, the better chance there is for survival."

Firefighters — who are typically first on the scene — have to wait until trained paramedics arrive three and half minutes later. Staff is trained in Basic Life Support, which includes CPR and immediate first aid.

With Advanced Life Support certification, firefighters can react immediately. They'll be able to start IVs, perform heart defibrillation, cardiac monitoring, give medication and start airway management before taking patients to the hospital, Beracha said.

"We'll be able to bring a higher level of care to patients faster," said Richard Marinucci, Farlington Hills fire chief.

Fire department officials are expected to ask Farlington Hills City Council members to approve buying \$120,000 worth of additional equipment, which will include heart monitors, EKG, IV and drug box to outfit five vehicles.

Immediate, in-depth aid brings more liability, though.

Placard see ALS, A6

Firefighter of Year always pitching in

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

■ FARMINGTON HILLS

Meet Mike Kish: Firefighter, hazardous waste coordinator, inspector, clown, unofficial fitness instructor and curator of memorabilia for the department headquarters display.

Meet Mike Kish: Husband, father of two sons, Little League baseball coach, window washer and lawn mower.

Meet Mike Kish: Farlington Hills Firefighter of the Year and Career Firefighter of the Year.

Meet Mike Kish? ... Where the heck is Mike Kish?

That thought may have crossed a few minds when he was dually announced as the Career Firefighter of the Year and Firefighter of the Year at the department's annual banquet Nov. 7.

Kish's proper moment in the spotlight was somewhat obscured by one minor detail: He was the one manning the light.

"I was expecting to turn the spotlight on someone else when they announced it. It was like *whoo* with the spotlight," said Kish, 41, demonstrating with his

hands how suddenly the strobe went scattershot.

Erratic light work is a minor byproduct of Kish's willingness to step in where necessary, which also has a knack of shining at the right time.

Many kudos

Since 1990, the Farlington resident has received five lifesaving awards, eight unit citations, one certificate of merit and two certificates of appreciation. He's the subject of numerous letters commending the department. He was hired as an on-call firefighter in 1988.

"When I was going through the files, I was kind of amazed at the breadth of his involvement," said Richard Marinucci, Farlington Hills fire chief. "He has his hands in a lot of things."

Sometimes those things are yucky. Kish is the department's hazardous waste coordinator and is on-call for the Western Wayne County Hazardous

Materials Team.

He recently responded to an emergency at Metro Airport where a package containing E coli bacteria on petri dishes broke open. The team secured the area and removed the items.

As an inspector, Kish lends an investigative eye to solve fire cases. He gave an example of an apartment blaze, which started after the electricity was restored to the building.

Through subsequent interviews, he



Burning question: Farlington Hills Firefighter Mike Kish likes piecing together details in fire probes.

found there was one burner left on, which happened to ignite a wastebasket that was put on top of the stove so the family's dog wouldn't get into it.

Placard see FIREFIGHTER, A6

Neighbors challenge builder's intentions

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Two North Power Road Association members can count the reasons on their fingers why it's mighty hard to grip the hand of friendship with a developer, who they contend is going to disrupt their wooded, tranquil neighborhood.

After a protracted two-year battle, the city and developer reached agreement that will see a 27-house development through a consent judgment. Since the settlement, the developer of Oakwood Hills has offered to meet with existing residents.

Irene Kornicky and Maureen Thiering are leery of such friendly gestures. Here's why:

The developer sued them, naming them individually in a \$1 million lawsuit that was later dropped. The developer agreed to pay those residents' legal fees. The Oakwood Hills developer also sued residents in separate suits over property disputes; those legal fees are not being reimbursed, they said.

Instead of legal costs, such money would've been better spent on larger lots and less homes, but the developer tried to intimidate them, they said.

"He's caused a lot of grief and suffering for these people," Thiering said.

Not all residents will be able tap into new sewer and water lines, which the developer and city officials cite as a beneficial outcome of the new development. Only a handful of residents who live along but whose houses set back from Power Road could link to the sewer. By their estimation, only three existing homes will have access to the water main, which will likely need easements from residents before it is installed.

"No way they're going to be able to afford the tap-in fees," Kornicky said.

The women also dispute reports about how existing septic tanks and wells are failing. Many have been updated recently.

"We have lovely pieces of property; if it had been a problem, the city would've done something," Kornicky said.

The developer Joe Trupiano said he wants to maintain the rural, wooded setting, but Power Road residents ngle

Placard see NEIGHBORS, 50