

Center's volunteers
stage a benefit, 3B



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Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33202 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

AWARDS night.
John Wells was named Firefighter of the Year Tuesday at the Farmington Hills Fire Department's second annual recognition night.
A two-year member at Station 3 in the Middlebelt-Grand River area, Wells was honored for his "service to the community and to the fire department," Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.
Marinucci said Wells is "a workhorse at a fire scene" and "well regarded for his work with the sick and injured."
Wells many times has appeared as Sparky the Fire Dog at fire safety assemblies in local elementary schools.
Firefighter Michael Garr, who coordinates public education programs, received a department citation for his "fire safety education efforts that resulted in saving the life of Ray Rudski, age 6, who recalled your instructions for the technique of stop, drop and roll."

ROAD work.
Farmington Hills City Council has awarded a contract to Noble's & Sons Supply Co. for \$27,500 to build a field-stone retaining wall along 13 Mile, between Drake and Halsted.
"A tremendous amount of care and planning was devoted to maintaining the existing vegetation and natural terrain for this section of roadway," City Manager William Costick said.
In other action, the council authorized the city manager to negotiate with landscape contractors an amount up to \$8,000 to provide necessary fall tree planting along the roadway. The staff was authorized to prepare tree planting contracts and tree work contracts to be bid in spring.
The city hopes to have the stretch named a natural beauty road.

ALUMNI, take note.
Clareneville alumni who want to get in on the sesquicentennial fun planned by the 149-year-old district should contact the school immediately.
Don't wait too long or the district can't assure that district mailing lists include your name and address or those of friends and relatives. Call the superintendent's office: 473-8905.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Increased insurance costs and lack of complete coverage have forced many cities, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, to join municipal insurance pools.
Both Farmington and Farmington Hills are insured through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, in which governmental units band together to provide self-insurance.

Homeowner council now reactivated

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's official.
The former Council of Homeowners Association is back in business sporting a new name, revised bylaws and a new group of residents leading the way.
The decision to revive the former homeowners council — an umbrella organization that represented the city's neighborhoods — was made recently by Farmington Hills subdivision association representatives, who have been meeting regularly since June.

"We are getting a letter out to the 80 associations we recognize (those registered with the city) to advise them that the organization has been reactivated," said Jack Joynt, Springbrook Homeowners Association member.

The council's next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.
Springbrook association directors have spearheaded the former council revival effort by sponsoring meetings and involving other neighborhood representatives.

The decision to attempt the council's revival came after Joynt and other residents began realizing most of the city's neighborhoods share common problems with roads, drainage, inadequate sewers and zoning.

THE TASKS and purposes of the new Council of Homeowners Associations are detailed in revised bylaws, which are expected to be formally adopted at an annual membership meeting in January.

The new council will "foster, protect and promote the orderly growth, improvement and development" of the city in accordance with the wishes of the organization and "those planning concepts most beneficial to its homeowners," according to bylaws.

The organization also intends to foster improved communications and cooperation between the city's homeowners associations. That will be accomplished by distributing information "of an advisory and educational nature."

Another council responsibility includes serving as an advisory group to city departments on issues — drainage, roads, taxes — that concern the organization.

The council will also assist subdivisions in forming and organizing homeowners associations.

In an effort to avoid problems, particularly overly political involvement — the type that helped lead to the former council's demise — the bylaws prohibit the new council from political activities.

Moore spoke to a room full of Farmington Democratic Club members Thursday at the Botsford Inn in

ENDORSED CANDIDATES, for example, would be prohibited. But

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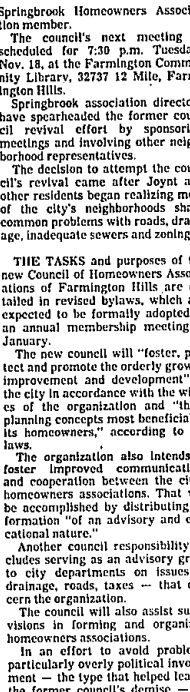
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A helping hand



Farmington Hills firefighter Mike Garr and burn victim Ray Rudski teach Gill Elementary youngsters fire safety tips Friday morning.

Garr is visiting local elementary schools and day care facilities as part of Fire Prevention Week, which began yesterday.

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Directing funerals more than a job

By Casey Hays
staff writer



For Bob Rock, funeral direction requires a round-the-clock commitment.

His profession stays with him 24 hours a day.
"It's not a job, it's a life you accept," said the 32-year-old co-owner of Thayer-Rock Funeral Home on Grand River in Farmington. "No matter what you're doing, you have

to stop and make time for people."

At times, it's difficult to discuss death with friends, he said. "Indirectly, you probably know half the people."

His interest in the mortuary trade blossomed at an early age, when he came to live with Howard and Joyce Thayer at the funeral home when he was 17.

"The way Mr. Thayer had dedicated himself to taking care of people's needs, I liked what they were doing here," the Farmington Hills resident said.

His life with the Thayers gave

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For Bob Rock, funeral direction requires a round-the-clock commitment.