

THE WEEK AHEAD

Farmington City Council: Newly elected council members will take their oaths of office. On the regular agenda are a request for sign variance from Hershey's Ice Cream on Farmington Road and a report on the bids for road salt, as well as presentation of the city's audit report. The meeting begins at 8 p.m. at City Hall, 23600 Liberty.

MONDAY

Hills City Council: Newly elected Mayor Pro Tem Christopher McRae will be sworn in at the beginning of Monday night's meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. The agenda includes rezoning requests for properties on the south side of Ten Mile west of Middlebelt and at the northeast corner of Grand River and Crestview Court. The meeting is held at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

TUESDAY

School board: Officials will review the 2001 senior exit survey and talk about the status of the annual budget, as well as approve high school curriculum recommendations at their 7:30 p.m. meeting, held at the Lewis B. Schulmann Administrative Center, 32500 Shiawassee.

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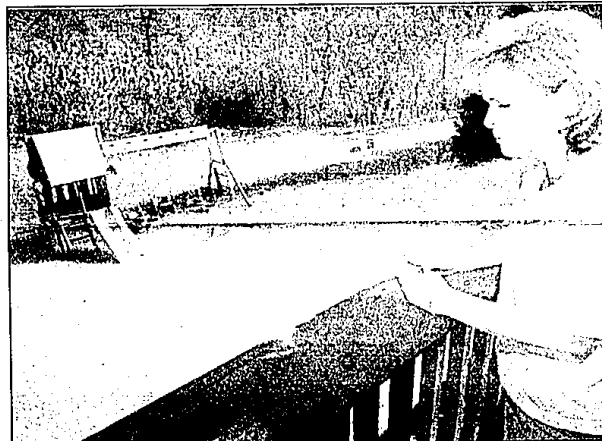
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Gusher



Breaker-breaker: Neighbors and officials watched as water gushed from a main break. Right, Sandy Kin watches the floodwaters that filled her backyard and soaked the basement level of their home located at the corner of Fourteen Mile and Pinecone.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRIDLER



Water main break stops traffic

Some Farmington Hills residents in the Fourteen Mile-Halsted area reported flooded basements, after a City of Detroit 48-inch water transmission line ruptured just after 10:30 a.m. Friday just east of Halsted.

Detroit Metro Water and Sewer

crews were able to turn off the line by 2:30 p.m. Tom Binsell, Hills public services director, said residents reported low water pressure in the area, but the water supply to Hills residents was safe.

"The valve is still west of where we have our feed so the water pressure

went back to normal," he said, adding city engineers were examining streets Friday to see if running water undermined structures.

Police for several hours put up barricades to keep southbound traffic off of Halsted, until the water subsided.

Suspect sought in possible murder

BY KEVIN BROWN
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Farmington Hills police have identified a suspect in the case of the missing man believed to have been murdered Oct. 20 in his upscale Hills home.

Hills police and the FBI are seeking to apprehend Elgardo Perez, 19, a native of Puerto Rico who was recently living in Beverly Hills. He is wanted on a charge of using a credit card in the name of Gordon Machek, 55, a retired DaimlerChrysler designer active in local charities.

Machek disappeared last month. In a press conference Friday, Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said authorities believe Machek was

Please see SUSPECT, A7



Hills FD holds training exercise

Burning down the house: Farmington Hills firefighters pull hose upstairs to a burning bedroom, during a Wednesday training exercise held at a home off of Howard Street at Drake Road. The home's owner is building a new home and planned to demolish the old one.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDLER

Lowe's plans on hold

■ While Farmington Hills planning commissioners have given Lowe's more time to make their plans 'neighbor-friendly,' neighbors don't want the store built near them.

BY KEVIN BROWN
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Lowe's Home Improvement Center wants to make a planned Farmington Hills store more neighbor-friendly.

But the comments of neighbors who showed for a public hearing Thursday before Hills planning commissioners showed plenty of opposition for any large building in their midst.

Lowe's wants to build toward the south end of the "Triangle" development area, bordered by Orchard Lake on the west, 14 Mile to the north and Northwestern to the east.

Developer Gary Sakwa told planning commissioners he's already spent over \$20 million to develop a shopping center there, which may include a Home Depot store.

"I'm not going away. The planning commission is appointed by council and should support the council's wishes. I'm

Please see LOWE'S, A2

Memorial design due next month

■ Once plans for the Holocaust Memorial Center have been presented, a ground-breaking ceremony and fund-raising campaign will follow.

BY KEVIN BROWN
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Once an interior plan for the new Holocaust Memorial Center is presented in mid-December, a ground-breaking ceremony and money-raising campaign will follow.

Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig said Monday construction at the site of the old Orchard Theater on Orchard Lake Road north of 12 Mile will start in spring and be finished "some time in the summer or the fall of 2003."

Rosenzweig, director of the center now housed in West Bloomfield, said he will meet with British designer Richard Houghton Dec. 18-19 to review

Please see CENTER, A4