

# Farmington Observer

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Diamond gems:** The national girls softball tournament wraps up today at Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile Road, east of Halsted.

### MONDAY

**Council agenda:** Farmington Hills City Council meets 7:30 p.m. at city hall where Steve Brock will officially be appointed as new city manager. A full report will also be provided on the recent flooding.

### TUESDAY

**Board business:** A special meeting of the Farmington Board of Education takes place 5:15 p.m. to award bids for Farmington High's renovation.

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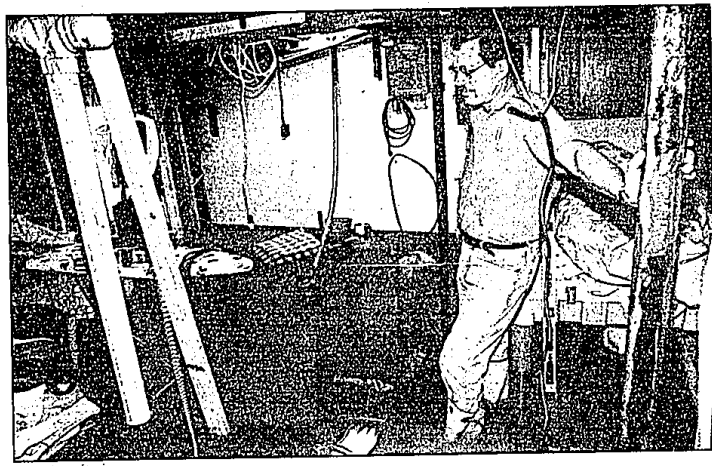
## Underage smokers face fines if caught

Minors who smoke in public in the city of Farmington stand to get burned with misdemeanor charges. The city council Monday adopted a local ordinance prohibiting anyone under age 18 from smoking or chewing tobacco products in public. Those who decide to light up anyway face fines, citations and potentially embarrassing court appearances, said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

"We're going to issue tickets, no warnings," said Goss, noting that patrols will venture out to school parking lots, strip malls and convenience stores - anywhere these teens might congregate for a puff. Penalties could include \$60 fines and the requirement to "appear in court with their parents" while a ticket is ruled on at 47th District Court, Goss said. Farmington is one of nine Michigan municipalities to adopt a local no-juvenile-smoking ordinance even though there is an existing state law on the books. West Bloomfield Township and Troy also have such ordinances while Farmington Hills is considering it, according to Goss. The ordinance, unanimously approved by

Please see ORDINANCE, A5

## Making unwanted waves

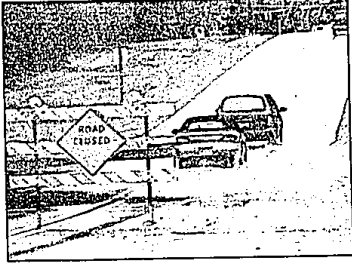


Water world: Roger Trost waits for a pump to empty his basement of floodwater.

## Residents bail out after heavy flooding

Thursday's rain didn't drain. It caused a major pain for some Farmington Hills homeowners. It left bio-hazardous stain and clean-up was a budget strain. Carol Trost found herself sanitizing every item tainted by the foot of sewage water that rimmed her basement on Hemlock, east of Middlebelt between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. "We're not done cleaning up from the flood last February," said Trost. Her family was in Florida last winter when that storm hit. By the time they returned home a week later, the water had receded but sewage residue, stench and rusted appliances were left behind. "My husband, Roger, is in the process of ceramic tiling the floor and drywalling down there," she said. She estimates the family has lost at least \$10,000 in goods during the three floods they've weathered in the eight years they've lived there. That includes two sets of washers and dryers, beds, an air purifier, a humidifier and a furnace. Priceless mementos from the Trost's four children's childhood - school papers, drawings, favorite toys - were lost. And the losses were not covered by homeowners insurance.

Trost's daughter discovered the water Thursday morning when she went into the dark basement at 6 a.m. to iron a blouse.



Over the road: Torrential rains Wednesday night and Thursday morning caused 10 Mile Road east of Power to close briefly.

