

Laryngectomees group for support, 1B



Boys track outlook, 1D

Take a peek into 'Sesame Street,' 2A

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

WATCH your change. When Alex Konoczynski discovered he received a fake \$100 bill when he cashed his paycheck at a Farmington Hills bank, he quickly found he was out the money.

"Watch your money when you get change," said the Trenton man, a project manager at Mechanical Heat & Cold in Farmington Hills. "You have to be able to tell the difference. You can't rely on banking personnel."

The day after cashing his paycheck at the local bank, where he has a savings account, he went to deposit money in his checking account at a bank in Riverview.

The teller in Riverview immediately detected a counterfeit \$100 bill. "The other teller counted the money twice, but didn't recognize it," Konoczynski said.

He acknowledged that the manager at the Trenton bank said the bill was "one of the finest counterfeits he's ever seen." The bill was confiscated and turned over to the Secret Service.

Konoczynski went back to the Farmington Hills bank, with receipt in tow, only to find out the bank would do nothing about his misfortune. "I was told whoever is in possession of a counterfeit bill is stuck with it," he said.

A Secret Service agent confirmed that possession of a counterfeit bill is illegal. Any such bill must be surrendered to the government. Banks can set replacement policies governing funny money their patrons receive during transactions, the agent said.

WALL Street giants, Standard & Poors and Moody's paid a visit to Farmington Hills last week to determine whether it's time to improve the city's financial rating.

Farmington Hills officials are hoping to up the city's rating to get a better interest rate on \$7 million in bonds the city will sell to finance road improvements.

It could save \$200,000-\$300,000 over the life of our bond issue," City Manager William Costick said.

The Wall Street rating firms will make a decision by the end of April, just before the city sells its bonds.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-6500; classified ads, 591-0909; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — To help discourage unruly young people from congregating at public places, Farmington Hills police have stepped up night-time patrols in both marked and unmarked cars. Patrols will be sporadic throughout the week, but heaviest on weekends, particularly along Orchard Lake Road. Tally Hall will be a high priority, Deputy Chief Mirt Spencer of the Farmington Hills Police Department said.

Boundary study

High school borders to change

By Casey Hans
staff writer

'We're becoming a very confused district as to where our students are going (to attend school).'

— Graham Lewis,
superintendent

About 63 present Warner Middle School students will have a one-time choice of attending high school at either Harrison or North Farmington because of action taken by the Farmington school board Tuesday.

But students new to Warner, plus any elementary children living in an area east of Orchard Lake Road, will attend Harrison High School instead of North Farmington effective this fall because of boundary changes approved Tuesday.

The change involves families living in portions of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township.

The board also directed administrators Tuesday to develop a school/parent task force to consider district wide boundary changes for the 1988-89 school year because of continued growth on the west side of the district. This group will review the boundaries of all schools, at all grade levels, and will have recommendations ready by January 1988 for changes the following fall, according to direction from the board.

"We need to move swiftly," said Superintendent Graham Lewis. "We're becoming a very confused district as to where our students are going (to attend school)."

FOLLOWING A 3-3 tie vote of the six present board members — causing an impasse — further discussion was heard and the board unanimously voted to allow present middle school students the option of attending either high school. Board President Helen Pritow was absent.

The impasse came because some trustees were concerned with making a change quickly instead of looking at the overall district, while others felt an immediate change was necessary to alleviate overcrowding at North Farmington.

"The projections in the future show more and more going to North," said trustee James Abernethy. "There is some responsibility not to just totally pass the buck . . . and deal with the problem this year."

Several parents attended the meeting to speak out against any boundary change for the area. Parents also wanted assurances, which were not given, that the district's unofficial "sibling rule" would remain in effect.

'In general, the shift away from local property taxes to central funding is correct.'

— Michael Flanagan,
deputy superintendent

Tax reform plan called a tax shift by school official

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Out-of-formula school districts such as Farmington will see only a revenue shift — not a loss — if a newly proposed tax reform plan becomes law, according to the district's top financial administrator.

