

Shop is showcase
for local designers, 1B



North
Invite, 1D

Old clubhouse used
for training burn, 8A

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FUND growing.
The Farmington Exchange Club is the first service organization to contribute toward the gazebo-pergola to be built on city-owned land in front of Farmington Place Apartments and next to the Village Commons shopping center in downtown Farmington.

Presenting a \$500 check on behalf of the club, secretary John Richardson said: "As the oldest service club in Farmington, we felt it was appropriate to be the first to make a donation to a worthy civic project such as this."

The gazebo-pergola, which will be funded entirely by contributions, is expected to cost about \$40,000.

Construction is targeted for mid-1989. The gazebo will be used for concerts and performances as well as a moment's respite. It will be flanked by two pergolas (open-air seating areas with slatted roofs).

To contribute, call Wendy Strip Siltwater of the Gazebo-Pergola Fund Committee: 473-7276.

QUOTE of the week

"Firefighters inside a building are looking into the mouth of flame. You're not looking at the big picture."

— District Lt. John Trafelet of the Farmington Hills Fire Department, describing why communication between firefighters inside a burning building and commanders outside of it is vital (story on 8A).

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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.

5th ballot puts Arnold on council



Philip Arnold
I'm pro-fair

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Veteran Farmington Hills planning commissioner Philip Arnold will replace outgoing city councilwoman Jan Dolan, elected to the state House in November.

"There will be new and different challenges," the 11-year planning commissioner said Tuesday. "What's important to me is a sense of fairness and acceptance by the whole community to accept the pleasures and burdens of the city."

Arnold was appointed 4-2 Monday night on the fifth ballot, after four ballots didn't give any of the seven applicants a majority. Councilmen Aldo Vagnozzi, Ben Marks and Joe Alkateeb and Mayor-elect Terry Sever supported Arnold, who will be sworn in before the council meeting Monday, Jan. 9.

Mayor Jody Soronen and councilwoman Jean Fox supported applicant Jonathan Grant, a planning commissioner, former library trustee and president of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Soronen is chamber executive director.

After Arnold's selection, council members voted to appoint him by unanimous ballot. Dolan, whose resignation is effective Dec. 31, could not vote because the city charter requires that only remaining members appoint a replacement. Dolan's term expires next November.

ON THE fifth ballot, Vagnozzi broke the stalemate and supported Arnold. Vagnozzi nominated candidate Lawrence Lichtman, a board of zoning appeals member. "He (Arnold) was my second choice. He impressed me. He was also the choice of the mayor-to-be (Sever)," Vagnozzi said.

Vagnozzi and Fox interviewed the seven applicants and prepared written reports for the other council members who didn't participate in the interviews.

Vagnozzi changed his vote Monday after questioning Arnold about development. "In terms of pro-development, I'm not that at all. I'm pro-fair," Arnold responded.

No other council members questioned candidates publicly.

Other candidates were George Roberts, Olde Town activist and Housing Rehabilitation Loan

Board member; Bob Beauchamp, Economic Development Corporation member; Marty Krohn, vice chairman, Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills; and Richard Corey, board of zoning appeals member.

Arnold said he believes the work ahead "remains to maintain and improve upon the quality of life. Primarily, having been involved in planning and enjoying it very much, from the planning standpoint, everything is pretty much resolved. The city is about 90 percent developed or planned."

SEVER NOMINATED Arnold, while Fox nominated Grant. But Vagnozzi nominated the remaining applicants. "I think all seven ought to be nominated and considered," he said.

Council members acknowledged the difficulty in choosing an appointee. "We know them and work with all of them, so it's a very hard choice," Fox said.

Soronen agreed. "I was very impressed with the resumes, individuals. They are all fine individuals and probably all are qualified to serve on the city council."

Grim reminder

Book details probe of
Oakland County child killer

By Dave Varga
staff writer

Police haven't given up on finding who killed Mark Stebbins, Jill Robinson, Kristine Miblich and Timothy King.

Although the Oakland County Task Force closed its doors at the former Valley Woods School in Beverly Hills exactly 10 years ago today, local police say they're still following up on tips to find the so-called Oakland County child killer.

A new book, "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" by Tommy McIntyre, details the story of the investigation into the abductions and murders that shocked the entire county. And police officials who were involved in the task force say they can only hope readers may be spurred to remember some detail or tip to help them solve the cases.

