



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Wind damage

High winds that tore through the area at 11 a.m. Wednesday were responsible for the partial collapse of this office building under construction south of the Crossroads shopping center, Nine Mile and Farmington Road. Frank Tata (left), Crossroads A & W owner, surveys the damage with friend Dan Williams. Tata had just returned to the restaurant after picking up construction debris blowing across the Crossroads parking lot.

"Everything just rumbled, just boom. It sounded like thunder," Tata said. No one was hurt. Damage to the building was estimated at \$30,000 when a wall and the roof collapsed. A nearby pickup sustained about \$400 in damage from flying debris. The building is Baskin Corp. of Farmington Hills according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

Joynt replaces Welday on Hills planning board

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Appointing a replacement for former Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Welday was mild compared to the hullabaloo over his poor attendance and subsequent resignation.

With council approval, Mayor Jody Soronen last week appointed Jack Joynt to fill Welday's unexpired term through Feb. 1, 1990. The appointment drew no public or council comment even though some commissioners, including Welday, were in the audience.

AFTER THE appointment, Soronen said she chose Joynt, instrumental in reviving the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills about two years ago, because he has the time and knowledge to serve.

"He has the interest evidenced by the fact that he attends almost all planning commission and city council meetings," Soronen said. "He's not starting at the beginning to understand zoning issues."

Joynt was out of town when he was appointed.

Welday resigned in late October at Soronen's request in light of what Soronen and the city council considered poor attendance at the commission's weekly meetings. Soronen asked Welday by letter to resign from his two-year-old appointment in the wake of concerns about his attendance and absence from Farmington Hills while working on a congressional campaign in Iowa through the Nov. 8 general election.

WELDAY WAS an unsuccessful candidate in the August primary for the Republican nomination for the 69th state House District seat.

In his resignation letter, Welday suggested that the city council develop an attendance policy "so others are not placed in the same unfortunate situation as I find myself," Welday said.

He also referred to the absence of a resignation request in the case of another commissioner who had "similar extended leave" because of illness.

At the time, however, Soronen said she didn't see the need for an attendance policy because poor attendance was never an issue. "If you look at other members' attendance, it's pretty near perfect. We never had a reason to make a policy," she said.

C'ville TV clas in top 10

Clarenceville High School's TV production class — just over one year old — is one of the top 10 programs nationwide "that enhance learning or learning opportunities for students," according to the National Education Association.

In a ceremony in Lansing on Saturday, the NEA, the union representing the majority of U.S. teachers, presented one of its 10 A-plus for Excellence in Education awards to Sharon McDonald, who teaches the class, and Estelle Rice, president of the Clarenceville Education Association.

It was exciting for the relatively smaller Clarenceville School District

to be cited by the NEA, McDonald said.

"Students learned to set goals, perform and constructively evaluate their work, always striving to improve," McDonald wrote in explaining the program.

Students learn to work as a team and build self-esteem through the class, she said.

"More than half of the students expressed a desire to continue a career in some aspect of television production after taking this class," she said.

THE CLASS — which earlier this year won a third-place award for a public service announcement from

the Detroit chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences — also produces interview shows for the MetroVision educational access channel.

They include "Clarenceville Spotlight," which has added a live studio audience this semester.

The program could be expanded to include a third class this year, "almost an independent study," said Patricia Vickery, administrative assistant for instruction.

Local businesses have helped ensure the program's success by contributing everything from carpet and lumber to plants for TV studio sets, Vickery and McDonald said.

Former Hudson's warehouse bought

Richard Kohn, Detroit developer and car buff, bought a 139,000-square-foot former J.L. Hudson's warehouse in Detroit from Gale Research to house his 150-plus car and train collection.

The sale was handled by Cushman

& Wakefield of Michigan broker Sheldon Alkon of Farmington Hills.

Broker Leonard Morgan of Cushman and Wakefield, collaborating with Alkon on the sale, said in addition to book storage, the 66-year-old warehouse has been used to con-

struct the giant floats for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day parades and originally housed the office of the company's founder, J.L. Hudson.

Alkon has been a real estate broker in the Detroit-area since 1950 and has worked for Cushman and Wakefield from 1985 to the present.

Boy saves niece from house fire

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saw a small fire near the bed, he ran downstairs, where four family members gathered water buckets and even a hose.

Billy, who his mother Sarah described as adventurous, was first up the stairs with a sauce pan full of water.

He tossed water on the flames but by that time the room was filled with smoke and the room where Tiffanie was in was filling fast with smoke.

"SO HE grabbed the baby, crawled to the stairs and while kind of stooped over, carried her down," his mother said. "I met them about three-quarters of the way down. No one else could get any higher. The smoke was that bad."

Billy, Tiffanie, Arthur, Sarah, her husband, Arthur, Tiffanie's mother, Angela, and another daughter, Victoria, 13, all made it outside safely.

Sarah said she was "very proud of her son."

"He did all the right things," she said. "We've talked before about fire safety, getting near the floor and knowing what to do. I'm surprised he remembered. But he did."

The fire apparently started when smoking materials were accidentally discarded near the mattress in the bedroom. Fire damage was estimated at \$6,500, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

Firefighters extinguished the fire. Flame damage was confined to the second floor, Bersche said.

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