Last year's crime numbers tabulated — 3A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an item worthy of a Farmington connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

AHH! A Science Teacher of the Year.

The Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) has named Peggy Miller, daughter of Olga Miller and the late William Miller of Farmington Hills Michigan Science Teacher of the Year.

Miller teaches the seventh and eighth grades at Our Lady Star of the Sea Grade School, Grosse Pointe Woods. She was honored at the MSTA convention in Saginaw.

Her philosophy of science is that every moment is science and that science is always present in the students' experiences with ordinary household items. Mr. Sauerbrunn of Oakdale sitting in eagle as well as fast quick, dissolving and one plants for her needs.

KUDOS are in order.

The Oakland County Reading Council honored Farmington Public Schools honoring Superintendent Clarence Sharp.

The council's certificate of recognition for his efforts in communicating with parents about reading.

THERE'S a new law enforcement Explorer post.

And it's interested in gaining new members.

The Farmington Hills Police Department and the Farmington Department of Public Safety are sponsoring Post 867, affiliating with the Boy Scouts of America's Clinton Valley Chapter.

The post is aimed at young people ages 14-21 interested in careers in law enforcement or criminal justice. Farmington Hills Officer Thomas Fox is post advisor.

For membership information, call Fox, 476-2301, ext. 333.

IT'S Easter egg time.

The Farmington Area Jaycees will sponsor an Easter egg hunt for preschoolers and elementary age youngsters Saturday in the Farmington City Park on Shiawassee.

The Easter Bunny will arrive at 10 a.m.

BYLAWS from Farmington's Downtown Development Authority were only routinely approved Monday night. Two key elements focus on budget and staffing.

The DDA, with autonomous decision-making power, has budget management authority. But its budget requires council approval. The DDA must submit periodic financial reports to the council and it must be audited annually by the same auditors who audit the city.

The DDA is empowered to hire a professional executive director and other staff. And it is empowered to contract with the city for administrative, planning and legal services.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Hills Officer Tim Conner makes no bones about what he faces at the scene of an accident.

"I'm the one who is called to your accident. I'm the one who has to call your parents," Conner said, introducing himself to students at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

The students represented 14 area high schools that either have or are considering forming Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) chapters.

Mobile home residents rap rezoning bid

By Jeanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Jon Kikkert promised that requested purchase of mobile home residents participation in those at Oakland Hills Mobile Home Park who want may be considered will be studied.

Kikkert's promise Monday evening came on the heels of pleas from Farmington Hills resident Maggie Sikora, a former president of Oakland Hills Mobile Home Park (27731 Orchard Lake Road).

"I am here tonight as a representative of the Mobile Home Owners Association," said Sikora, who now owns a mobile home in the Flamingo Trailer Court, 25900 Middlebelt.

The night and morning, she said the residents want people from the square mile in the Oakland Hills park and the current efforts to remove the property for apartments.

"We would register also all mobile home residents be notified of rezoning requests," Sikora said. "If that had been done we wouldn't have the situation we have now in the Oakland Hills Mobile Home Park."

MOBILE HOME park representatives and rezoning proponent Marvin Eichler did not attend Monday's council meeting. Chairman of the mobile home park was not on agenda here. He was asked to appear to the council under the agenda's public comments section.

Eichler, Spencer Partners and Michael Shapiro are buying the 24 acres fronting Orchard Lake Road, south of 12 Mile. Eichler is seeking to remove the property, including Oakland Hills park, from single family residential. It is in medium density multi-family (RM-1) residential.

Purchase of the property is subject to rezoning, said Eichler's attorney Harold Wolkind of Farmington Hills. If the property is rezoned, Eichler would build the proposed apartments, which will look like condo homes, he said.

A public hearing on Eichler's request is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today in Farmington Hills council chambers, 33000 12 Mile. The planning commission's agenda here Eichler's request for rezoning of the property.

The management of Oakland Hills Sixty Plus, has "purposely" kept the rezoning request from residents who may be forced to relocate if the rezoning is granted.

CITY ATTORNEY for New England Management Co. of West Bloomfield Township, as the company that operates the mobile home park. The company was unavailable for comment on Mr. Eichler's charges. A telephone operator said she did not have a listing for the management company. Wolkind said he was unaware of who operates the park.

Although mobile home park residents were not individually notified of the rezoning request, it has been pub-

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Mayor defends actions

By Jeanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Amid charges of backroom politics, Farmington Hills City Council members clashed this week over Mayor Jon Kikkert's appointments to the planning commission.

Despite a request by two seven planning commissioners, Joseph Herman and Joseph Boll, for mid-long term months and current chairman Edgar Tisch were not reappointed.

Although Kikkert's appointments to the planning commission and seven other boards and commissions were scheduled for Jan. 27. They were later postponed until March 17.

Following heated debate, council confirmed Kikkert's appointments of Jan. Vanhoven and Vince Valenza to

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Assistant superintendent for elementary instruction Lawrence Freedman at Tuesday night's school board study session.

Boundary stir

Planned moves spur concern

By Casey Hans
staff writer

It was the Wood Creek Elementary parents' turn Tuesday to voice concerns about proposed boundary changes in Farmington school system.

The board's first boundary study session was held in late January with a gymnasium full of Longacre Elementary parents upset with proposed changes. No Longacre parents spoke Tuesday.

City officials have made Tuesday's Observer Newland, a parent with two students at Wood Creek, said. "We're in a different time schedule and they send us somewhere with the children they go to school with."

Another parent, Lois Lamoureux, was concerned about delaying the proposed student moves to Eagle.

"I'm concerned there is a peak today," she said. "If they're overcrowded at Wood Creek now why can't they be overcrowded at Eagle?"

OTHER CONCERNS raised by the parents included need for a permanent place for the special education

"I think the (boundary study) committee gained a good picture of what was going to happen in Farmington/Farmington Hills in the next five years."

— Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent

morning flexibility class room, which was frequently moved, that fifth graders be given the option to remain at Wood Creek, that kindergarteners be allowed to enroll early at Eagle in the fall of 1986, and that 12 students proposed for the moves be allowed to stay at Wood Creek with parents providing transportation.

All of these issues will be addressed by the district, officials said.

Other concerns not likely to be addressed because of legislative problems, officials said, include early transfer to Eagle of all students proposed for the 1987-88 school year moves and the possible transfer of these students to Forest Hills instead of Eagle.

Boundary changes were proposed in response by Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent for elementary instruction and chairman of the boundary committee which studied possible changes during the past year.

"I think we gained a good picture of what was going to happen in Farmington/Farmington Hills in the next five years," he said.

Freedman recently held information sessions for parents from Wood Creek and Longacre. The two schools have reached capacity enrollment levels and are involved with proposed boundary changes for the 1986-87 school year.

Parental feedback from those meetings was also given to the board for consideration Tuesday.

THE BOUNDARY issue will be considered during the week regular meeting of the school board at 7 p.m. April 21, at North Farmington High School.

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Tornadoes

When a twister is sighted, know what to do

By Bob Salter
staff writer

To help stimulate public interest and awareness in tornado safety, Gov. James Blanchard has designated March 23-29 as Michigan Tornado Safety Week.

It was March 21, 1976, when a funnel cloud last touched down locally.

"It caused minor damage in north Farmington Hills but tore the living dickens out of West Bloomfield," said Capt. Russ Conway, disaster services coordinator for the Farmington Hills Police Department.

As a result of that touchdown near Orchard Lake and 13 Mile roads, a 15-year-old girl was killed, more than 50 were injured and property damage topped $5 million.

"The thing about tornadoes is that they can hit anywhere, anytime. Nobody can predict where they'll hit or not hit," said Gary Goss, Farmington Department of Public Safety deputy director.

As part of Michigan Tornado Safety Week, the Oakland County Division of EMS/Disaster Control will test the county's 137-siren tornado warning system for three minutes at 1:30 p.m. Thursday/March 27. Farmington Hills has 10 warning sirens; Farmington has two.

The siren sounding — a steady tone — will be just a test, Conway said. No "all clear" siren will be sounded, as one is after a real storm.

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— Gary Goss, deputy director, Farmington Department of Public Safety

SHOULD THE siren sound in threatening weather, don't call the police dispatcher unless you have a fire or medical emergency to report. Take basic precautions, like making sure the stove is off, and take cover quickly. Turn on a battery-operated radio or portable TV for information. Waiting in the living room for a TV report could prove dangerous.

A siren sounding doesn't necessarily mean a tornado has been spotted locally.

"All sirens in Oakland County are activated by either the National Weather Service or Oakland County. And all go off, rather than just those in a specific area of the county. We now, though, have a monitor that, within minutes, broadcasts the location of the sighting. We used to have a 20-minute to a half-hour delay to get such information," Conway said.

Goss encourages families to devise and practice a tornado safety plan. "Make sure the kids know what to do," he stressed.

As part of Michigan Tornado Safety Week, the Farmington Department of Public Safety will distribute handouts to local nursing and senior citizen homes. The handouts provide tornado safety guidelines. Farmington and Farmington Hills will make the handouts available at each city hall.

Oakland County officials encourage police and fire agencies, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and large businesses to look and evaluate their internal disaster programs as it work.

IF A tornado is sighted, the Farmington Hills Fire Department puts firefighters on alert.

"We may bring people into the stations on standby," Fire Lt. Peter Baldwin said.

"At one time, we sent trucks out, but that's kind of a dangerous thing to do. Most of the people who died in tornadoes last year died in vehicles or mobile homes. We don't want to put our people or our equipment in jeopardy."

If a tornado touches down and causes damage, "We'll take any emergency action that's required and do whatever's necessary to prevent further damage," Baldwin said.

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