"She stepped onto the wet floor," said Trost. "My son, who is home from college, was sleeping down there. He hurt his foot not long ago, so he had to hobble out. You could've sailed a small canoe down there. It smells awful. The water was brown, brown. When it drained, sludge was left behind." She's familiar with the drill by now: pitching the worst of the damaged goods, hoisting down everything else, and

Please see FLOODING, A3

## Firm has option of golf course

A city-owned site next to San Marino Golf Course is one of three sites being pitched to Computware Corp. to stay in Farmington Hills



Farmington Hills officials are suggesting Computware Corp. might consider one of the oldest incentives to stay put - plenty of green.

That's not in the color of money, but the emerald shade of what soon will be an expanded city-owned golf course. Earlier this year, the city paid \$4.5 million for 92 acres on Halsted Road

Please see COURSE, A2

## Suit spills couple's Beanie game plan

A Farmington Hills mom's dream of creating a game about Beanie Babies has turned into a nightmare. Ellie Keils created "The Beanie Chase" with help from her husband, Ken, and graphic artist Melody Digiglio, also of Farmington Hills. The colorful board game about shoppers who relentlessly pursue the little stuffed animals hit the shelves in local stores just a couple of weeks ago.

Then the Keils were served with a four count copyright infringement lawsuit by Fry Inc. the maker of Beanie Babies. On Friday, they were served with papers notifying them of a federal court hearing in Chicago scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 12. Failure to appear means forfeiture of the product they

Please see BEANIE, A7

## Hobbs bids fond adieu as Hills city manager

From the placid setting of Farmington Hills, Dan Hobbs is going to a city where gorillas run from helicopters with police trying to shoot them. Of course, the big apes are not real. Neither is the scenario played out as part of a location shoot for the upcoming film, "Mighty Joe Young."



The movie scene took place in West Covina, Calif. where Hobbs is heading this week after two years as Farmington Hills city manager. Hobbs' last day was Friday. "I'm certainly going to be dealing

with some different types of issues," he said with a chuckle.

Hobbs, 52, wanted to stay in Farmington Hills for at least five years. The lure of California and its palm trees, swimming pools and movie stars proved too good to pass up.

His tenure was short but eventful. He supplies a list of accomplishments, which includes the city's police department winning state and national awards for community policing, starting the fire department's advance life support service and buying land for expansion of San Marino Golf Course. Of course, there are more.

"These are a set of accomplishments that were driven by 'we,'" Hobbs said. "By 'we' I mean 'we' the council, 'we' the staff and 'we' the community."

He offers a second list of things he wish he was staying around for: The

Please see HOBBS, A2

## Sign of gratitude



Writing's on the wall: Bob Hutton hangs a 'thank you' sign on the side of the downtown Farmington library after voters overwhelmingly approved a millage in Tuesday's election that will lead to renovations and expansion at both branches.

## Softball extravaganza

Monday marked the opening ceremonies of the Girls (16 and under) National Softball Tournament, with games played in Novi and Farmington Founder's Park. Finals are slated for today. Some 72 teams from 41 states are in town for the games. Local volunteer Ginny Morris, coordinator of the Miss Farmington/Hills scholarship pageant, reports she sold 1,000 programs in seven minutes at the opening ceremony in Novi.

Red Wings crooner Karen Newman sang the National Anthem. Farmington special athlete Cheryl Stumbaugh was wheeled out onto the field before the first game. A parachutist jumped from the plane onto the playing field where he tossed out the first softball.

Signer Paul Fugate, from Linda Booth's Deaf and Hearing Impaired Services of Farmington Hills,

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

signed the opening ceremony for hearing impaired state.

New Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock spoke to the assembled crowd.

Former Miss Farmington Jennifer Hoemke acted as scorekeeper coordinator, and games were played until 2 a.m. Friday to make-up for the rain delays. Visitors spent down time shopping the local malls, seeing movies, and some visited "a foreign country" (Canada), according to Morris.

### Introducing ... Stanley:

Farmington City Hall resembled Grand Central

Station last Monday night. First, during the city council meeting, Detroit Red Wings assistant coach Dave Lewis brought the Stanley Cup to the council chambers for all to see and be photographed with. It seems that Lewis, a Farmington resident, was next door at Focal Point to have his "official" Stanley Cup photos taken.

Longacre Elementary School fourth grader Max Siskowski then said the pledge of allegiance. "What was more exciting Max," asked Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Hartsock, "saying the pledge or seeing the Cup?"

Finally, Erin Cogswell - recently named Miss Farmington Oakland County 1998-99 - stepped up to the microphone to officially introduce herself.

By the way, Max liked seeing the silver chalice the most. "Me too," said Hartsock.



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