

Karate champion
keys in on power, 1D



Hawks grid
champs, 1C

Bagels are not just
breakfast foods, 1B

Farmington Observer

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WORLDWIDE acclaim.
The Farmington Hills Fire Department was a finalist in the first International Association of Fire Chiefs fire service excellence award program.
The department received a plaque for its "special contribution to the advancement of fire protection."

NATIONAL exposure.
Copies of Jean M. Fox's hardcover book, "Fred M. Warner, Progressive Governor," a 500-page biography of Farmington's most famous politician, have made their way to the Yale and Harvard campus libraries and to the University of Guelph, in Ontario.
"We're becoming international," quipped Fox, Farmington Hills mayor pro tem and a noted local historian. Warner was governor from 1905-11.

Memory lane

50 years ago:
• Unless the owners of 21 parcels in Farmington pay certain delinquent taxes before Nov. 3, their property will be taken over by the state and sold at auction.
— Farmington Enterprise, Oct. 10, 1939

This week

BOTSFORD General Hospital will host a free Halloween Party for preschool and elementary-age kids from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29 in the Administration & Education Center, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

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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.

Hills planners say no to rezoning bid

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington Hills planners have unanimously recommended denying the rezoning of a 2.5-acre residential parcel across from city hall — land the owner asserts has been impossible to sell.

Lyncroft resident Mary Hurd had the land — north of 11 Mile, between Orchard Lake Road and Power — on

the market intermittently for four years.

Preventing more commercial encroachment into residential areas ranks as a major campaign theme for many candidates in this fall's race for five city council seats.

In August, she applied for a rezoning from RA-2 (one-family residential district) to OS-1 (office service district). A preliminary hearing by planners was Sept. 14.

"It's a choice piece of property, but not for residential," said Hurd, who has owned the house since 1971. As an engineer, she left a job in Chicago to pursue the sale.

MANY RESIDENTS in the nearby Pasadena Park subdivision attended Thursday night's planning commission meeting. Planners received a petition bearing 133 names from subdivision residents who oppose the

rezoning. The subdivision is generally north of Hurd's property.

"This is not in accordance with the master plan," said John Traflet, planning commission chair.

Rezoning would be incompatible with the future land use and would be spot zoning, said Ed Gardner, senior city planner.

SANDRA MURPHY, a real estate agent for Pasadena Design and Building in West Bloomfield Township, is

handling the land.

"It's a last-resort measure for her (Hurd)," Murphy said. "We have offered it at 25-30 percent below market level. It's been a great hardship for her."

The land, appraised at \$217,000, has a 650-foot frontage and is 140 feet deep. It includes an 80-year-old farmhouse.

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Winter visits early

By Noreen Flack
and Casey Hans
staff writers

An early blast of winter brought down tree limbs and electrical wires Thursday in Farmington and Farmington Hills, leaving about 700 Detroit Edison customers without power and a high school closed.

Power outages began at 8:30 a.m. on the sloshy, bitter day. Affected areas included the Middlebelt corridor from Nine to 13 Mile and the Farmington Road-Nine Mile area.

All customers were expected to have power restored by Saturday afternoon, said Fred Steen, Edison operations supervisor for Oakland County.

Countywide, 37,000 residents lost power. The 2.3-inch rolling snowfall overloaded tree limbs holding leaves that had not yet fallen. Many tree limbs fell on electrical wires, causing the power outages.

ON THURSDAY, Farmington reported at least one downed wire, on Grand River near Shilawasee.



Farmington Hills police officer Daryl Slowinski directs traffic past the scene of a fallen tree limb on Nine Mile, north of Grand River, at the height of Thursday's snowstorm. In the back-

ground, Matthew Berlins, a Department of Public Service worker, hauls a limb to the chipper.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills reported at least eight downed or arcing wires. A clogged ditch caused flooding on Lundy.

Most fallen limbs were found along 10 Mile, west of Middlebelt, said Dan Rooney, Farmington Hills Department of Public Works super-

intendent. DFW workers also removed limbs that were expected to fall, he said.
By noon Thursday in Farmington

Hills, snow mixed with rain creating slick roads. Crews were sent out to

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Contamination forces Kroger to recall milk

By James Radebaugh
staff writer

The Kroger Co. last week recalled one-quart cartons of its Kroger brand skim milk with a "use by" date of Oct. 26 after a carton of the milk sold in West Bloomfield was found to contain a water-based chlorine sanitizing solution. The contaminated milk was distributed to

two or three stores in the Farmington, West Bloomfield area.

The Kroger store in Farmington at 10 Mile and Grand River reported that two customers each returned a quart of the Kroger skim milk Oct. 16, complaining that the product tasted funny. These milk cartons weren't tied to the contamination incident until Thursday.

Kroger officials said the contamination was

limited to "a few cartons" and that no injuries had resulted. Nevertheless, the recall applies to all 54 Michigan Kroger stores, a spokesman said.

Although the woman who bought the product in West Bloomfield got a carton "full of chlorine water," other cartons contained only traces of the solution, according to William McCarthy, director of the dairy division of the

Michigan Department of Agriculture, which is investigating the incident.

THE PRESENCE of the solution is easily detectable by a chlorine odor and drinking it is no more harmful than drinking swimming pool water, McCarthy said.

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Stepping aside Councilwoman looks forward to taking life at a slower pace

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Farmington Hills councilwoman JoAnn (Jody) Soronen watched a city develop while she guided her own family's growth.

Soronon, 54, who chose not to run for re-election to the city council this year, looks forward to removing only a few irons from the fire. She's leaving after her third four-year term.

"You get tired," said Soronen, explaining her decision. "I guess I decided that I wasn't willing to give up that much time anymore. It takes an unbelievable amount of time some weeks."

"It's not only council meetings, it's reading the packets every week, extra meetings with council and joint meetings and the road commission."

Her voice trailed off still delineating.

"But there's no guarantee that I'm going to watch Monday night football. I hate football," she said. "I just may do nothing for awhile."

Soronon, Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director, is straightfor-

people

ward, down-to-earth and matter-of-fact. But she sports a wry wit.

"ONE THING about Jody is that whether she agrees with you or not, people still like her," Mayor Terry Sever said. "People feel good about her. She holds no grudges."

He lightheartedly remembered a League of Cities convention one year in Boston when the weather turned blustery and he didn't bring a winter coat. Embarking on a shopping expedition at some discount stores, Soronen reportedly said to him: "Don't you buy it until I see it."

"I felt like I had my mother with me," Sever said with a laugh.

When Soronen steps down from the council table, she'll leave the chairmanship of the Michigan Municipal League legislative committee, an appointed position. She has also served on the board of trustees.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jody Soronen, not seeking re-election this year, continues in her post as the executive director of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Behind her office desk hang community service plaques she has been awarded through the years.

Key posts to open in district

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The retirement of six Farmington school administrators, and the subsequent transfer of others, will open several key posts in the district this year.

The six have more than 150 years of combined experience with Farmington Public Schools.

Included in the retirement list are middle school principals Robert Brown of Power and Donald Keen of O.E. Dunckel, who both retired last June.

Retiring this December are assistant superintendent for administrative operations Lynn Nutter, Eagle Elementary principal Frank Kasun, Cloverdale Center principal Douglas Smith and North Farmington High School administrative assistant Joseph Chasson.

O.E. Dunckel assistant principal Robert Anderson was also scheduled to retire in December. He died suddenly last Wednesday.

All leave the district under a new retirement incentive plan adopted by the district during the 1988-89 school year, offering each administrator \$5,000 per year for five years.

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