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lifelong memories, 1B



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Seniors prepare for
'World 101,' 3A

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IT'S SO easy to forget how institutions tend to outlast people.

So says Angel Bakos, public relations consultant for the Botsford Inn, the 151-year-old hostelry in Farmington Hills.

Margaret Vibbert of Sun City Center, Fla., recently wrote Bakos, requesting information about the menu for an upcoming family dinner. In her letter, she said she has a special reason for wanting a family get-together at the inn.

The seed for her interest was planted in 1837, the year Michigan became a state and when the inn was less than a year old.

That's when Vibbert's great-grandfather, James B. Bradley and his bride, Clarissa, spent their first night in Michigan at the inn.

They had migrated from New York, and he soon became one of Oakland County's early landowners in Lyon Township. With members still living in Oakland County, the family achieved pioneer status from the Michigan Genealogical Society in 1987.

Quote of the week

Can you imagine a ball of flame taking off and going across Orchard Lake Road?

— Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin in the aftermath of a 20-pound propane tank exploding in the back of a pickup and shooting across Orchard Lake Road near I-96 Saturday (see story this page).

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New school, safety work eyed

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school trustees approved application Tuesday for a \$27 million bond proposal they plan to take to voters this September.

The 16-year bond issue will include one ballot question, but will allow trustees to consider multiple sites for building an early childhood center and an elementary school, if they so choose.

The proposal requests \$7 million for these new buildings and another \$20 million in building improvements, many for safety issues.

The bond issue would require an increase of .08 mill, less than the dis-

trict rolled back in operating millage for the coming year. The owner of a house assessed at \$100,000 (half the market value) would pay an additional \$80 a year to retire the bonds. The owner of a house assessed at \$45,000 would pay an additional \$36 a year.

Trustees considered Tuesday: • whether the new school buildings and improvements should be broken down into two ballot questions, or proposed as one.

• whether they wanted to use a larger parcel at 11 Mile and Halsted for the entire project, or have the flexibility to build an early childhood center on a smaller parcel.

The board concurred on the one-

question ballot, and most said they wanted flexibility in making future decisions about school sites. Board president Helen Ditzhay said, after studying the matter "it seems to me it has to be one ballot."

WHEN THE bond issue was proposed last month, there was concern that the building improvements may not receive voter support, even though the proposal for a new school has been received well by the community.

But safety issues in many buildings make the structural improvements as necessary as building a new school, some trustees said Tuesday.

Asbestos in floors and ceilings and chemical contamination in lighting ballasts are just a few of the concerns.

"There is a real concern about safety hazards . . . in the district," said trustee James Abernethy, who recently talked with staff members in several buildings. "We have a potentially serious, hidden problem out there."

"It's a districtwide problem," trustee Susan Hennels added. "It's for the benefit of the community as a whole."

Trustee Helen Prutow concurred. "They (the staff) are very concerned. We should address it right up front and not do it piecemeal, as an ac-

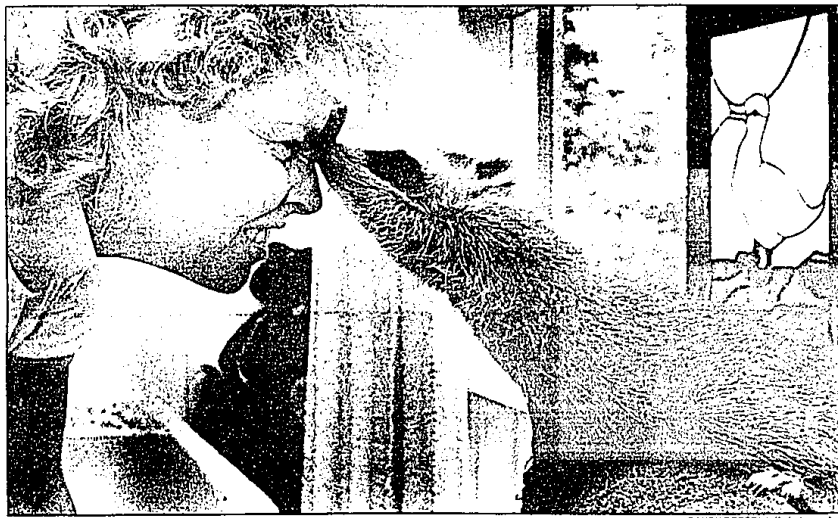
cept happens," she said.

Trustee Janice Rolnick said she was concerned with ballot language, which listed the proposed work as "partial remodeling." Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan said the language was a legal necessity, and that explanations of safety issues would have to be addressed in school newsletters and other communications with the community.

Trustees Jack Cotton and Jack Inch were absent for the vote.

THE SCHOOL board must receive approval from the state before moving ahead with the election, which

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Beverly Cornell plays with one of the 5-week-old twin raccoons she cares for.

Woman is den mother to critters

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's easy to fall in love with Jack and Jill. Everybody does.

But the Cornells — Bev, Tom and 17-year-old Kurt — are the ones who must love the pair of 5-week-old raccoons caustiously. When the masked pair grow up and move to the wild, it won't be easy.

"They become very attached to you and you to them," said Farmington Hills resident Bev Cornell.

The Cornells know. They have been through it before with another pair of baby raccoons, Patsy and Fardel, who when grown were taken to live in a wildlife preserve

'I always warn people they are wild animals. You can't be naive. You can't treat them like domestic animals.'

— Bev Cornell

near Pinckney.

"They never forget us," Cornell said. "We went back four times to see them. They were waiting for us. On the fourth visit, Tom said, 'If they're waiting for us, we're taking them home.' But they didn't come to see us that time."

Jack and Jill are the latest pair

of orphaned wildlife that Cornell has taken into her heart and home. She has a state Department of Natural Resources wild animal rehabilitation permit enabling her to legally care for wildlife in her home.

"YOU DON'T want to domesticate them because they have to be released in the wild," Cornell said,

snuggling Jack as he drank a special milk formula from a baby bottle. "They are very cuddly and are chewing on everything at this point. They're getting their teeth now."

An animal lover who used to work for a veterinarian, Cornell has taken in orphaned animals for about two years. Her work began when the veterinarian asked for help with a recuperating squirrel.

Since then, she has had, among others, two orphaned squirrels, Willy and Ethel; the McQuire sisters, a trio of orphaned squirrels; a lone raccoon; and Patsy and Fardel.

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Blast knocks driver 30 feet

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

When he said run, she ran — no questions asked.

"When he senses danger, I just obey," said Farmington Hills resident Rhea Jaguszewski about her husband, Arnold, a communication field supervisor for Chicago-based Cova, a subsidiary of United Airlines.

"He's instinctive about these things. He's very fast on his feet."

Rhea was recounting what happened when her husband smelled an odor coming from the bed of their pickup as they turned south onto Orchard Lake Road from 12 Mile Saturday morning.

Jaguszewski, 48, suffered second- and third-degree burns to his right arm and less severe burns to his left arm, face and neck when a leaking propane tank in the truck bed exploded outside Dian's Deli, just north of I-96.

The explosion knocked him 30 feet.

Jaguszewski was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, then released. He faces daily doctor visits this week, a month or more of recovery and possible plastic surgery.

"He's not feeling too good," Rhea said Monday. "He's on pain pills."

IN WHAT some say was a miracle, the 20-pound propane tank, now a ball of flame, flew across busk Orchard Lake Road but hit nothing before it landed 200 feet away at the Mobil station. While airborne, it burned itself out.

"Can you imagine a ball of flame taking off and going across Orchard Lake Road?" asked Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin in amazement.

When Jaguszewski pulled into the

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Residents lament 'Yuppie' housing

Budget review turns into political forum, 4A

Chart outlines Farmington Hills taxes, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Older, particularly retired, and long-term residents are being edged out of Farmington Hills by the spiraling costs of "Yuppie" housing.

That was the common cry in residents' comments during a public hearing Monday on the proposed 1988-89 \$24 million Farmington Hills budget and its less than quarter-mill tax rate increase. The coun-

cil is expected to adopt the budget at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 13.

The proposed budget is expected to be supported by 9.4 mills, a 1418-mill increase over the 9.2582 mills levied in 1987-88 fiscal year, which ends June 30. The proposed tax rate also includes voter-approved millage for parks development and for debt on the \$7 million road improvement bonds.

Despite the proposed tax rate increase, the 9.4 mills is only 4-mill higher than the rate levied in 1979, city manager William Costick said.

But it was the property tax assessments that raised the ire of most residents at the state-required Truth-In-Taxation public hearing. So common

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Roy Miller operates a soapmaking factory on Thomas Street in downtown Farmington.

Parking remains an option

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The owner of a downtown Farmington soap factory is buying property adjacent to his business, in an area city officials were considering for future parking.

Roy Miller, owner of R & R Products of Novi, said his purchase offer has been accepted for land adjoining his business at Thomas and Warner streets.

"The deal is close to closing,"

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