



104th year!
Martha Westberg was the center of attention last Friday as she began her 104th year of life surrounded by well-wishers in her room at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. She was born Dec. 23, 1880, in Stockholm, Sweden. She lives with her daughter-in-law, Sophia Lindgren of Southfield.

Phone fate awaits

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was applied in May and added to in October. Instead, the rate increase will be distributed among various services such as message rates, toll rates and local rates, Spickler added.

"Depending on how they decided to distribute it (the \$182 million increase), some things will go up and some things will go down," he said. "But the net effect is that Michigan Bell will have an additional \$182 million in revenue."

A second factor affecting future telephone rates is a Federal Communications Commission proposal to reduce over the next five years the cost of long distance calls, which have been subsidizing local service. For example, about 40 percent of a \$10 long-distance call "had nothing to do with providing long distance," Spickler said. The effect of the FCC's proposed changes would be to make "things cost what

they really cost."

Under the FCC proposal, on which action has been delayed until April, the average eight-minute long-distance call between Detroit and Chicago between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. would cost \$3.63, compared to a current \$4.09, Gabriel said.

Since Farmington Hills' and Farmington's calls are mostly long-distance or out-of-zone calls, both cities could save money on these services.

But the FCC also has ruled that telephone equipment must be depreciated faster than has been the practice, Spickler said, so while long-distance rates may drop, others may increase.

On Jan. 1, Michigan, for example, will be divided into five areas, similar to the existing area codes, Spickler said. While Michigan Bell will still handle the local service between Farmington and Flint, once the calls cross the boundaries another system, such as Lexitel, will take over, he added.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress is considering abolishing the FCC plan and developing its own proposal, Spickler said.

"All these factors combine to make it hard to tell what will happen to phone service and rates in the near future," he said. "It is these things that could raise or lower rates."

Redistricting decision delayed

The state Board of Education last week postponed a decision on the transfer of Walpole Lake school district property to Farmington schools.

"It was hauled off (the December 13-14 agenda) at the last minute," said state board secretary Lad Dombrowski. The board is waiting for advice from the state attorney general's office before making a decision on the transfer request, he said.

The issue is expected to appear on the state board's January 10-11 agenda. The property transfer is requested

by residents of Section 6 of the City of Farmington Hills. Their petition was denied by the Oakland Intermediate School Board in September 1982, but the residents appealed the decision to the state board.

After a hearing last March, hearing officer Raymond Godmer recommended the state board agree with the intermediate board's decision. However, after "preliminary discussion" at its July 13 meeting, the state board asked Godmer to develop reasons that could support the transfer to receive "both

sides of the argument," Dombrowski said.

AN AUG. 16 letter from Godmer to William Raitt, attorney for the Farmington residents, states the transfer should be granted because the residents have expressed "complete dissatisfaction with the education programs offered (by Walpole Lake)."

"The geographic location of the area indicates that the transfer would enhance the socio-economic, educational interests of the petitioners and their children by being placed in the (Farmington) district," Godmer stated.

Cross country ski set for area parks

With snow on the ground and a chill in the air, cross country skiing returns to the Oakland County parks.

During the winter months, five of the nine Oakland County parks offer cross country skiing. Four offer groomed, marked trails for skiers of all abilities.

Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston provides a full range of rental equipment, a heated concession area with snacks available on weekends, a warming shelter with fireplaces and restrooms.

Independence Oaks offers a 2.4-kilometer trail for novices, a 2.7-kilometer trail for intermediate skiers and a 3.4-kilometer trail for experts. For information on hours, trail conditions, rentals, lessons or group reservations, call 625-0877.

Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills has equipment rentals, a snack bar, warming area and lessons by appointment. For more information, contact the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department at 474-6115.

White Lake Oaks Golf Course near Pontiac offers a full range of rental equipment. In addition, the clubhouse is open on weekends and weeknights by arrangement. Call 698-2700.

Springfield Oaks Golf Course near Davisburg and Red Oaks Golf Course in Madison Heights offer open skiing daily for those with their own equipment. Trails at Springfield Oaks are groomed and marked.

The number for Springfield Oaks is 625-8133. Call Ed Burg at Madison Heights Parks and Recreation, 588-1200, for information on skiing at Red Oaks.

In addition to open skiing, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission will sponsor several special ski events.

These include cross country skiing for the blind at Glen Oaks every Saturday from Jan. 7 to Feb. 4; a Senior Citizen Ski Clinic, also at Glen Oaks, on Jan. 10; and Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield Cross Country Ski Races at Springfield Oaks on Jan. 21 and at Independence Oaks Feb. 26.

For more information on special ski events, call 858-0908.

Beware of phonies

When you receive a telephone call from representatives of a Detroit area police organization asking for donations on behalf of the Farmington Hills Police Department, hang up. It's a phony.

The local department is not affiliated with or represented by the St. Clair Shores police association that has been calling both residents and merchants asking for donations, said Chief John Nichols.

Although this and most other similar organizations are legal, their members misrepresent themselves when claiming they are collecting on behalf of the Farmington Hills department, Nichols said.

Both the Farmington Public Safety Department and Farmington Hills Fire Department have been having the same type of problem with the phony fund-raisers.

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