

Insurance is of little help Problems linger after ice storm

Thousands of trees were damaged or destroyed by the devastating ice storm that hit Farmington two weeks ago, posing a knotty problem for residents.

Farmington Police Chief Dan Byrnes estimates storm damage in excess of \$20,000 — with the bulk of the cost chalked up by Department of Public

Works employees for clearing and disposing of debris.

DPW foreman Joseph DeVriendt said it would be two weeks before crews finish the massive clean-up task.

"Residents could help if they put all the fallen limbs in one direction," he said. "They're putting the stacks helter

skelter, which slows us down. Also, it would help if they don't mix other debris, like wires or sticks, with the limbs. This could be very dangerous if the wires went through the chipper machine."

DeVriendt said the Floral Park Subdivision in the area of Grand River and Orchard Lake was hardest hit.

"The big, old trees had cracks from the wind storm that came Thursday before the storm. They filled with ice and that split the trees."

Two crews are divided north and south of Grand River "to give everyone a fair shake."

Farmington Hills DPW director Ed Taylor said clean-up costs exceeded \$10,000 for the first 10 days following the storm. Clean-up efforts are still underway.

TO ADD INSULT to injury, most insurance policies do not pay for toppled or mutilated trees. In most cases, homeowners are only covered if fallen

trees damage their property.

Trees felled by the storm that damage a home should be reported to the owners' insurance company. Repair and clean-up costs not covered by insurance can be itemized and deducted from federal income tax on the "long form," according to Walt Dunnigan of the Detroit Internal Revenue Service office.

Dunnigan said any expense beyond \$100 on a non-business casualty loss can be deducted to cover the cost of restoring property to its pre-casualty condition.

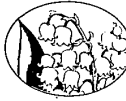
"For example, let's say you had \$500 in losses when the storm blew a tree on your roof and the insurance only covers \$200 of it," Dunnigan explained.

"You then have a \$300 loss and with a \$100 limitation, you'd be reimbursed for \$200."

Neither Farmington nor Farmington Hills has plans to replace trees, city officials said.

While every home has had electrical power restored, the tree clean-up is far from finished.

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Botsford names a new public relations director

Russel J. Tuttle has been named director of public relations at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Tuttle served as director of community relations for the People's Community Hospital Authority in Wayne for six years. Prior to that, he was executive assistant to a state senator in Lansing for two years, and supervisor of the editorial department for Bendix Corp. in Ann Arbor for 12 years.

Tuttle is currently president of the Southeastern Michigan Hospital Public Relations Association, and chairman of the Southeast Michigan Hospital Association Public Relations Group.

dent of the Wayne Area Council of PTAs, live in north Westland. They have one married son, Daniel, who lives with his wife Gail in Wayne.

Tuttle assumed his new position April 9. The appointment was announced by Gerson Cooper, vice president of administration at Botsford.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, the 46-year-old Tuttle has long been a community activist; he served two years as a Westland City Councilman, almost four years on the Zoning Board of Appeals, was chairman of the Westland City Committee, was on the Board of Election Canvassers and the personnel board for the township.

During the past three years, Tuttle was a columnist for Associated Newspapers, writing a column called Health Beat.

He and his wife, Donna, a past presi-

DPW urges cooperation in storm clean-up effort

Farmington Hills DPW Director Ed Taylor urged residents this week to cooperate with sanitation crews in removing storm-related debris from city streets.

Taylor said DPW crews will circle the city's 230 miles of roads just one mile to pick up branches, brush and other items felled by the recent ice storm.

"Less than one third of the city has had that kind of service," Taylor said. "We are not equipped to handle the extra debris. We are unable to return to a street once we've gone through a neighborhood."

"So we are asking residents to tie branches into four-foot bundles and leave them at curbside for regular refuse pick-up."

"We want to conclude this operation by mid-week so we can move ahead to dust control treatment, which is our main priority this time of year."

Taylor said the ice storm cost DPW-maintenance division in excess of \$10,000 for rental equipment and overtime pay for workers.

The city has not received government storm assistance funds though Oakland County applied for disaster aid.

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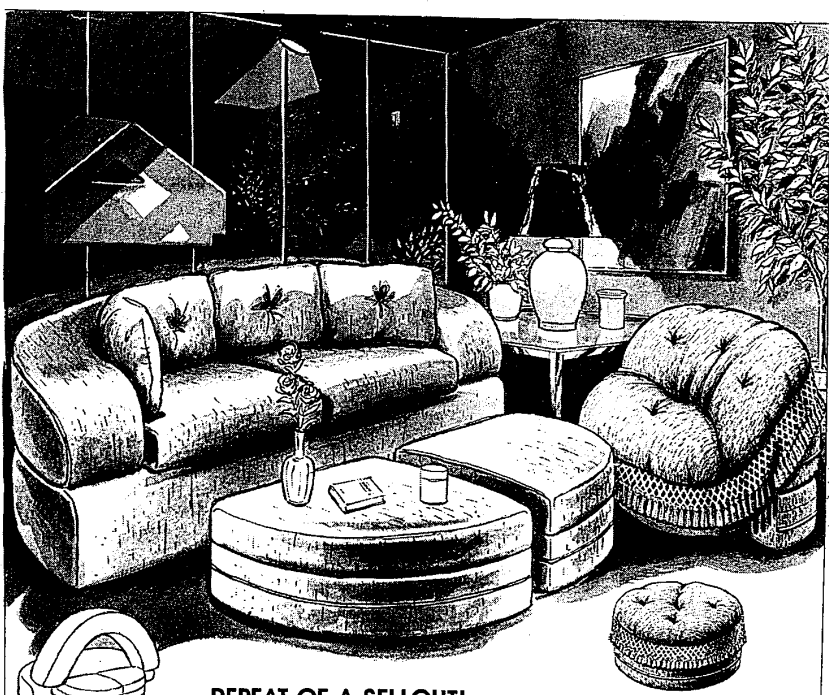
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