

Winter camping:
No cold affair, 1D



Marlins slip
on slope 1C

Map of Hills' changes
in legal land uses, 3A

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Farmington FOCUS

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HATS off to Farmington Downtown Development Authority executive director Wendy Strlp Sittsamer. In honor of the DDA's upcoming construction project, board members gave her a hard hat Feb. 12 during a regular meeting. Member Ron Ogelsby, who did the presentation, voiced his pleasure at the way the \$1.4 million public improvement project is moving along. Major work is slated to begin this spring.

GETTING the paper out. Chris Cole, a Farmington Observer carrier, recently showed his creativity in delivering the newspaper. From 1984-86, while living in Strawberry Lane Apartments, Chris used a wagon he and his mother Linda rebuilt to deliver the Observer.

When the Coles moved to Canterbury Commons subdivision in 1986, Chris was put on a waiting list until a route opened in his new neighborhood.

The 13-year-old received his new route in January. But during the family move, the wagon was misplaced. So Chris has used an old wheelbarrow that he painted to get the paper out. His dog, Katoochey, often accompanies him on his rounds.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — If the Farmington Hills City Council agrees with planning commissioners, child day care homes will be allowed with restrictions in residential areas.

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Reminder

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.



Phil Arnold led master plan review

Master plan to be changed

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Planned revisions listed, 3A

Farmington Hills planners want to hear residents' opinions and concerns about revisions to the city's master land-use plan.

A public hearing to discuss the proposed 29 land-use changes is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, in the Farmington Hills City Council Chambers, 31555 11 Mile at Orchard Lake Road.

Planning commissioners encourage property owners and interested residents to discuss concerns with city planners Callum Murray or Ed

Gardner before the public hearing. Farmington Hills City Council and Zoning Board of Appeals members have been invited to the public hearing. But the council's approval is not required on master plan changes. Council members have been informed of and discussed the planning commission's proposed changes.

"Certainly, there is some impact (from proposed changes). But I don't think they will negatively impact people," said Philip Arnold, former planning commission chairman, who

has led the months-long master plan review.

"The master plan has been reviewed for all changes in the last six-to-seven years that have occurred: existing rezonings, actual development of buildings. And related to these changes are individual parcels left over and affected by this development."

ARNOLD SAID he hopes the master plan changes can be reviewed and adopted at the public hearing. But Bruce Doolittle, president of the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners Associations, said he believes

more time may be needed. Homeowners council officials will ask planning commissioners to delay their decision "if we don't like what we see. We might need more discussion time." Doolittle said, adding that the homeowners council "at some point, will take a position" on proposed changes.

Review of the master plan, a guide for land use, has two facets. The first is changing the master plan to reflect land rezonings, approved by planning commissioners and city council members since the

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Lab tests fail to nail suspect in rape case

By Alice Collins and Dave Varga
staff writers

Laboratory tests of evidence that might have pointed to a suspect in the Jan. 28 rape of a Birmingham teenager "failed to materially advance the case," Birmingham police Lt. Millard Squire said last week.

He identified the tested materials as "hair or fibers, trace evidence commonly found at rape scenes." The outcome of those tests has apparently left police no closer to making an arrest in the Birmingham rape, the ninth in a series of unsolved sex attacks on women in Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills since last April.

The latest attack has triggered intense public concern and pressure on the investigating police departments to stop the rapist.

It has also resulted in grumblings

within the Oakland County law enforcement community criticizing the procedure carried out by Birmingham police immediately following the Jan. 28 rape. None of the critics has allowed his or her name to be used publicly, and Birmingham has declined to respond to the criticisms.

Squire and other police officials involved have maintained silence about whether police were focusing on one suspect, the circumstances surrounding police procedure on the night of the attack and on the specific evidence gathered.

THE PURPOSE of the police silence, according to Squire and Birmingham Chief Edward Ostin, has been to protect the investigation and the rights of any person or persons who may be under suspicion.

