

### Going to the dogs

Merchants at the Village Mall in downtown Farmington hosted a Have a Heart lobby display Friday and Saturday to benefit the Michigan Humane Society. Proceeds from the sale of pawprint sweatshirts, beaded dog scarves, catnip mice and other handmade crafts went to the private, non-profit group, dedicated to protecting and lighting for animal rights. Mall stores will sport collection cannisters through Friday. Above, society volunteer Laurie Busch dispensed humane society gifts and

literature Friday with her 8-year-old dog, Sweetle. Busch adopted the beagle two years ago after it was struck by a car in Troy and suffered a broken petvis, landing it in the society's Rochester Hills shelter for three months. "When I first adopted her, they had a hard time finding her a home because she was 4 years old. Now, when I take her out, I could find her a hundred homes because of her sweet disposition."

## Faxon resubmits 'living will' legislation

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, has reintroduced legislation to legalize the "living will."
A "living will" is a writen declaration stating that, in the event that a person becomes terminally ill, they want no extraordinary measures used to person becoming law during this session," Faxon said. "An increasing number of individuals and urganizations have become familiar with the concept of the "living will and have endorsed it.
"Furthermore, approximately 39 states have now adopted living will shaws and that has given us a base of experience to refer to when considering this proposed legislation," he added.

The Faxon bill provides that a

sidded.

The Faxon bill provides that a person could sign a declaration directing that no herole medical procedures be used to prolong their life if they are terminally ill. They would, of course, be given food, water and any medication their physician selected to relieve pain.

"COMPETENT ADULTS certain ly are entitled to make decisions re-garding the type of medical care and

treatment they wish to receive." Faxon said. "Modern medical technological procedures frequently make it possible to prolong human life beyond natural limits.
"However, sometimes the use of such procedures only serve to prolong the dying process while the patient suffers physically and mentality and, perhaps, even endures a loss of basic human dignity as a result of

their ordeal," Faxon said.
"I also want to reiterate that a
"Ilving will becomes very important
when a person is so ill or seriously
injured that they cannot speak on
their own behalf to their doctor or their own behalf to their doctor or family members regarding their medical treatment. The 'living will' becomes a means for assuring that the patient's right to refuse treat-ment is respected by their doctor

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and family," Faxon said.

Faxon's proposed legislation, Senate Bill 135, is modeled after the law which took effect in Maryland in 1985. The bill incorporated amendments proposed by Maryland's Catholic community. Under the terms of the bill, two persons would have to witness the signing of a "living will." A person who has a "living will" bould revoke it at any time.

RANDY SCRST/staff photographe



### **Fence remains** as 'haggling' ends for family

Michael Jones and his family can keep their picket fence after all. A court battle over fence ordinance violations, which one neighbor called "eight months of haggling," ended before, the Farmington City Council, which granted Jones a variance to keep his fence.

But many months of misunder standings led the Cass Street homeowner to believe:

• he had approval for his fence work, which the city said he did not; and

• he had approval for his fence work, which the city sald he did not; and
• that he was repairing the 26-year-old rotting fence. The city took hep poslion that he replaced it.

The situation began last May, when the city issued a "stop" order on the project. That led to a city ordinance (tect and a c-urt hearing, where District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington found in favor of the city. The judge deferred scattening on the lack-of-permit charge until the council made a decision about the variance.

After debating the matter Feb. 6, the council voted unanimously to approve the variance, which allows jones to leave his fence extended to within five feet of the front sidewalk. Under city ordinance, no fence ean extend past the front building line.

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"I DIM peoples only to the past in "The peoples only to the past in the council vote the past in the p

"I DID repairs only to the part in front of the building line. Three or four members were broken and rotted. I thought, as a homeowner, I had an obligation," said Jones. "I've spent the last eight years trying to keep the doggone thing together."

The fence in the rear portion of

the yard is new, he said.

City attorney John Donohue said he supported code enforcement officer John Konsol's Interpretation of the situation. Donohue said Konsel and the situation of the situation of the letter of the law on behalf of the eity.

But council members said it appeared Jones had received approval for his fence through a letter he received last August. The letter he received last August. The letter stated an application for permit had been 'reviewed and approved.'

It sounds like the had a pertert and approved to build the fence, and councilman William Hartsock.

"If he's guilty of anything, it's that he haard pad the 18 feed."

he hasn't paid the \$15 fee."

JONES SAID he tried to pay the \$15 and was told the city would not accept cash. Meanwhile, he moved ahead on the fence construction and repairs, which caused the city to teket him and bring him lino court.

"It tooks to me like John Koncsel cranted him permission to build a fence." Mayor Richard Tupper granted. "This should be a good lesson to us. I've no problem with letting it remain."

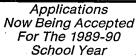
City manager Robert Deadman said that even if such permission were granted, Jones still had to followed by the control of the said that even if such permission were granted, Jones still had to followed by the said that even if such perhission were granted, Jones still had to followed by the said that even if such pebbor's behalf Monday, "I have no objection to that fence at all." said Stanley Thomas.

"What concerns me is the amount."

that fence at all," said Stanley Thomas.

"What concerns me is the amount of time being spent in this Instance," added Tim Miller. "There's been eight months worth of haggling for something that could have taken one week."

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