

# Rabies warning!

## Outbreaks reported in SE Michigan

By Marie Chivestrey  
staff writer

A 5-year-old girl who died in March after being bitten by a bat has knocked down the pins of complacency in Michigan over the seemingly dormant but dreaded disease rabies.

The girl died in Hillsdale County, the first person in Michigan to die of rabies in 35 years.

But you don't have to go to Hillsdale County in southern Michigan to find a case of rabies. Rabies has surfaced recently in Plymouth, Dearborn Heights and Livingston County.

Rabies is a potential threat wherever skunks, raccoons and bats dwell. One of these three animals, which fall into a high-risk rabies category, can tangle with an unvaccinated dog or cat, turning the family pet into a carrier of the deadly disease.

Or they can tangle with a wild animal such as a squirrel, guinea pig or rabbit in the low-risk category and the animal could get the disease and pass it on.

Or one of the three high-risk wild animals can attack a human, as happened in Hillsdale County. When the girl showed symptoms of the disease, she was doomed to die, as the vaccine has to be administered before symptoms appear.

"ONCE THE symptoms start, it's 100 percent fatal," said Dr. Donald Lawrence, assistant medical director of the Wayne County Department of Health.

In his job, Lawrence is used to dealing every day with diseases and is not apt to use the words "serious public health concern" lightly. But those are the words he used to describe the threat of rabies as it now exists in Michigan.

"It is impossible to estimate how many rabid animals are out there, but the statistics are strong they are out there. And, in the summertime, kids are more apt to have contact with these animals."

Even in overbuilt subdivisions, cute and savvy raccoons can be heard foraging through garbage cans in the middle of the night.

But in northern Ohio, and soon to be in southern Michigan, those raccoons are no longer considered cute. They are considered deadly.

"Raccoons carrying rabies have been migrating northward from the south," Lawrence said.

"They are now in the northern part of Ohio and there is a marked increase in the number of rabid raccoons near the Michigan-Ohio border. Ohio counted 81 rabid animals in 1981; in 1982, there was 80."

TWO WEEKS AGO a Plymouth cat killed a bat, dragged it home and left it on the doorstep. Instead of just tossing the bat out, the homeowners were

smart enough to have the bat examined. The bat was rabid and the cat was killed.

"The cat became a risk and had to be killed. He had not been vaccinated," Lawrence said.

Animals suspected to be rabid are sent to either the Michigan Department of Health or to Michigan State University, where their brains are examined, Lawrence said.

A Dearborn Heights girl recently had to undergo shots after being bitten by a rabid dog. A rabid dog also was recently picked up in Livingston County.

"We're even finding rabies in cows and that means they were bitten by something," Lawrence said.

Cats require neither licenses nor vaccinations.

"Pet owners might not renew their licenses, or don't get a license in the first place," Lawrence said.

"Or people don't keep good records, showing when the pet was last immunized. Cities don't have the manpower to enforce the dog law. And people become too complacent."

In addition to keeping up with their own pet's shots, Lawrence urged residents to keep watch on the neighbors' pets, making sure they are licensed. He also urged animal lovers to stay away from exotic pets.

"Monkeys are a high risk for rabies," he said.

"But they don't have vaccines which are species-specific to those animals. You can use a dog rabies vaccine on a monkey bite, but there is no guarantee it will take."

Students from Farmington Hills are: James Dominick, Suzanne Hinkley, Colleen Kopko, Patricia Leonard, Daniel Little, Kathleen Loughlin, Donna Lozon, Michael McCrary, Thaler Mikko, Peter Morgan, Leo Nicovic, Cesar Obando, Gary Peters, Lorraine Robinson, Dennis C. Thompson, William Toth, Tamara Traub, James Wilman, Kenneth Wozniak, Jo Ann Yocum and Nancy Andrews.

Students from Farmington are: Mark Azzaretti, David Lang, David Mielock, Leslie Lure, Greg Reller, Richard Ostin, Gary Schoenberg and Janice Schweizer.

## Students graduate

Over 700 students graduated from Lawrence Institute of Technology during commencement exercises at the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

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3364 Fivo Mile Rd. 525-7077 Livonia

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## NOTICE

Notice was published Thursday, August 4, 1983 indicating that the City would be accepting bids for: (1) Catch Basin Cleaning Services, and (2) Street Striping Services. This was incorrect.

The City is accepting bids at this time only on Catch Basin Cleaning Services. Please contact the Purchasing Agent, (313) 474-6115, ext. 295 if you have any questions.

FLOYD CAIRNS  
City Clerk

## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

### NOTICE OF MEETING

Ordinance No. C-9-83 to maintain compatibility of new single-family residential buildings with surrounding structures was introduced on August 8, 1983 by the City Council of City of Farmington Hills. Enactment will be considered on August 15, 1983.

