

## Riley named to council

Susan Riley, of Farmington Hills, has been named to the Michigan Technological University student council.

She is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.

In addition to representing the students, she also serves as a member of the Bocce Club.

The student council is the elected governing body for the MTU students and serves as a forum for students to air questions and problems. The council also assists students by sponsoring a student health insurance program, legal counseling sessions, student surveys and teacher evaluations.



SUSAN RILEY

## City workers give thanks to Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark knows Farmington Hills city employees are grateful for his country's successful smuggling of six Americans from Iran in late January.

He received a registered thank-you letter signed by 83 employees this week.

And Leonard Chapman, an engineering aide who dreamed up the letter, couldn't be happier.

"I'm 48 and I can never remember any country doing anything but lip service for us," said Chapman. "After I heard the news, I wanted to thank them."

Chapman asked City Engineer Tom Blaisell to draft the letter, which was then circulated by Chapman to other departments. Eighty-three workers, including Police Chief John Nichols, said thanks to the northern neighbor.

"The little proverb that says your 'true' friends are only evident when a crisis occurs is real," the letter read.

"Your act of helping some of our diplomatic corps to escape from Iran, has shaken us from our complacency and necessitated a redefinition of our neighbor in terms of that 'true' friend. When you stepped beyond the isolation of your territorial and diplomatic borders, we came to the awesome conclusion that there is a nation in the world that thinks enough of our country to offer more than token support."

"ALTHOUGH the undersigned represent only a minute fragment of the citizenry, we are confident that many share these thoughts. Never again will we take our visits to your country for granted."

Chapman received a receipt for the letter Tuesday, but it wasn't signed by the prime minister.

"I sincerely hope that he was so swamped by letters that he wasn't able to return a note to us," Blaisell said.

## Computers aid biology class experiments

It had to happen.

Madonna College students who have found computers to be useful tools in professions outside the usual business world, recently bred fruit flies and studied genetic characteristics of reproduction electronically in biology class.

The experiments, which only theoretically provided a breeding ground for the annoying bugs, were designed to examine the distribution of only two characteristics: body color and wing structure. Dr. Margaret Maynard, as-

sistant professor of biology who supervised the experiment, estimated it would take months to reproduce the same results.

In the second phase of the six-week experiment, students explored genetic mapping and crossover between a pair of genes in a chromosome. Teams of students focused on 10 genes in a chromosome, determining sequence and distance between genes.

Maynard and the students in General Biology II will be using it this term to determine the results of natural selection in a theoretical population.

## Dust control petitions due in Hills

Farmington Hills residents have until Feb. 22 to hand in petitions requesting dust control service for later this year.

Blank petitions are available at the Director of Public Services office in the city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

Residents who had roads oiled last year needn't re-petition. But those wanting to switch from calcium chloride to oil or vice-versa are required to do so.

Requirements for the petitioning process are as follows:

- The minimum length of road petitioning to change from oil to chloride or vice versa, shall be limited to an entire length of road (intersection to intersection) or, in areas lacking block type segments, the minimum will be 1,000 lineal feet.

- In order to qualify for a change in the type of dust control agent applied in your area, the petition must contain signatures representing 60 percent of the property abutting the road(s) designated on the petition. Petitions must be submitted to the Department of Public Safety no later than Feb. 22. Note that this does include vacant lots, although it doesn't include public properties such as schools or parks.

- In the case of a homeowner's association acting on behalf of an entire subdivision, the association board must notify each lot owner of a formal association meeting to determine whether the subdivision wants oil or chloride. Should the association approve the oil alternative at its meeting by a margin of 60 percent or greater, the board

must note this action and formally request the oil option in writing to the public services office.

The association's letter must contain an indication of the formal action taken by the board and a statement that all lot owners were notified of the meeting.

- In all areas for which there hasn't been a valid petition submitted by Feb. 22, the city will apply the same type of dust control agent as applied last year.

The cost for the two dust control agents will be established through competitive bids.

## Preliminary agenda announced by Hills

Following is a preliminary agenda for next week's Farmington Hills council session to be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. A complete agenda will be published in Monday's Observer.

- A public cost hearing will be on Meadowview Water Improvement

(Pleasant Valley Farms.

- Consideration of reducing sewage disposal charges on the basis of a current court ruling.

- Joint session with the Farmington Area Commission on the Aging.

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