

Farmington Observer

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The Farmington Department of Public Works stores 600 tons of salt for winter road cleaning in this cone-shaped building on Nine Mile west of Farmington Road. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Winter's on its way; Farmington is ready

By MARY GNIEWEK

Don't let the recent spell of balmy weather fool you. Winter officially begins Saturday.

And behind the doors of the Department of Public Works offices in Farmington and Farmington Hills, workers are gearing up for it.

Weird, cone-shaped storage bins are being filled with tons of salt, gigantic pieces of snow removal equipment are being readied, new equipment is on order.

"It could snow 12 inches tonight and we'd be ready for it," said Larry Dahlberg, a foreman at the Farmington Hills DPW.

The DPW has two Champion road graders which are used to open major streets during snowfalls of at least six

inches. A John Deere grader will be added to the fleet today. At 11 feet, 32,000 pounds, the graders look like they wouldn't let anything, not even an iceberg, stop them.

During less dramatic snowfalls and icy road conditions, nine dump trucks equipped with plows and salt spreaders are ready for action.

In the front office of the DPW yard on Halsted Road, acting director Walter Karolak said the department keeps a 600 ton supply of salt in stock.

The price has jumped from \$13 to \$17.82 a ton this season. The supply will be replenished as necessary.

"WE USED 1,300 tons last year," Karolak said. "But we've been out fewer times this year because of a milder winter so far."

The National Weather Service long-range outlook through February predicts drier than usual conditions in the Great Lakes area with milder temperatures than last year.

"I'm hoping for a milder winter, but I have to vascillate a bit," said Earl Billing, Farmington DPW director.

"We need snow for insulation so we don't get breaks in the water pipes. But on the other hand, we don't want slippery roads, either."

The city of Farmington has also stockpiled 600 tons of salt to clear its 60 miles of roadway. Billing said the DPW gauges its operation on 2 inches of snow or a call from the Farmington Public Safety Department before sending crews out.

(Continued on page 4A)

Hills woman 'pays dues' as activist

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Frieda Leemon remembers childhood visits to Belle Isle marked by her mother's family piling into an old Packard for the trip.

She also remembers that her mother's family was fortunate enough to leave Europe before they could be caught up in Hitler's final solution. Her father's family stayed behind. Not one of them survived.

Haunted by the memory of their deaths, she became active in Jewish organizations. Except for the time she took off to raise her three children, Mrs. Leemon stayed active in Zionist groups from her teenage years.

Recently the Farmington Hills resident was installed for her second two-year term as national president of Pioneer Women at the group's convention in Jerusalem.

"It's my way of paying my dues," she (Continued on page 2A)



Frieda Leemon has been re-elected for another two-year term as president of Pioneer Women. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Hills Recreation Dept. lists new programs

Nearly a dozen new classes have been added to the after-school program sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department this winter.

Collage-making, mime and papier mache sculpting are just a few of the new attractions which will be offered in January.

Here's a list of the offerings, classified by the school buildings in which they will be taught.

EAGLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Monday classes begin Jan. 28 and run through March 24.

- Fun-nastics. Develops gymnastics and tumbling skills for kindergarten to second graders.

- Stunts and Tumbling. For third to sixth graders.

- Drawing. Learn the basics of sketching, shading, perspective color and design. For third to sixth graders.

- Cheerleading. For third to sixth graders.

- Collage-making. Form art pieces by pasting various materials on flat surfaces. For third to sixth graders.

SHIAWASSEE RECREATION CENTER Monday classes begin Jan. 28 and run through March 24.

- Fun-nastics. For kindergarten to second grade.

- Mime. Learn the movements and art of pantomime. For kindergarten through second graders.

- A Time for Me. Stories, games, songs and art projects for three to five-year olds.

- Stunts and Tumbling. For third to sixth graders.

- Mime. For third to sixth graders.

- Creative Crafts. Introduction to many forms of arts and crafts. For kindergarten to second graders.

- Dance. Express yourself through fundamental dance movements to music. For first to third graders.

- Cartooning for Kids. Turn doodles into cartooning and caricatures. For third to sixth graders.

- Ballet. For third to sixth graders.

GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Classes on Tuesdays will begin Jan. 29 and end March 25.

- Fun-nastics. For kindergarten through second graders.

- A Time for Me. Stories, songs, games and art projects for 3- to 5-year-olds.

- Collage-making. For kindergarten to second graders.

- Stunts and Tumbling. For third to sixth graders.

- Ballet. For third to sixth graders.

- Papier Mache Sculpting. For kindergarten through second graders.

- Cheerleading. For third to sixth graders.

- Jazz it Up. Steps and movements of jazz dancing. For third to sixth graders.

- Puppetry. Learn to make your own puppets and present shows. For fourth to sixth graders.

FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Wednesday classes begin Jan. 30 and end March 28.

- Fun-nastics. For kindergarten to second graders.

- A Time for Me. For pre-schoolers.

- Stunts and Tumbling. For third to sixth graders.

- Jazz it Up. For third to sixth graders.

- Papier Mache. For kindergarten to second graders.

- Cheerleading. For third to sixth graders.

- Dance. For third to sixth graders.

- Puppetry. For third to sixth graders.

SHIAWASSEE RECREATION CENTER has a variety of Thursday classes that run Jan. 31 through March 27.

- Fun-nastics. For kindergarten through second graders.

- Drawing. For third to sixth graders.

- Mime. For third to sixth graders.

- A Time for Me. For pre-schoolers.

- Cheerleading. For third to sixth graders.

- Clay Modeling. For third to sixth graders.

- Jazz it Up. For third to sixth graders.

- Creative Crafts. For kindergarten to second graders.

- Collage-making. For third to sixth graders.

- Ballet. For first to third graders.

- Cartooning for Kids. For third to sixth graders.

CLASSES GENERALLY begin at 3 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. However, there are some exceptions.

For prices, and any other further details, call the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department at 474-6115.

All residents of the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and outlying areas within the Farmington School District are eligible for any activity or class described here.



Chopper touchdown

Two unidentified businessmen found the Independence Green heliport in Farmington Hills an ideal place to conduct business away from the pressures of the corporate world Friday afternoon. The Sikorsky

S76 model bird touched down about 1 p.m. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Most deadlines for the OBSERVER issues of Dec. 24 through Jan. 3 will be 24 hours earlier than usual.

Material usually needed by 5 p.m. Friday should be received by 5 p.m. Thursday.

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Classified ads for the Monday Observer can be called in to our ad-takers until 5 p.m. Friday.

Suburban Life Section B
Shopping Cart Section C
Sports Section D
Inside Angles A-3
Monday's Commentary C-6
NEWSLINE 477-5450
CLASSIFIEDS 591-0900