All interested parties are invited to attend for input or comments regarding this ordinance at Farmington Hills Administration Building, 31555 Eleven Mile Road. Copies of the Ordinance are available at the City Clerk's Office any weekday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS  
City Clerk

## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

### SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

#### REGULAR MEETING

August 8, 1983

Mayor Hughes opened the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills on August 8, 1983 at 7:30 P.M. Members present were: Burwell, DeLay, Hughes, Soronen, Williams and Wolf. Absent: Lange. Others present: City Manager Savage, City Clerk Cairns, Assistant City Manager Costick and City Attorney Bibeau.

Minutes of July 18, July 25 and July 28, 1983 were approved as presented.

Project Plan for Leasmith Company (Resolution No. 4) for Economic Development Corporation was approved located south of 7-11 Store on Orchard Lake Road.

Council introduced an Ordinance Amendment No. C-9-83 to maintain compatibility of new single-family residential buildings with surrounding structures. The enactment of the Ordinance will be considered August 15, 1983.

Residents on Alpeyack Road in Section 11 expressed concern regarding traffic created by Lutheran High School.

Application for Adult Foster Home at 21521 Waldron by the Michigan Department of Social Services has been adjourned until further notice is received from proponent.

Council approved purchase of Outlot B of Old Farm Colony No. 4, acreage parcel No. 23-04-226-046 in Section 4 and acreage parcel Sidwell No. 23-10-204-008 in Section 10 for \$1.00 from the Department of Natural Resources surplus property.

Application for festival permit was approved for St. Alexander's Church for September 22-23, 1983.

Council instructed staff to indicate to Michigan Municipal League that Council is in favor of the election of six trustees as outlined on the official ballot for Michigan Municipal Workers Compensation Self-Insurers Fund.

Council confirmed reappointment of Fern Barber to the Farmington Area Arts Commission and Julia H. Epsteinosa and Adolph Anselmi to the Farmington Area Commission on Aging.

Council adopted Resolution to accept and approve the 10-year birthday celebration of the City.

Council approved the City's participation with the City of Farmington in upgrading street lighting on Grand River at Orchard Lake Road and Farmington Road between Eight and Nine Mile Roads.

Council approved contract between the City and The Rubbish Company, Inc. for collection of City's refuse through November 4, 1987.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

FREDERICK W. HUGHES, Mayor  
FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk

## CITY OF FARMINGTON

### COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

(Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on August 1, 1983, by Mayor Bennett in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

PRESENT: Mayor Bennett, Councilmen Hartsock, Mitchell, Tupper, Yoder. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Desmond, Director Billing, Director Selfert, City Attorney Kelly, City Clerk Bushey.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Council instructed the City Manager to prepare a resolution indicating their concerns Council received and filed proposed resolution from Oak Park relative to a new law clarifying rights of local government in seized or forfeited property.

Council approved the following outdoor events:  
Terrace Shoppe Tent Sale - August 23 thru August 14, 1983;  
Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club  
Annual Lobster and Clam Party -  
Sunday, August 24, 1983.

Council authorized the city to receive bids for the construction of a combined sewer overflow river cross-connection correction project.

Council voted to donate the 1953 GMC Fire Truck to the Fairdealing Kentucky Volunteer Fire Department.

Council received and filed the City Manager's report on cost estimate for driveway paving in Oakwood Cemetery.

Council adopted the following resolutions:  
- "Hold Harmless" resolution to acquire Michigan Municipal League promotional testing.  
- Extending Petoskey Plaster contract for 100,000 rubbish bags.  
- For replacement of large diameter fire hose.

Council received the price of plastic rubbish bags to residents by 50¢. Public comments were heard.

Council appointed the required 9-member Board of Directors for the Farmington Economic Development Corporation.

The following ordinance was adopted:  
ORDINANCE NO. C-508-83

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 9.1, SUBSECTION (12) OF CHAPTER 88 OF TITLE IX OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON THE CITY OF FARMINGTON ORDAINS:  
9.1  
(12) Air Conditioning Units: The installation of refrigeration equipment used for Central Air Conditioning purposes in One- or Two-Family dwellings requiring the outside installation of an air conditioning unit, shall not result in the unit being a noise nuisance and such unit shall be located in back of the rear-most portion of the structure, no less than five (5) feet within the extreme sides of the main structure, provided that the Zoning Board of Appeals may grant a variance to the location of an air conditioning unit in cases of hardship. For the purpose of this section, open patios shall not be considered a portion of the structure.

This ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Farmington City Council on July 18, 1983, was adopted and enacted at the next regular meeting on August 1, 1983, and will become effective ten (10) days after publication.

AYES: Yoder, Bennett, Hartsock, Mitchell, Tupper.  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

City's request for recognition to the city employees whose float won third prize in the Farmington Festival Parade. It was decided that the cash award would be returned to the Festival Committee to help defray expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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