

A slice of life
in the fast lane, 1D



Baseball
regional, 1C

Two-income family
appeals up in Hills, 6A

Farmington Observer

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ANGER aimed at county, not city. Farmington school trustees Helen Prutow wants to assure Farmington Hills city officials her anger over a proposed sewer holding tank on the O.E. Dunekel Middle School property, northeast of 12 Mile and Farmington Road, is directed at the county, not at them.

"When I said 'sleazy' (referring to the project), I didn't mean that was the city. I'm upset with the county," she said at the May 31 school board meeting.

City officials told school officials they were concerned about recent angry comments made about how the project is being handled.

The Oakland County Drain Commission is handling installation of the holding tank, part of the multicity Evergreen/Farmington Sewer System District.

REMINDER: If you see Old Glory flying high Wednesday, that's because of Flag Day, a day to commemorate Old Glory.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

- The severe rain and windstorm that swept through this portion of the state Saturday took its toll on Farmington apple growers.
- The distinction of being presented to their majesties, the King and Queen of England, came to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wallbank of Farmington during the royal visit to Canada and the United States.
- Plans to raise \$100 to aid Oakland County victims of the recent tornado are being pushed by the Farmington branch of the American Red Cross.

— Farmington Enterprise, June 15, 1939

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With the help of Farmington Hills resident Beverly Cornell and her dog, Bristol, orphaned raccoons Charlie Brown and Linus are fast learning about the world in which they'll soon have to survive alone.

Freedom bound

Baby raccoons going back to wild

If Mother Nature has her way, orphaned baby raccoons Charlie Brown and Linus should be embracing freedom in the wild by late July or early August.

"They are very much showing wild instincts now. They're showing more aggression, which is good," said Farmington Hills resident Beverly Cornell, licensed by the state Department of Natural Resources to care for wild animals who have been orphaned.

Paper-trained and free of their glass aquarium incubator, Charlie, more than 5 weeks old, and Linus, more than 6 weeks old, now live and romp in a 3-foot tall cage, complete with hammock and enough stuffed toy animals to pass for a baby's play pen.

Charlie and Linus are among a number of orphaned wild animals Cornell is raising. Since a story about Charlie and Linus ran in the Observer May 11, Cornell has had 13 orphaned raccoons placed elsewhere. A skunk, a red squirrel and myriad of birds also have graced the Cornell household recently.

Joining Charlie and Linus as honored house guests are Snoopy, a baby wild rabbit, and Peppermint and

Patty, two orphaned newborn birds. When Snoopy first arrived from Novi after a thunderstorm contributed to the deaths of his three siblings, Cornell thought the chances of his survival were slim.

"They have an adrenal system that when handled or scared once too often . . . boom. That's it," Cornell said.

THE BABY rabbit also has a small white spot in the middle of his forehead that naturally disappears when he's ready to face the wild.

Cornell is uncertain of the breed of Peppermint and Patty because of their size. The pair arrived from Ohio in an evergreen tree sent to Steinkopf Nursery, Farmington.

"They heard little beeps," Cornell said, of nursery employees who found the orphaned birds in a nest. Employees contacted the state Department of Natural Resources, which, in turn, contacted Cornell.

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Haggerty plans draw mixed views

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

To Farmington Hills resident Denise Holmes, building a new boulevard a half-mile west of congested Haggerty Road in Novi makes sense.

West Bloomfield resident Jerry Hersh agreed. "You must do something with Haggerty. It's getting more and more intolerable."

But to long-time Novi residents Virginia Valenti and Delphine Lovrenich, some of the Michigan Department of Transportation's plans for improvements — particularly building a new boulevard a half-mile west of Haggerty in Novi — make no sense. They resent that Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield residents have stuck their noses into the issue.

"It's none of their business where it goes," said Valenti, a resident of the Summit Hills subdivision near 12 Mile and Meadowbrook.

Lovrenich, a 25-year Summit Hills resident, agreed. "They (West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills) aren't willing to give up land. Why is it all put on Novi's shoulders?"

'It definitely can't stay the way it is.'

