

Controversy swirls over oil spill



Officials from a company that cleaned up oil spilled into a branch of the Rouge River in Farmington say they're doing the right thing, but they're not admitting responsibility. The amount of oil spilled is also in question.

BY SUE DUCK
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Though an oil spill was cleaned up immediately after discovery in Farmington, there appears to be a difference of opinion about the circumstances surrounding it — from the amount of oil found and how long it was there, to who is responsible and to what degree.

Oil found within the Tarabus branch of the Rouge River was traced to the automotive service lot of Kmart and the Penske Auto Center at 37175 Grand River at Halsted about 8:15 p.m. Oct. 12.

Earl Friess, an environmental quality analyst for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, responded to the complaint.

Farmington Police were also sent to the west lot of Kmart and an officer wrote a report; however, some of the information contained in that police report is disputed by Penske representatives Lucy Zielinski, public relations, and Scott Beck, safety and environmental manager. Both have offices in Troy.

The MDEQ requested that the Penske Auto Center arrange the cleanup, Zielinski said, but that doesn't mean the company was responsible for the contamination.

"We cleaned it up because we thought it was the right thing to do," she said. "This is a positive thing. We

stepped up to the challenge. We were not sure where it was coming from. Other people dump oil into drains."

Beck, who came on site about 10 or 10:30 p.m. that night also wasn't sure of the origin of the oil but said at that time of night, under the illumination of flashlights, he wasn't going to argue.

He called Marine Pollution Control who did the cleanup. Beck stressed that Penske recycles used oil under strict standards. "We run a tight ship with tight procedures," Beck said. "There is a possibility that there was a spill, but we don't believe it came from

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Did You Remember?

Standard Time started today at 2 a.m.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Halloween event: Kids ages 9 and up may test their painting skills 7-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29, at the Farmington Branch Library. Contestants will have one hour to paint a jack-o-lantern, which will be judged by age and ability. For information, call Stacy at 474-7770.

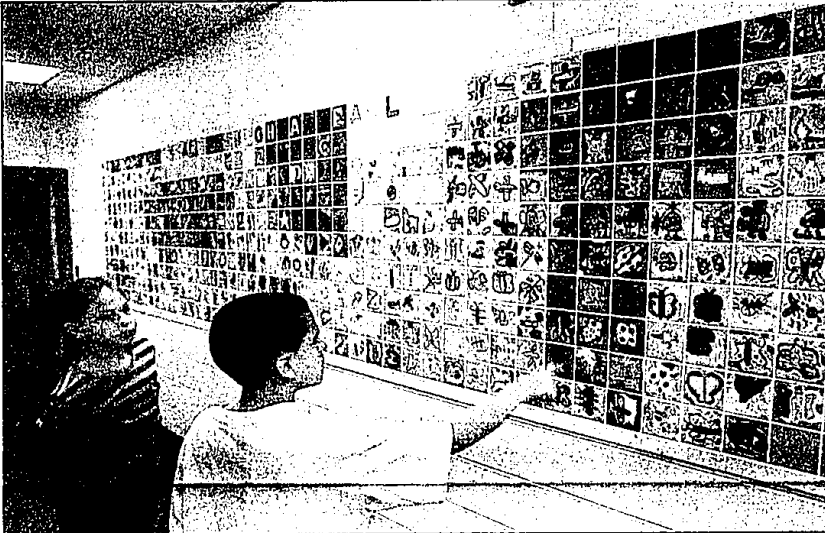
Celebrate Vet's Day: Stars & Stripes Forever, a Veteran's Day celebration, will begin at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Call 473-1830 to register.

Clarification

The telephone number for information about the Cornucopia Ball published in Thursday's edition was incorrect. To donate items for auction, to volunteer or attend, call 248-345-9090.

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Wall of fame: Students at Eagle Elementary School painted ceramic tiles that line the wall of an addition to their school building. Pictured left, Emily Sherbin and Jonathan Schloner were in 3rd grade last year when they designed and made their tiles. Every grade level had a specific theme for the tiles they created.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

Ceramic mural showcases Eagle's artists

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The best artistic work of Eagle Elementary students and staff can be viewed in the ceramic tile mural in the hallway leading to the school's new art wing.

"Soaring High at Eagle" is the theme of the tile project, which has more than 450 ceramic blocks. The student council came up with the subject and theme.

"This is a student-generated project," said art teacher Susan Drucker. The addition was built with voter-approved bond money a year ago.

"The wall was really bare so I said

what could we do with art, which would be really permanent," said Drucker.

"We wanted this to seem like an art studio so students could feel they are artists," said Drucker.

She's worked 15 years at Eagle, which is located on 14 Mile in West Bloomfield and part of the Farmington Public School District. The mural is 4-feet high and 17-feet wide and features things that are in

the sky. Each student drew his or her own picture on the tile, then initiated it. Every class was assigned a specific item: Fifth graders created butterflies,

'We wanted this to seem like an art studio so students could feel they are artists.'

Susan Drucker
—Eagle art teacher

graders drew space ships and rocket ships, third graders did airplanes, a second graders drew birds and kindergartners drew balloons.

Drucker's tile has hot air balloons partially covered by clouds.

Sara Frank, a tile design artist, also assisted, Drucker said. Frank has exhibited at art shows and did the tile design project at the West Bloomfield Library.

It took 10 loads to fire all the tiles in the kiln, which hardened and set the materials.

Some fifth grade students — Max Troz, Lindsey Hoffman, Lauren Brown and Desirée Asmer — showed their tiles recently to a visitor.

"I designed it," Troz said. "I was trying to make an alien and I messed up. It started to look like a pig so I made it a pig ship."

Please see MURAL, A2

FPS officers have treats, advice for Halloween night

BY SUE DUCK
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Two members of the Farmington Department of Public Safety will be patrolling Farmington neighborhoods searching for 200 trick-or-

treaters. Carol LeBlanc, administrative assistant to Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss, and Police Commander Maria Put won't be looking for kids in trouble.

They will be handing out foil bags filled with potato chips, coloring books, stickers and glow sticks to increase "goblin sightings." Goss and Giffa of Livonia donated the "Proud to be an American" stickers.

"The Farmington Department of Public Safety started this program eight years ago in an effort to help children have a positive first impression of police officers," Put said.

The bags will be handed out beginning at 5 p.m. on Halloween night. "Watch for the Crime Prevention SUV," Put said.

Officers turn the lights on and drive through the subdivisions. Although the events of Sept. 11 changed everyone's sense of security and comfort, police say the same tried-and-true Halloween safety measures still apply.

Tips for parents
Make sure your child's costume allows for a full range of vision and

Please see HALLOWEEN, A2

Patriots



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

Stars and stripes: Alex Burr, Christine Lee and Christopher Feloni work on an American flag made of plastic cups. Students at Cloverdale School made three flags visible to folks passing by.

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