

Self-help offered to aid the nervous, 1B



Volleyball tourney, 1D

San Marino golf fee increase OK'd, 10A

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Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington FOCUS

MAKING a career of it.

Don St. Clair is Farmington Hills' newest career firefighter. The Novi resident has been a part-time member at Station 1 for seven years. He was recently promoted to lieutenant after 16 months as a sergeant. St. Clair has finished all four phases of the state's certified firefighter training program. He's also a licensed emergency medical technician. St. Clair and his wife, Diane, have two children.

HELPING out. Michigan Business Machines of Southfield, in cooperation with Xerox Corp., has donated a new electronic typewriter to William Tyndale College, Farmington Hills. The typewriter is Xerox's 620 Memorywriter word processor.

READY for removal. The rear annex of a building on the north side of Grand River in downtown Farmington is slated for demolition this week. Utilities had to be moved to accommodate the work. The intent is to give central business district shoppers another 12 parking spaces in the north-side municipal lot.

REMINDER: Farmington Public Schools is closed for winter break this week. So youngsters may be playing outside at times you least expect.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Sisters of Mercy has dropped plans for a 200,000-square-foot office on their complex at 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

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The CLASSIFIEDS

One call does it all!



591-0900

Use Your MasterCard or Visa

Post office cuts window service

Saturday hours meet budget ax

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Surprised looks beamed across some patrons faces when they walked into the Farmington Hills branch of the U.S. Post Office Saturday. "They (patrons) walked in and didn't know it (was closed) until they saw the signs," postmaster Kenneth Harris said. Feb. 13 was the first official Saturday closing of post offices in the Royal Oak Management Service District. That means any offices within the 480 or 483 zip code areas. Both the Farmington Hills branch, 32455 12 Mile, and the Farmington branch, 33200 Slocum, will be closed Saturdays. "We were mandated by law to do this. We didn't dream this up," Harris said. "There are some exceptions to the rule, but every 480 north of Eight Mile are closed on Saturdays now." Closings are part of an effort to save \$2.6 million

from the U.S. Postal Service's Detroit Division, postal officials said. "The 100-plus offices in the Detroit division will close a half day per week, most on Saturday, and outgoing mail processing on Sunday will cease," Detroit Division postmaster John Horne said. THE DETROIT division's current \$550 million budget must be cut to help balance the federal budget, Horne said at a press conference in Detroit Feb. 8. The Saturday closings are expected to save the district \$600,000, he added. As of Tuesday morning, Harris had received only three written complaints from patrons about the Saturday closings. Because the post office was closed Monday in observance of the federal President's Day holiday, Harris was uncertain whether Tuesday's busy lines of patrons were from the holiday or Saturday closing. "I can't really get a good measurement today," he said. "By the end of the week, we should know how bad customers have taken it." Yet, the Saturday closings should affect only those patrons who waited until Saturday to register or certify mail or parcels. Post office self-service lobbies — stamps, money changers and mail slots — will remain open on Saturdays. Mail delivery and pickup also remain unchanged by the Saturday closings, Harris said.

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Ken Herrard of Farmington mails resumes from the U.S. Post Office in downtown Farmington on Tuesday morning.

Victory spike



Farmington Hills Harrison High beat crosstown rival Farmington High in Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball action Monday night at Harrison. Above, Harrison's Katie Doll (jumping) sends the ball over the net as Farmington's Dawn Montrose looks on. For the story, see Page 1C.

EDC efforts provide jobs, tax revenues

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When it comes to growth and development, the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation has been a quiet mover and shaker. In its eight years, the EDC has helped create 5,600 permanent jobs in the city and added \$3.5 million to the city's tax base by issuing \$119 million in tax-exempt bonds to aid commercial and industrial development. "The bottom line for the taxpayers is that we're trying to keep the taxes down and keep this community a very viable, dynamic community, the place to live in," said Robert McConnell, EDC chairman. Maintaining an approximately 35 percent commercial and industrial base helps balance the tax dollars spent on providing the residential segment with city services. Without a commercial and industrial tax base, residential property owners would pay higher taxes. Despite its success, the EDC has been forced to shift gears and is no longer predominantly in the tax-exempt bond business.



Robert McConnell guides EDC efforts

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Cooperation among health emergency groups studied

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For those who wonder why patient-laden ambulances occasionally seem to linger at emergency scenes, there's an answer. "The ambulance stays when a person is in danger. We're in contact with the hospital. Paramedics are getting medical information straight from the hospital on what to do to stabilize the patient," said Kevin Arnold, assistant vice president for marketing and sales for Novi-based Community EMS. Other situations occur, too. "If there is a bad trauma and there's nothing a paramedic can do to stabilize the patient, we'll get out as fast as we can to the emergency room," Arnold said.

Situations like these often are the root of misconceptions and misunderstandings not only by the public, but by other emergency personnel, Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin said. Eliminating misunderstandings and lack of awareness of how individual emergency agencies respond is a key role of the less-than year-old Farmington Area Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee. "The end result is that better medical care can be provided to residents," Baldwin said. "If they (emergency personnel) are battling each other, and that's not uncommon in many areas, it detracts from good patient care."

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Bachelor hunting

Humane Society hosts unique mixer

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Full-length photos of eight of this area's most eligible bachelors were part of the Have a Heart display in the Village Mall lobby last weekend. Accompanying comments provided revealing insight into the kinds of companions these bachelors would be. One was described as good natured, "a family man, great with kids." A second was described as "attractive and middle aged," who "knows every trick in the book" and is "ready to settle down." A third was described as "tired of the singles scene" and ready for "a long-term relationship."

"I just think it's very important for people to respect non-human as well as human life."
— Kathy Weigandt
volunteer

Yet another was described as an independent soul who "likes seafood and birdwatching" and who "desperately needs someone to share it all with." All were characterized as "handsome, faithful and fun to be with. But this Valentine's Day, they're lonely."

THEY ARE but a few of the hundreds of healthy animals waiting at the Michigan Humane Society for that certain someone who can provide a loving, permanent home. If you're already spoken for by a pet, there's another way you can help humane society dependents. A donation will help give these animals the best care possible and the chance for a proper home to be found. For the second straight year, the Village Mall Merchants Association hosted a two-day benefit to raise money for the humane society. From the lobby of the downtown Farmington mall, society volunteers sold sweatshirts with paw prints and other animal designs. Valentine's

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Debbie Pagett of Birmingham, a Michigan Humane Society volunteer, sorts through the stack of sweatshirts for sale at the Have a Heart benefit.