

Patient advocate tells how it's done, 1B



Hawks win city title, 4D

History Room opens doors to past, 10A

Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 37

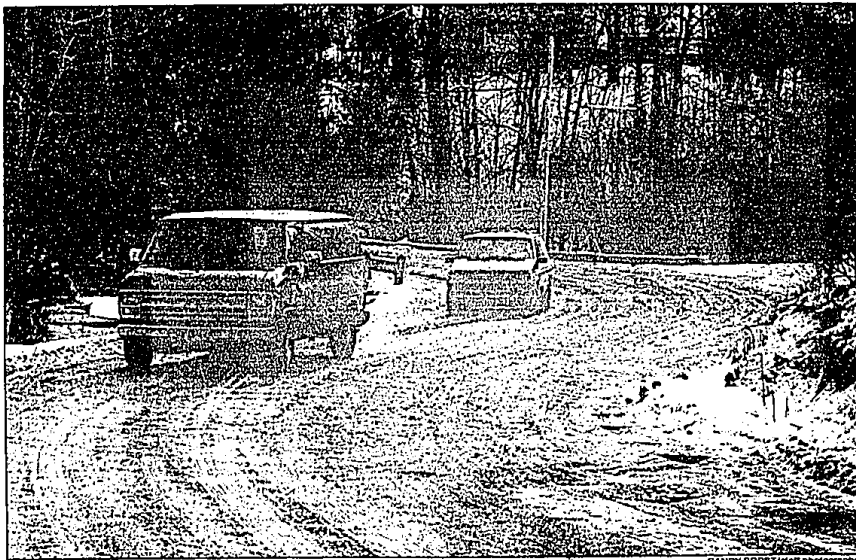
Thursday, February 11, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

104 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Sidewalk plan opponents defeated



Howard Road is at right. This is the area of Drake Road targeted for a passing lane (for safety because it is at the bottom of the area's steepest hill).

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

"Flabbergasted" is how Karol Foss describes the reaction to a sidewalk planned to meander the east side of scenic Drake Road in Farmington Hills.

"The city council has fallen in love with the idea (of a sidewalk) to the exclusion of what the people want," Foss said Tuesday, following the council's decision Monday to install a sidewalk when the road is paved and realigned this summer.

"It leads nowhere," Foss continued. "People who conceivably would use it, don't want it. At this point, there's a lot of talk about attorneys. The need of a sidewalk is not warranted in this area."

The sidewalk, as planned, will lead from 11 Mile to just south of the I-696 overpass, on the east side of Drake. There are stretches of sidewalk on the same side of Drake south of 11 Mile.

Foss, Janet Compo and other residents along historic Drake Road, between 11 and 12 Mile, don't want a sidewalk meandering across their property.

They were supported with a petition boasting more than 200 signatures opposing sidewalk plans that will accompany the estimated \$1.3 million paving and realigning of the gravelled portion of Drake.

Other Drake residents, also supported with a petition, opposed the

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□ Safety concerns led to sidewalk design approval, 4A

Farmington FOCUS

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HAVE a heart. The Village Mall Merchants Association will host "Have a Heart," a Michigan Humane Society benefit, Saturday and Sunday in the lobby of the downtown Farmington mall. Donations of money, blankets and food are needed. Contests, refreshments and sales are among the attractions. The mall is at the southeast corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.

TRYING her luck. Marj Woodhouse of Farmington Hills is among five area residents chosen to appear on the "Wheel of Fortune" from among 800 who auditioned in Detroit last May as part of a nationwide contestant search. The syndicated game show, co-hosted by Pat Sajak and Vanna White, airs weeknights at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 7 p.m. on WDIV-TV, Channel 4.

SPECIAL visitors. Visitors from the state Department of Education will visit Farmington Public Schools Friday to observe the district's bilingual education program. Heading the delegation will be interim state superintendent Gary Hawkes. A morning reception will be held at East Middle School. A tour of district facilities will follow.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington athletic park northwest of 13 Mile and Farmington Road has been named Pioneer Park, continuing a historic theme begun when Farmington Hills named the former 21-acre Spicer property Heritage Park.