Police sources identify the evidence analyzed in a Michigan State

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

On the slopes

Jennifer Moore was among six Farmington Hills Mercy High ski team members who competed in Michigan High School Athletic Association girls ski regionals Thursday at Alpine Valley in Highland Township. Mercy

finished third of 14 teams. Just the top two finishers qualified for the state finals. Mercy was defending regional champion. For the story and more pictures, see Page 1C.

Defense argues wife died of natural causes

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Closing arguments were expected to begin today in the trial of James Arnold Edwards, 58, charged with killing his wife and setting fire to his southwest Farmington Hills home in 1985.

Defense witnesses took the stand

in Oakland County Circuit Judge Francis O'Brien's courtroom Thursday and Friday, following 2 1/2 days of testimony by the prosecution.

An arson investigator, and the fourth medical examiner to testify in the case spoke in Edwards' defense. Edwards is accused of killing his 50-year-old wife Marlene Edwards. His trial is by jury.

Edwards is charged with one count of first-degree premeditated murder, one count of felony murder and one count of arson.

His wife of 25 years was discovered in the family house on Rhonswood at about 8 p.m. Oct. 14, 1985, when the house was found burning.

THE FIRE was caused by a cigarette,

according to defense testimony Thursday. Marlene Edwards died of natural causes, Southfield defense attorney Nicholas Smith said in opening statements, setting the tone for the defense.

"I found no evidence the fire was incendiary in nature, or electrical," said arson investigator Thomas No-

lan, who testified all day Thursday and Friday morning.

The fire began in the family room, he said, in a couch next to where Marlene Edwards' body was found. "It built up heat in the family room, causing a flashover, carrying it (the fire) into other rooms."

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Kathleen Bricker (right) talks about her role in preparing girls for womanhood and why she wears a "Love Scouting" sweatshirt. She is with her daughter Sarah, a student at Longacre Elementary School in Farmington.

Tomorrow's best Scout leader tries to instill leadership

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

people

Kathleen Bricker's life as a mother, scout leader, PTA member and kindergarten teacher's helper reads like a description of Suburban Housewife USA.

But Bricker, who lives in Farmington, is an ardent feminist, who gives all the spare time she can manage away from her family to help prepare girls to enter the 21st century through Girl Scouts.

"Girl Scouts is the oldest and largest feminist organization in the world."

"It was founded 76 years ago for the specific purpose of helping young girls to realize their highest potential. It is run entirely by women and its sole focus is on girls and their emergence into womanhood."

Her investment of time "has come back in growth for myself," she said. "I've gotten as much out of this as the girls have."

One of the girls in Scout Troop 1272, which meets at Longacre Elementary, Bricker said, "It is amazing to realize how much more awareness

of their potential they have than I had at that age. They'll be able to go so much further because of all the facets of the world that has been opened up to them through Scouting."

"At 10 years of age, they already have an acute understanding of what they can accomplish and how they can accomplish it."

BRICKER'S JOB as Girl Scout troop leader has extended to being a recruiter of leaders and a trainer of leaders. Tomorrow morning, as local chairwoman of the Girl Scout cookie sales each March, Bricker will oversee the unloading of 3,200 cases of cookies from four semi-trailer trucks to be disbursed for sale by the 300 Girl Scouts in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"I know that sounds like a lot. But that's what our girls average in cookie sales here, year after year," she said, "and most of them already

have their money spent. The troops have already decided what they're going to do with their profits."

What the girls do with their money is keep widening their world. Very young Girl Scouts spend troop money on short, close-to-home outings or field trips. As the Scouts grow older, they take part in bigger projects such as overnights, weekend camps and out-of-state and out-of-the-country trips.

"There is literally no limit," Bricker said. "The girls become sisters in a worldwide organization, bound together by their pledge or promise. They can attend Space Camp in Texas, several spots in Europe, camp in Mexico or even spend time in a Girl Scout facility in India now."

"They have access to learn about innumerable cultures. What other

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