

Model aircraft
fly in show, 1B



All-Area
baseball, 1D

Festival finds favor
with businesses, 3A

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FRIDAY marked a special day in the life of district chief Bob Rebtoy. He celebrated his 20th year of service with the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Rebtoy, 42, began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1968 at Station 3 (Wheeler). In 1977, he was promoted to district chief.

Last July, he completed a 20-year career as a production control analyst for a Redford Township parts manufacturer to accept the additional full-time job of assistant to Farmington Hills fire Chief Richard Marinucci.

In January 1987, Rebtoy and two Farmington Hills police officers were credited with saving a 22-year-old man's life after they pulled him, semiconscious, from a burning mobile home at midnight.

"I'm just as excited today as I was 20 years ago," said Rebtoy, shooting for 30 years of service. "I just enjoy meeting and helping people."

Rebtoy and his wife, Leslie, have three children, ages 14-18.

Quote of the week

Id say the effort was a success, considering all the stuff on this table that didn't get blown off."

— Fire Chief Richard Marinucci, surveying illegal fireworks confiscated by a special Farmington Hills task force over the weekend (see story this page).

what's inside

Around Farmington . . . 4B
Business . . . C
Classifieds, Secs. C, E, F, G
Index . . . 7G
Auto . . . Sec. C
Real estate . . . 2E
Employment . . . 7G
Community center happenings . . . 5B
Crossword puzzle . . . 2F
Entertainment . . . 5D
Opinion . . . 12A
Points of view . . . 13A
Police/fire calls . . . 8A
Sports . . . Sec. D

Pick detour, 696 users advised

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's coming. Beginning Monday, motorists should temper their tempers and focus their patience as construction crews and equipment begin rolling in for the two-year, \$21.5-million widening of I-696 in Farmington Hills and Southfield.

"1989 is the big year. This year, we're actually going to start getting ready for 1989," said Paul Garceau, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) assistant district engineer.

Construction on the just less than seven miles of I-696 from Franklin to I-275 was announced Wednesday

in Farmington Hills City Hall by officials from MDOT and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), which is conducting a motorist information plan to accompany construction.

Preplanned detours are not part of the motorist information program. Though traffic will be slower and some tie-ups are likely, MDOT and SEMCOG officials expect most motorists will devise new routes when necessary to avoid the construction area.

The construction bid was awarded to Wixom-based Holloway Construction of Wixom about two weeks ago. As with improvements to the Lodge Freeway last year, the construction contract includes incentive pay-

ments of \$15,000 per calendar day for each day ahead of schedule.

I-696 WILL be widened from the existing two lanes to four lanes in each direction. Completion is targeted for spring 1990. Widening the existing four-lane I-696 will ease potential bottlenecks as traffic along the new eastern leg of I-696 flows into the existing freeway running through Southfield and Farmington Hills.

The project also includes reconstruction of the Orchard Lake Road interchange. It includes widening the bridge from four to eight lanes and adding loop ramps to the freeway. Freeway bridges over Drake and Inkster also will be widened from

the existing two lanes to four lanes in each direction.

Construction will be in three phases during the next two years. Motorists will begin to notice and feel the effect of construction beginning Saturday and Sunday, July 16-17, when westbound I-696 will be reduced to one lane while restriping is completed.

As part of the first phase of construction, westbound I-696 will be temporarily widened adjacent to the existing freeway. Traffic will be shifted slightly toward the shoulder to make way for construction, said Tom Maki, MDOT resident engineer.

"On the 18th, work will begin in earnest," Garceau said.

WIDENING OF the Orchard Lake

Road Interchange will begin with reduction of traffic to one lane in each direction and a common lane for both left and right turns. Bridge work over Inkster and Drake will begin in August.

Not until Oct. 1 will actual paving of the temporary westbound I-696 lanes take place. The temporarily widened portion of westbound I-696 won't be open to traffic this year. In the interim, sewage and drainage work in the median will take place, Maki said.

This summer is really a summer of preparation," said Donn Shelton, SEMCOG communications manager.

But when 1989 rolls around ac-

Please turn to Page 4



Sitting in a small chapel at St. Fabian Catholic Church, Tuesday, the Rev. Norbert Kendzierski accompanying new Cardinal Edmund Szoka to Rome.

LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer
relates his experiences

Pastor recalls Vatican journey

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The Rev. Norbert Kendzierski carried a pocketful of memories on his return from a seven-day journey to Rome this week.

The pastor of St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills arrived home Monday, following the celebration of Edmund Szoka, 60, archbishop of the church's Detroit archdiocese, who was elevated to the post of cardinal June 28.

Szoka is the third man in the history of the Detroit archdiocese to be given the title of cardinal.

As a member of the College of Cardinals, Szoka will be an advisor

Please turn to Page 6

Brothers die in car crash

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Two brothers and a brother-in-law were killed and a family friend was hurt seriously when their car struck a parked U-Haul in northwest Detroit early Saturday.

The driver, Timothy Paul White, 27, of Farmington Hills was dead on arrival at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit, following the 12:30 a.m. crash.

His brother, Russell Dalton White,

29, of Livonia, was dead on arrival at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Their brother-in-law, Michael Green, 25, of Redford Township, died July 3 at Mount Carmel.

Family friend Berry Vazakrisson, 23, of Farmington Hills, was in stable condition Tuesday at Botsford.

"They were all very close," said Farmington Hills and Florida resident Dortha White, mother of Timothy and Russell.

She said "Tim and Rusty partied together, worked together and spent time at home together."

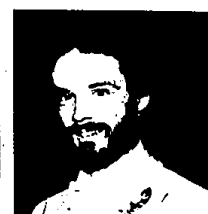
"It's a real tragedy," she added. "I have six children and I just lost one, third of my life. One would have been a shock. With two, it's devastating."

"THEY WERE together while here and they're together still," said Michele White, Timothy's wife and Michael's twin sister.

Please turn to Page 6



Russell White
Livonia



Timothy White
Farmington Hills

Task force kept busy during 4th festivities

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A Farmington Hills task force of police officers and firefighters logged 144 fireworks incidents that resulted in misdemeanor tickets to 11 adults who used or possessed illegal fireworks over the Independence Day weekend.

When they couldn't determine who was violating the law, the police confiscated illegal fireworks. Confiscations — bottle rockets, firecrackers, flaming fireballs — totaled 38.

When remnants of illegal fireworks were found, officers issued warnings against continued use.

"It's my effort was a success, considering all the stuff on this table that didn't get blown off," said fire chief Richard Marinucci, grinning at a spread of confiscated fireworks at fire headquarters Tuesday.

In light of the drought, the task force strictly enforced the state fireworks law Friday through Monday.



LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

Farmington Hills police officers and firefighters confiscated firecrackers, bottle rockets and flaming fireballs during their weekend fireworks sweep. Confiscated items were categorized at fire headquarters.

Both the police and fire departments increased on-duty patrols during the evenings.

Task force members not only responded to fireworks incidents, but also looked for violations involving use, sales or storage.

They also discouraged legal fireworks use, particularly near grass, brush or buildings. For those bent on using legal fireworks, the police

advised on how to exercise caution, Lt. Martin Bladon said.

Bladon cited one instance where a young adult was supervising four small children burning sparklers in tall brown grass next to a house in the Middlebelt-Greyfield area July 2.

THOSE TICKETED ranged in age

Please turn to Page 2

City hall growth options limited

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The 210-acre Heritage Park will not be the site for new Farmington Hills offices to relieve cramped conditions at city hall.

Instead, city officials are looking at adding 3,000-5,000 square feet of space to the existing city hall at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. The additional space could be added on the west side of city hall behind the newly remodeled city manager's office, which was the former police building.

"We're just jammed here," city manager William Costick said. "We need additional space. It's not efficient to have people sharing phones and desks."

With the help of an architect, city administrators will prepare a plan detailing how to make the most of the space as well as proposed design and cost estimates. "We want it to look like what's already here," Costick said.

The former police building was renovated when the department moved into its new building west of city hall. The city manager and staff, personnel and adult services

moved into the former police building, which also now provides meeting and conference rooms.

THE CITY'S finance department has since moved into renovated former city manager and personnel offices in the existing city hall. The city clerk's office will be moving into the former finance offices. But cramped conditions remain for other departments, including assessing, engineering, building planning and special services.

Originally, city administrators were studying Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile, as a site for new offices to house in particular parks and recreation staff in the special services department.

"I was unaware of the huge sentiment among residents that the park shouldn't have an office building there," Costick said.

Some city council members also had expressed displeasure with the proposal.

A third available option for creating more space for city hall staff presented by administrators was the

Please turn to Page 6

West Bloomfield
Sidewalk Sale

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE