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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Rates approved: Farmington City Council members OK new water and sewer rates. /A2

Marine remembered: Family and friends recall World War II veteran and Hills activist. /A3

Zapped: Some Farmington and Farmington Hills residents found themselves without power for a two-hour span Tuesday. /A8

OPINION

Charter chat: Farmington Hills city officials need to educate public on proposed charter amendments. /A12

COMMUNITY LIFE

Restless youth: Are the kids getting antsy with summer vacation yet? Parents can get a thumb-nail sketch of several museums worth a visit. /B1

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Store search widens

Those looking to fill the void left by Farmer Jack in the Farmington Downtown Center are told to broaden their scope.

BY RICHARD PEARL
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Farmington and its Downtown Development Authority have told the owner of its downtown shopping center to broaden its search for a tenant for the vacant former Farmer Jack grocery store.

"Times needs to look at other retailers and possibly break it (the store) up into small stores," said City Manager

Please see STORE, A2

Former deputy chief dies

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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To Miri Spencer, public service was more than badge of honor. It was a proud tradition.

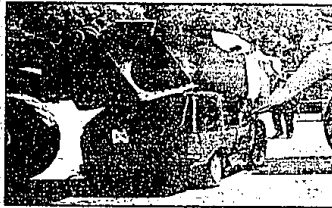
When Spencer retired as Farmington Hills police deputy chief in 1996, he continued in the public sector as White Lake Township's elected supervisor. Spencer died of a heart attack Saturday. He was 59.

"He has a legacy of public service," said Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer, who was a close friend of Spencer and a col-



Miri J. Spencer

Please see SPENCER, A8



CRUNCH time



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HESLER

Heavy metal: Battalion chief John Wells led George Baker, Steve Biebel, Gerald Antoniotti, Dave Jones and Brian Gallison work as a team to get to the patient while, above, two front-end loaders smash a Ford Motor Co. vehicle in preparation for the next event.

Hills crew excels in extrication event

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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T rapped within a heap of twisted metal, the prize was a plastic dummy.

"How are you doing in there? Can you hear me?" a Farmington Hills fire-rescue worker shouted into the mangled Ford sports utility, which had a Mercury Mountaineer leaning on its cab.

He didn't expect an answer, but he and his crew mates knew it's their response that counts.

Farmington Hills joined 11 other departments in the Regional Extrication Team Challenge Thursday, June 10, at Henry Ford Community College.

Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training sponsored

the two-day event, which included a daylong symposium on extrication techniques and innovations the previous day.

The Hills team finished second in the unlimited event and third overall. Sterling Heights took top overall honors.

Department teams took part in two, 20-minute extrication exercises that spared no effort — except perhaps using a human crash test dummy — in duplicating traffic wrecks.

Ford Motor Company donated 60 late model sport utility vehicles, which two front-end loaders smashed to smithereens shortly before each competition.

After a High-Lo placed vehicles, crews arrived with

Please see EXTRICATION, A5

Eavesdropping charges expected against teen

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Police say an 18-year-old Farmington Hills male who is believed to have secretly videotaped teenage females getting undressed could be arrested and charged by Friday.

Authorities are seeking a warrant for multiple counts of eavesdropping and installing an illegal recording device. If found guilty, the charge carries up to two years in jail.

In May, the father of a 16-year-old girl contacted police after rumors circulated around Walled Lake Western High School about the tapes being shown to other students. Other students also came forward to report the incidents.

Authorities believe the teen hid a video camera in the bathroom of a West Bloomfield Township house and the bedroom of his parents' Farmington Hills home. He videotaped girls as they changed before using the family's hot tub, police said.

"The parents are upset," Hill police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "They feel their daughters have been shamed, disgraced and violated."

Please see CHARGES, A6

Cities are included in water restrictions

BY RICHARD PEARL
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Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are included in the restrictions on watering lawns that have been issued to five counties in southeast Michigan by the Detroit Water and Sewer Department (DWSD).

Residents of Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Genesee and St. Clair Counties are affected.

As of Wednesday, June 23, water-service customers with odd-number addresses will be allowed to water their lawns and engage in other outdoor water usage only on odd-numbered days.

Residents with even-numbered addresses will be allowed such water usage only on even-numbered days.

Customers are asked to engage in such activities only as needed, to conserve water and to assure that water-pressure levels are maintained. They are asked also to refrain from filling swimming pools, washing cars and

other heavy outdoor usage.

In Farmington, City Manager Frank Lauhoff noted that violating emergency regulations are a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The city's building and public safety departments will be enforcing the restrictions, he said.

One over

Cara's kindergarten term marks growth

Editor's note: At the beginning of the 1998-99 school year, the Farmington Observer chronicled Cara Lazare on her first day of kindergarten at Wood Creek Elementary School. Following is how she concluded the year.

BY TIM SMITH
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Nope, Cara Lazare isn't a kindergartner anymore. "It's like, you blink and it's over," said Cara's mom, Amy Lazare of Farmington Hills. "Now she's a first grader."

Lazare reports that the little girl who was all "bubbles and bows" before the 1998-99 school year began is now a voracious reader who "devours books." She still is sweet and wide-eyed, however.

"She still wears dresses almost every day," said Amy, looking out toward the Wood Creek Elementary School playground area where Cara and her classmates concluded the year with a beach party.

There were sack races, water balloon tosses and the kind of laughter that only toddlers — and kindergartners — possess. But for Cara's teacher, Dawn Frederick, and classroom assistant, Stevay Reid, the

party was tinged in sadness simply because they knew another group of little kids are bigger now, heading off to the first grade.

Reid, a longtime paraprofessional at Wood Creek, said she noticed how Cara grew physically, socially and intellectually since the year began, "and how much she loves school. She really does. She loves being here, and she's made a lot of friends."

"They've worked hard this year," Frederick said. "It's been a good group."

The teacher said she particularly noticed the strides Cara made since the first day of the school year in late August 1998.

Perhaps a bit shy then, Cara ended the year regularly sitting at the front of the room and eagerly

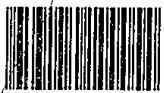
■ 'She's made a lot of progress in all areas.'

Dawn Frederick
—Cara's teacher



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HESLER

All ears: Dawn Frederick, Cara's kindergarten teacher speaks with her between games.



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