

Kite flying is fun with strings attached, 1D



Hawks rout rival, 1C

Community center's future is in limbo, 2A

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Savings saved for sewer work

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills water and sewer users won't be pocketing a reduction in the price of water and sewage disposal this year.

Instead, Farmington Hills — as suggested by the Oakland County Public Works Department — will hold on to the savings to pay for improvements in the water and sewage systems, including the deteriorating

Evergreen-Farmington system, said Dale Countegan, assistant to the public services director.

That means that water and sewer users will pay the same rates in 1987 as they did last year even though the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has reduced the wholesale water rate by 51 cents for each 1,000 cubic feet of water used.

Detroit also reduced the sewage disposal rate by 30 cents and has provided what is called a "look

back" credit — the result of a financial audit of the sewage system — of 32 cents.

"In the past, the city used the look back to subsidize the rate," Countegan said.

Farmington Hills receives its water and sewage disposal services from Detroit. Because the city does not have its own water and sewage department, Oakland County serves as Farmington Hills' agent.

WITH NONE of the cost savings passed on to users this year, water users will pay \$7.51 per 1,000 cubic feet of water used with a minimum quarterly charge of \$12.02 plus meter service charge.

Sewage disposal rates will continue at \$8.23 per 1,000 cubic feet, with a minimum charge of \$9.07 per quarter plus the quarterly flat rate charge of \$31.15 per unit.

The Farmington Hills City Council also adopted a resolution levying

surcharges against industrial and commercial customers that contribute sewage with concentrations of pollutants to the system.

"Every year, we pass a resolution with regard to the surcharge. We are required to pass this. It sets parameters for discharging toxics," Countegan said.

The city will retain the 51-cent savings on the water fees to repair

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Council expands host law

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

With high school prom and graduation season drawing close, hotel, motel owners and managers will have the help of a beefed-up ordinance to thwart teens from renting rooms for partying.

The Farmington Hills City Council last week broadened the almost two-year-old host liability ordinance to include hotels, motels and rental properties as a means of deterring and preventing underage parties.

The ordinance penalizes adults age 17 or older who knowingly allow minors to consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at parties under their control — and fail to take corrective steps.

The ordinance amendment was prompted by complaints about teens — and in many cases, parents — renting hotel/motel rooms for parties.

Yet hotel/motel owners and managers didn't wait for city officials to toughen the host liability ordinance. Some tightened their own rules.

BOTH The Dillen Inn and the Quality Inn on 12 Mile, just north of I-666, established policies of renting to only people 21 and older in order to prevent teen parties.

"Especially with prom time, we are concerned about the parties. We had a little problem last year," said

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jake Jenkins, owner of Greene's, a landmark hamburger restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Keep it simple: that's Jake's philosophy

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

HAMBURGERS WILL be priced six for \$1 and coffee will be sold for 10 cents a cup from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, May 21.

The 1957 prices, plus streamers, banners and balloons — are the way Jake Jenkins will mark the 30th anniversary of

people

Greene's Hamburgers.

James Greene was the original owner of the white, block-shaped building that still carries the name, "but most people think of it as the

hamburger joint on the corner of 10 and Orchard Lake," Jenkins said.

The anniversary is the same for the business as it is for Jenkins, who has managed the 24-hour-a-day operation since its inception and who bought it after Greene's death in 1977.

Business has remained stable throughout those 30 years, with a steady 50 pounds of onions peeled

every day and Jenkins' keep-it-simple philosophy.

"The building is exactly the way it was when it was built with 19 stools. I never expanded, never put in a drive-in window. There's no secret recipe. I use fresh meat, fresh onions, fresh buns with deliveries daily, and still have three of my original suppliers, Superior Coffee.

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Hills detective helps arrest fugitive

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

An inmate who fled W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital in Jackson after overpowering a prison guard at knifepoint Tuesday was arrested

Thursday in Detroit, thanks to a Farmington Hills detective, police said.

The prisoner, William Taylor, 36, of Hamtramck, was serving a 5- to 15-year prison term for an armed robbery conviction in Wayne County.

He arrived at the Southern Michigan State Prison in Jackson April 7.

Taylor called detective Patrick Monti of the Farmington Hills Police Department about 10 a.m. Thursday from a friend's house in Detroit. "We've had past contacts," Monti

said. "He assisted me in previous investigations when I worked undercover."

"He said he was scared," Monti recounted. "He didn't know what to do. We had a discussion, and I told him it would be best if he turned himself in."

Taylor called Monti back three times. In between, Monti talked to the warden's office at the State Prison of Southern Michigan.

Taylor decided to turn himself in after he ran out of oxygen, a necessity because he has only a partial lung, Monti said.

Taylor arranged to turn himself in to Monti at a house on Westminister on Detroit's near east side.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

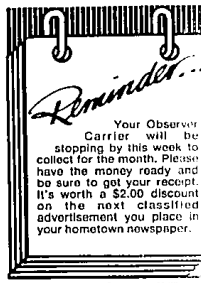
Fantasy car

This 1987 Corvette — with a removable glass roof, black upholstery, leather seats and an AM-FM stereo radio with cassette player — is the top prize in the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce fantasy car drawing. Proceeds will go to the Farmington Founders Festival. The prize list also includes \$4,600 worth of shopping spree at local businesses. Drawing tickets are \$100 each. Only

750 tickets will be sold to improve the odds of winning the car, on display in the showroom at Holiday Chevrolet in Farmington Hills. A wine and cheese drawing is set for 5 p.m. Thursday, May 14, at the Farmington Community Center. Your ticket is your admission. You need not be present to win. Call the chamber for tickets: 474-3440.

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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 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

THERE'S still time to nominate a deserving sixth through 12th grader for a Farmington Youth Assistance youth recognition award. Young people who voluntarily gave of themselves for the benefit of others during the past year will be honored at the second annual youth recognition breakfast in May. Nominees must live in Farmington or Farmington Hills. They may attend a public, private or parochial school. Call FYA for a nomination form: 476-3840.

HELP fight birth defects. That's the theme of WalkAmerica, a series of 30-kilometer walks April 25-26 to benefit the March of Dimes Southeast Michigan Chapter. One of the walks will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday, April 26, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills. Proceeds will be used to support the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation's research and education programs.

One of every 14 infants is born with birth defects. Another 500,000 potential lives are destroyed by miscarriages and still births every year. Walkers may enlist sponsors, who pledge a specified amount of money per kilometer walked. For pledge sheets, call the March of Dimes Southeast Michigan Chapter, Southfield: 425-3200.

ON board. Donn Wolf and Paul Weldon of Farmington Hills were named to the Republican Committee of Oakland County 300 Club Board of Directors. Committee chairman Larry Dickerson of Farmington Hills called the board "an important and dynamic group of business and community leaders for the Oakland County Republican Party."

The board is charged with fund-raising through recruitment of dues-paying 300 Club members. Proceeds go toward electing responsible Republican candidates to public office, Dickerson said.

THIS is National Consumers Week, as proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The week is intended to heighten awareness about highway safety issues.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-4500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Despite months of controversy and parental complaints, the Farmington Board of Education unanimously approved many of the originally recommended proposals for elementary school boundary changes.