— Nick Cipponeri of Farmington Glens

The residents were among more than 800 from West Bloomfield and Commerce townships, Farmington Hills and Novi who attended a public hearing Wednesday at Novi High School to hear about an environmental impact study for the proposed Haggerty Road connector project.

"THE TURNOUT, reception and comments went beyond anything I have ever imagined," said MDOT public hearings officer Philip Chisholm. "A normal hearing, even on something this big, brings out maybe 35-40 people."

The informal hearing allowed residents to submit written statements or to give comments privately to one

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Many prefer new boulevard

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Early predictions show public preference leaning toward construction of a new boulevard a half-mile west of Haggerty Road in Novi.

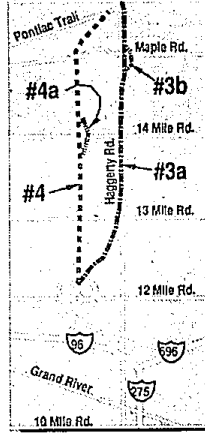
"It was quite overwhelming in favor of 4A," Michigan Department of Transportation public hearings officer Philip Chisholm said. Alternative 4A calls for building a new road a half mile west of Haggerty in Novi.

Court reporters taking public comment at a hearing in Novi High School Wednesday said about 90 percent of the residents in attendance said they favored building a new route west of Haggerty. By Thursday, all but three of the 40 letters Chisholm received preferred a new boulevard, Chisholm said.

"There is no clear-cut, perfect solution. They all have impacts," said Marshall Eames of the Chicago-based Envirodyne Engineers, which drafted the Haggerty Road connector environmental impact statement.

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Haggerty Road Connector - the 4 alternatives



Group fights to save C'ville

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

With petitions being circulated by a group that seeks to dissolve the Clarenceville School District, a group opposing such a move also is rallying support.

"My first reaction was, what was their (the pro-dissolution group's) purpose for doing it, was there a sound foundation for it," said Wilson "Dutch" Bowden of Livonia, who has two children attending Clarenceville schools.

Bowden is president of Informed Residents for Clarenceville, which opposes dissolution of the district, which takes in part of southeast Farmington Hills.

'The way I feel, bigger's not better. . . This is what I wanted for my family, I don't want to see this destroyed.'

— Wilson Bowden save C'ville group

group Community to Dissolve Clarenceville are "a little misleading."

"The way I feel, bigger's not better," Bowden said. "I have no problems with Livonia schools, with Farmington schools or with Redford. This is what I wanted for my family. I don't want to see this destroyed."

The group Community to Dissolve Clarenceville also held a third informational meeting last week.

Susan Gonzales of Farmington Hills, an organizer of the group, said that after canvassing more than 50 percent of the district, she has collected more than 1,000 petition signatures favoring dissolution.

Gonzales said she's also examining a provision under a state act to allow Farmington Hills portions of the Clarenceville district, bordering on the Farmington Public Schools, to join that district — if residents in areas seeking to leave Clarenceville obtain two-thirds approval for such an action.

BOWDEN SAID strengths of the Clarenceville district include:

- Academic letters, the guaranteed diploma, high school competency testing and the developmental kindergarten program. He added that 50 percent of last year's graduating class is attending college, or other higher education.
- Parents, he said, "have a great relationship with the administrators, the principals and the teachers." And because the district is small, Bowden said, "You are really in touch with what is happening in your school district, you really know what's going on."
- "That basic education level is a very essential thing."

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School vote is expected to top '88

Farmington Public Schools election officials expect today's turnout in the annual district election to exceed last year's.

"We're preparing for a little higher turnout, but not significantly — nothing like we had for the January bond election," said Betal Duschninke, business support services supervisor for the 10,700-student district.

In the January special election, in which voters approved \$7.3 million in bonds for a new west-side elementary, 4,745 votes were cast, 453 by absentee ballot.

By early Friday, Duschninke had received 82 absentee voter applications for today's election. In last June's annual district election to fill two school board seats, 565 voters, or 1.1 percent, voted; 63 voted by absentee ballot.

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