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Watch for our **Bridal Section** in today's issue

Voters say yes

Turnout meager in school election

By Casey Hans
staff writer

□ For a precinct-by-precinct breakdown, see Page 6A

Less than 2 percent of Farmington school voters turned out Tuesday to pass an operating millage renewal by a 2 to 1 margin, despite recent threats from the community to block the renewal effort.

Only 968 of 49,468 active registered voters from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township cast ballots in the Feb. 9 Farmington Public Schools special election, making the turnout a meager 1.95 percent.

Tuesday's results follow the trend in Farmington school millage elections over the years; voters have never defeated a millage renewal effort.

With voter approval, the district can continue to levy its full, board-

approved millage covering this year's \$66 million operating budget. The 5.75-mill renewal will run for 10 years and is worth about \$8 million.

Voter approval also allows the first year of the renewal to be applied without effect of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, which will apply for the other nine years, school officials said.

A total of 635 votes were cast in favor of the millage and 318 against it, according to unofficial vote counts from the school district Wednesday. Tallies must be verified with the Oakland County elections commission before being considered official.

"Yes" votes outnumbered "no" votes in all precincts, including absentee.

RESIDENTS VOTING in Precinct 3 at Warner Middle School cast the least number of ballots — not counting absentee — with 159 votes. This is the area where a faction of parents, mostly those with elementary-aged children, had organized and threatened to block the millage renewal based on boundary disputes with the school board during the past few weeks.

Many parents were comforted with last week's promises by school trustees, who offered alternative programming choices and no boundary changes. Some even made the effort to go on record supporting the renewal late last week. A vote on a

renewal late last week. A vote on a

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Reporting urged as deterrent in ending child-abuse tragedy

□ Factors abound in finding cause for child abuse, 6A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A whim or a gut feeling just might make the difference in a child's life. "It's better to report and call on something that is unfounded than to find out a month later that a child is abused," said Officer Sandie Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Department's juvenile section.

Prevention and public education are keys to reducing child abuse and neglect. "We have to identify families and children that might be potential abusers, and neglectful," Rochford said. "People should report what appears not right, even if it's a whim or gut feeling."

Farmington Hills resident and unsuccessful city council candidate Vernon Kielplinski has turned a local spotlight on child abuse. With the help of city and police officials, Kielplinski is coordinating local and national efforts to increase public awareness of the growing national problem.



Sandie Rochford Says awareness, action needed

Paralleling national efforts, Kielplinski asked that the Farmington Hills City Council designate April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. "The time has come for our society to make physical abuse a moral issue," Kielplinski wrote to the Farmington Observer, calling on the

public to join forces and fight child abuse.

SINCE 1984, reported cases of child abuse and neglect have increased in Farmington Hills. In 1987, 40 cases of abuse or neglect were reported. That doubled from 1986, when 20 cases were reported. "That's still not epidemic proportions. When we talk about a community size, that's not a mammoth proportion," Rochford said.

Farmington witnessed a drop in child abuse and neglect cases in 1987. Though detailed statistics were unavailable, a major increase occurred in 1986, said Frank Lauboff, Farmington Department of Public Safety director. "We had five to six cases before 1986. Then it went up to about 15-20 cases in 1986. Now, we're back down."

IN OAKLAND County, from October 1986 to September 1987, 1,843 cases of child abuse and neglect were reported, according to Meg Mitchell, Oakland County's Child Abuse and Neglect Council executive director.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

New officer Gary Bradley with his training officer Jim Worthington at the prisoner processing station.

Officer's ascent begins for recruit

Editor's note: This is the first part of an occasional series following a Farmington Hills police recruit through his field training, which he hopes will culminate in confirmation as a police officer.

□ Veteran officers help recruits learn tools of the trade, 2A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's a quick trip from the classroom to reality. The rape of a 3-year-old child and a robbery greeted Farmington Hills recruit officer Gary Bradley within weeks of his graduation from the Oakland County Police



ON THE ROAD

Academy in Auburn Hills. "You've got to be able to control your personal feelings," said Bradley, 22. "Some of the things you do

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