Farmington Hills Sgt. John Hedrick, a task force member, just

finished reading the book. He found it interesting for laymen. Not a day goes by that he doesn't think of the serial murders. But he doesn't believe the killer, if still alive, will be caught unless some startling new information comes to light.

Hedrick, now assigned to the Michigan State Police Southeastern Michigan Conspiracy Organization, recalls the frustration of the investigation. "There was just nothing. We were waiting for that one piece of information. It was just frustrating."

Jerry Tobias, Franklin's deputy police chief, regularly checks tips on cases from the Michigan State Police office in Northville.

"In all honesty," Tobias said, "I don't think a day goes by that I don't think about it. It's there. It's still open. It's unfinished business. It won't be (closed) until there's an answer."

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STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Tom McIntyre interviewed local police officials in writing his book on the 10th anniversary of the Oakland County child killings.

Disposal company driver killed in freak accident

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A disposal company driver died of injuries suffered when a metal hook crashed through the cab of his truck and struck him in the head while he was emptying a dumpster in a south-east Farmington Hills driveway Saturday.

Robert Bernard Detkowski, 50, of Waterford Township, an employee of Oakland Disposal Co. of Pontiac, died at 9:45 a.m. Sunday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Detkowski died of cranial cerebral trauma, which is a head injury, said an Oakland County Medical Examiner's spokeswoman.

"He was a man who loved his kids,

who thought the world of his kids' friends and his nieces and nephews. They were all special to him," Nancy Detkowski said about her husband Tuesday.

Detkowski worked for Oakland Disposal about a year. He previously worked for Al's Disposal, Davisburg.

"He was always dedicated to his job," his wife said.

Nancy Detkowski said her husband was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing and hunting.

Charles Collier, a Michigan Department of Labor General Industry Safety Division safety officer, examined the 1988 Mack truck as well as the dumpster Monday to try to pinpoint what caused the freak accident.

It's possible he could recommend changes in the way such trucks are operated and equipped, said Detective David Loe of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

FARMINGTON HILLS police placed together what happened partly from what the homeowner and a visitor at a neighbor's house saw.

Detkowski had removed a 30-cu.-yard dumpster from the driveway of a house on the 21200 block of St. Francis at 12:50 p.m. Saturday and had hooked it to the truck lifter.

The dumpster contained old roofing materials. As the dumpster was pulled to the rear of the truck, Det-

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staff photo by BOB SKLAR

Billy Ryan (right), 11, plants a kiss on the cheek of his year-old niece, Tiffanie, who he saved in a bedroom fire last month.

Boy receives citation for saving niece's life

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

An East Middle School sixth grader earned a civilian citation for saving the life of his 1-year-old niece when a mattress fire broke out in an upstairs bedroom on the 22700 block of Albion in southeast

Farmington Hills Nov. 13.

Billy Ryan, 11, was honored "for his quick action in saving a life from the imminent threat of fire," fire Chief Richard Marinucci said in presenting the award to Billy at Monday night's Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

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By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Prohibiting developers and builders from removing certain trees is one thing. But the proposed ban on single-family residential areas isn't being met with enthusiasm by homeowners concerned how the regulations will be enforced.

"We're very much in favor of protecting trees. But we're opposed to the precise wording (of the proposed ordinance)," said Bernard Ludwig of the Historic Haled Homeowners Association. "We don't enjoy being lumped into the same category as builders and developers."

Other homeowners were equally dissatisfied with the proposed ordi-

nance's lack of provisions for homeowners who wooded lots who practice tree management, such as cutting down older trees in favor of young, growing ones.

"I think I see some contradiction here," said Haled resident Don Millington, referring to lack of provisions for forest or tree management.

The proposed ordinance, introduced by council members Monday, is likely to be revamped before its expected adoption Monday, Jan. 9.

Items to be considered are forest management provisions, enforcement, penalties, appeal process and whether private homeowners should be included in tree removal restrictions.

COUNCILMAN ALDO Vagnozzi asked that utility companies also be included under the restrictions. And he asked that plenty of notice be given to homeowners before ordinance adoption. "Many people would be surprised cutting down a tree and being slapped with a violation," he said.

Others found it possible to excuse the minor details that were causing others concern.

"This is really ridiculous. Farmington Hills is well overdue on this. It's time to sit down and stop nipping the ordinance. We're homeowners. We want our trees. We've got the Sahara Desert on most cor-

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