The plan, detailed by Gov. James Blanchard Monday, would give 90 percent of Michigan residents an estimated \$100 in property tax relief. Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan of Farmington Public Schools believes the time has come for property tax relief, and there should be even more.

"In general, the shift away from local property taxes to central fund-

ing is correct," Flanagan said. "I really believe it is the right direction."

"In theory, it won't affect the district. On the books, it makes no difference."

BLANCHARD'S PROPOSAL

Please turn to Page 11

Sign of spring



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North Farmington's Christy Aoki (left) tries to maneuver around Amy Trunk of Farmington High during a Western Lakes Activities Association soccer match Monday at Farmington. The Falcons of Farmington won the crosstown battle, 6-1. For the story, see Page 1C.

Little Caesars says it will build in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Rumors abound. Will the Farmington Hills-based Little Caesars International pizza corporation pull up stakes and move its still-under-construction headquarters to Detroit?

Is pizza and Red Wing hockey king Michael Ilitch looking to buy the renowned Fox and Palms movie palaces in Detroit for his world headquarters and entertainment center?

Quoting an unnamed source, Gary Baumgarten of WWJ news radio an-

nounced Monday that the answers to both those questions was an unequivocal yes.

Lisa Ilitch, Little Caesars vice president of corporate communications, says otherwise.

"Little Caesars will develop the land in Farmington Hills. As far as we're concerned, our plans are intact. Everything we said we would do, we will do. That's a guarantee," she said.

But Ilitch said she could disclose no more about her father's development plans. When asked why work has stopped on the 38-acre site on the southwest corner of Drake and

12 Mile roads, or whether it's true that her father is attempting to buy land in Detroit for offices for his other business interests, Ilitch declined comment.

"I CAN'T really discuss a whole lot of things," Ilitch said, stressing the pizza corporation fully intends to stay in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills city manager William Costick also has heard the rumors.

"As far as I am concerned, our understanding is that they are still going to build here. We are very proud of that fact that they are going

to settle here. I'm hopeful they will continue to make this their home," Costick said.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the start of the \$13-million, 125,000-square-foot first phase of the planned "world headquarters" were hosted by Mike Ilitch and his family last November.

The acreage, purchased from the Farmington Public Schools in the fall of 1985 for more than \$3 million, was zoned from single-family to office-research.

The land was bought to provide a new world headquarters for the cur-

rent Little Caesar offices in Tenney Park, near Haggerty and 10 Mile.

In earlier, unrelated action, Little Caesars withdrew its request for tax-exempt financing of the 12 Mile-Drake project through Farmington Hills' Economic Development Corporation.

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Injured shepherd rescued

By Sandra Armbruster
staff writer

He wore only a clean, red bandana, but that was just part of the mystery Lori Steinauf would try to solve after coming to his rescue.

The Farmington Hills resident first noticed him as she steered her way through Southfield on I-696 on Monday, March 30. There he was, in the "extreme left lane" where I-696 and Northwestern merge at Telegraph.

Steinauf could see him lying on his side, his legs flailing the air. Manoeuvring quickly, she pulled off the expressway and backed up to where he lay.

"I'm a visiting nurse. So you know me. No matter who is injured, I'm going to stop," Steinauf said.

THIS TIME, however, Steinauf



Truly a Lucky dog is this White German Shepherd found lying injured on a Southfield expressway by Lori Steinauf of Farmington Hills. Now Steinauf is looking for the dog's owner.

2 seek seat on board

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Two Farmington Hills residents — including one incumbent — will vie for one open seat on the Farmington Board of Education in the annual school election Monday, June 8.

One-term incumbent Susan Rennels of Tuck Road and challenger Jennifer Mart of Danvers Court each filed the required petitions with at least 20 valid signatures by the deadline at 4 p.m. Monday, according to information from the school district.

Each has until 4 p.m. today to withdraw from the non-partisan race, keeping their names off the ballot.

A resident of the district for 15 years, Rennels is seeking re-election to keep a hand in curriculum development, changes in the district under a new administration and to help

HOME AND GARDEN

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE