

Football meets
Powerhouse in gym, 1D

'88 football
kickoff, 1C

Speech pathologist
hooked on helping, 3A

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farmington FOCUS

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ILL cost if you pass a school bus with activated flashers.

The fine for passing a school bus with activated flashers is \$60. State law requires motorists to stop 10 feet from a bus that's either loading or unloading.

The only time you don't have to stop is on a divided highway and the bus is on the opposite side of the median.

Last school year, Farmington Hills police fielded 100 complaints from Farmington school bus drivers about vehicles that passed illegally. About 50 motorists were identified through information supplied by bus drivers. Officers witnessed about 30 more violations, said Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section.

Farmington Hills police meet with Farmington school bus drivers weekly to gather information about vehicles that passed illegally.

State law presumes the registered owner was the driver at the time of the violation unless there's proof to the contrary. Leasing agencies cooperate fully with police in identifying drivers, Cranston said.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

Workers are erecting safety equipment in the Farmington State Bank. Safety equipment was ordered following the second of two holdups at the bank this year. Bulletproof glass and steel will protect employees. Six teller cages will be erected, and the cashier's office will be enclosed. Tellers will converse with customers through special tubes.

— Farmington Enterprise, Sept. 8, 1938

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

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NOW IN EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY ISSUE

Gas, oil wells may sprout in Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
 staff writer

Farmington Hills resident Margaret DuPont doesn't want an oil rig towering anywhere close to her subdivision near Nine Mile and Halsted. "She'll probably never see the well," said Michael O'Connor of M.J. O'Connor & Associates, Marine City. "We could drill from a location away with a subsurface lease. We would make arrangements with people on whose land we would put a drill on."

O'Connor's company is seeking lease agreements with subdivision associations and homeowners in the Nine Mile-Halsted area as a preliminary step to determining whether

it's cost effective to drill for oil and gas in the area.

"It's all very preliminary at this point," O'Connor said. But he confirmed that homeowners have been contacted and that the Farmington Square (Meadowglen) Homeowners Association has signed a lease with the firm.

A tentative meeting is scheduled for homeowners to meet O'Connor's firm at 11 a.m. Sunday, at the Radisson Suite Hotel, 37529 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

O'Connor also confirmed that in addition to Farmington Square, the firm is interested in working with three other subdivisions in the area, including Green Hill Woods.

Firm seeks pacts with homeowners

"AT THE present time, we're reluctant to divulge information because of the competition factor," O'Connor said.

But it's the lack of information that bothers DuPont and her neighbors. "We don't have the answers to all these questions. I'm worried about the environment," she said.

The Houston-based Grant-Norpac Co. in July tested underground along

the city's major roads for natural gas and oil for an undisclosed company. Regional manager Paul Grote said in July that he was unable to disclose the name of the company for which Grant-Norpac was conducting seismic tests. Grote was unavailable to release test findings last week.

Grant-Norpac received permits from Farmington Hills and Oakland

County to conduct the underground tests.

DuPont said she and neighbors last week received sample leases from the Marine City firm. The agreements are standard five-year leases with a renewable clause and provision that no well can stand within 200 feet of a home. "I'm really opposed to having an oil well across the street," DuPont said.

But O'Connor said the firm isn't certain it will ever drill for oil in the area. "We're in a very speculative area contacting people to see if they are interested in gas and oil. We would enter into a partnership with

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sweat and tone

Hefaine Keller of Birmingham helps Lynn Fenberg of West Bloomfield get the most out of "abs" — exercises designed to slim that stomach — at Fitness's new studio alongside

Powerhouse Gym in Farmington Hills. For what happens when aerobic exercisers and body builders meet, please turn to Street Scene, Page 1D.

Reward offered to halt arsons

By Bob Sklar
 staff writer

A reward of up to \$1,000 will be paid for the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for a vandalism and arson spree Aug. 28-29 in southwest Farmington Hills.

"We'd love some tips," said Detective Darnel Krause of the Farmington Hills Police Department Thursday. "We have no good leads or suspects."

Damage estimates topped \$91,000. Call tips to the Farmington Hills police at 474-6181. Say you want to provide information through the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce Silent Observer Reward Program. The police will tell you how to proceed.

Investigators believe more than one person was involved in the four arson incidents, which occurred within 24 hours in the same square mile. "We think teenagers, old enough to drive, went on a rampage," Krause said.

THE RAMPADE started between 1 and 3 a.m. Aug. 28 when three ve-

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Post office revives Saturday window hours

By Joanne Maliszewski
 staff writer

You can add the Farmington Hills and Farmington branches of the U.S. Post Office to your Saturday morning errand itinerary. After closing in February, Saturday window service will reopen Sept. 10.

"We're really glad to see it," postmaster Kenneth Harris said. "They made enough sav-

ings in other areas so we are able to reinstate Saturday hours."

Window service at the Farmington Hills branch, 32455 12 Mile, and the Farmington branch, 33200 Slocum, will be open for business from 9 a.m. to noon. The new Saturday hours were determined by results of a survey conducted in early August of Farmington area post office patrons, Harris said.

Window service will enable patrons to mail

packages, register or certify mail or parcels and conduct any type of postal business that involves money. When window service closed on Saturdays, only the post office self-service lobbies — stamps, money changes and mail slots — remained open. Mail delivery and pickup remained unchanged by the closings, Harris said.

The Saturday closings were part of an effort to save \$2.6 million from the U.S. Postal Ser-

vice's Detroit Division. The Detroit division's \$550 million budget was cut to help balance the federal budget, according to postal officials.

Feb. 13 was the first official Saturday closing of post offices in the Royal Oak Management Service District, which includes offices within the 480 or 483 zip code areas.

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THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Farmington-area postal worker Mary Ann Wendt is casing mail according to street number and name. Because of duplicate numbers on streets within a subdivision, mail occasionally is misdelivered, with patrons receiving mail for a number of residents in the neighborhood with the same street number on different streets.

Wrong address Mail mixups rile Hills resident

By Joanne Maliszewski
 and Casey Hans
 staff writers

Warren Schroeder thought he was just a popular guy, until he read the address on his mail one day last week.

"I had five different people's mail in my mailbox," said the Farmington Hills resident, who lives on Crompton Circle in Independence Commons. "Let's see, I got 36203 . . . 36229 . . . 36185 . . . 36229 and my own. All they got right was the '36.'"

"I don't pay 25 cents a stamp to have this happen."

Schroeder said this is a common occurrence, although this is the first time he has received mail meant for so many different addresses.

Schroeder's complaint is not un-

"I had five different people's mail in my mailbox. Let's see, I got 36203 . . . 36229 . . . 36185 . . . 36229 and my own. All they got right was the '36.'"

— Warren Schroeder
 Common Circle resident

common. "Misdelivery is the most common complaint. It happens. And it's probably going to continue to happen along the line," Farmington area postmaster Kenneth Harris said.

Much of the problem with misdelivery is that in many Farmington Hills subdivisions duplicate num-

bers are used on streets within a neighborhood.

When the mail is sorted, it is separated into small cubbyholes bearing the addresses of each household in a route. Often cubbyholes bearing duplicate numbers on different streets are near each other. Care must be

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