

Home entertainment has big price tag, 6D



Holiday hoops, 1C

Group starts recall of county exec, 5A

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Fifty Cents

House called unfit for humans

By Susan Buck
staff writer

"Unfit for human habitation."

That's how an Oakland County Health Department official described a condemned house at 34355 Colfax in Farmington Hills where a 416-pound woman was found lying on a filthy mattress in the basement.

Meanwhile, Farmington Hills police inspector Richard Niemisto said that between \$12,500 to \$13,000 was found in the women's

mattress when it was taken to Boisford Hospital Dec. 20.

Police are holding the money in the property room until someone with power of attorney comes forward, he said.

Jerry White, chief of field services for the health department, said an employee, Dr. Ghaznar Ali Shah, accompanied Farmington Hills building and zoning inspectors on a tour of the small brick house less than a block east of 9111 Elementary School. They were there to issue an opinion, he said.

"Aside from the odor, there were dirty dishes, debris, water in the basement and puddles here and there," Wright said. "It's not often that we encounter something like this."

THE CITY'S BUILDING and zoning department did a detailed 40-minute inspection of the house Thursday to determine if it should be demolished or professionally sanitized, officials said.

"We have to have probable cause," building inspector Leonard Chapman said. "We just

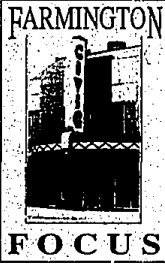
can't barge in."

Chapman said that he plans to make a return trip to take another look at the exterior. "We might recommend that it (the house) be removed," Chapman said.

That final determination rests, however, with the Farmington Hills City Council.

Chapman said that the Colfax house was moved to its location in April 1971. Records list the owner as Beverly J. Tyler.

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WHEN IT COMES TO graduation, Farmington school officials are saying hello to Cobo Hall and goodbye to Ford Auditorium. Members of the classes of 1991 at Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison will walk across the stage at Detroit's Cobo Hall in June. Previous classes had used Ford Auditorium. Another major change: All three public high schools will hold graduation ceremonies the same date, June 9, a Sunday. Farmington's ceremony will start at noon, North Farmington's at 4 p.m. and Harrison's at 8 p.m. School officials started searching for another graduation site about a year ago when they learned that Ford Auditorium might be razed to make way for Comerica Bank's headquarters.

FARMINGTON'S Economic Development Corp., which raises and disperses funds for city projects, has been "mothballed," according to Robert Deadman, city manager. Because of changes in the Federal Tax Code, he said, few EDC programs can be started these days. The remaining balance of \$25,000 in the EDC fund has been transferred to the city's general fund. The money will be used for projects such as improving Orchard Lake Road.

COMMUNITY education enrichment program will be offered at nine elementary schools in the Farmington District beginning Jan. 14.

The after-school classes, sponsored by the Farmington Schools, include The Farmington Children's Chorus, directed by Kathy Serenat at Wooddale Elementary. Participants will be taped and cablecast on Channel 10.

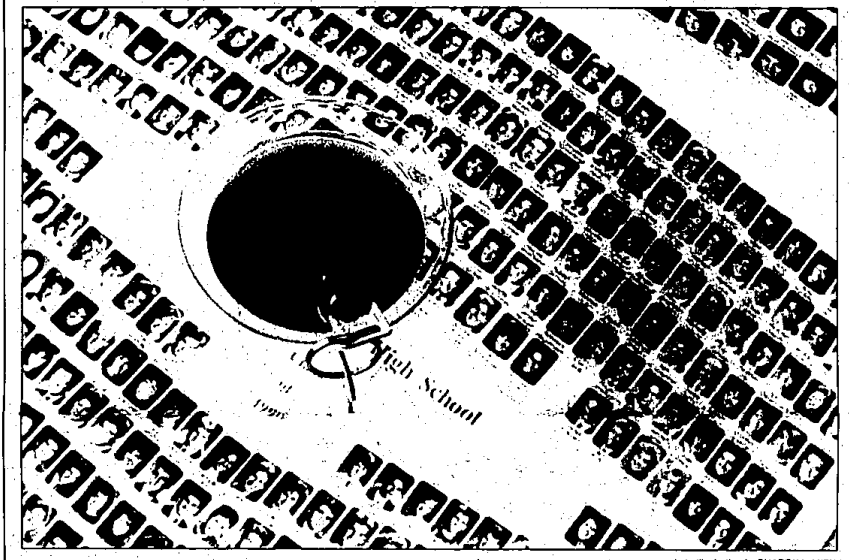
Other new class offerings including baby-sitting, great book discussions, folk tales, children's golf, junior aerobics, math pentathlon games, and sciences and astronaut boosters.

Farmington community ed officials are also looking for enthusiastic instructors with specialized talents or skills to teach in the children's program. Instructors don't need to be certified.

Classes will be held at Eagle, Highmeadow, Kenbrook, Longacre, Wood Creek, Forest, Gill, Hillside and Wooddale elementary schools.

For more information, call Terry Leland, community ed supervisor, at 489-3830.

MEMORY LANE — From the Jan. 4, 1951, Farmington Enterprise: Only 162 voters — about 15 percent of the electorate in the city of Farmington — turned out to vote in a special election to pick nine city charter commissioners. Trace Conroy topped the field of 15 with 127 voters. Others elected were George Oulu, Edward Alexander, Howard Warner, Charles Layton, Victor Blakeslee, Dr. G. Franklin Weaver, Mabel Checketts and Roy Erdmann. The commission was to revise the city charter to allow for a city manager form of government. Pierre Delmoetter was named chairman of the 1951 March of Dimes campaign for the Farmington area.



A SADD message

Students Against Driving Drunk chapters throughout Oakland County offer a message to the community during the school year, especially at the holiday season: If you plan to drink, please don't drive. Drivers should remember that their actions

may affect many others. Mothers Against Driving Drunk is sponsoring a campaign asking drivers to tie a red ribbon on their cars as a reminder not to drink and drive. The Observer & Eccentric supports their efforts.

photo illustration by SHARON LAMIEUX

Jumping for Joey

Aerobic-A-Thon raises funds to buy wheelchair lift for boy

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Aerobic Connection in Farmington Hills will be jumping for Joey in January. A fund-raiser to raise \$2,500 for a wheelchair lift for Joey Davis, a 2½ year-old Northville boy with severe physical and mental retardation.

Several times every hour, Joey flinches his arms, rolls his eyes and loses consciousness. His mother, Carla, 30 and separated, knows immediately that he is having a seizure. Everytime he has a seizure, he loses time developmentally.

Joey needs total care because he can't move anything on his own. He's blind and weighs 25 pounds of dead weight. "Joey just sees shadows," said Carla, 30, a

surgical registered nurse who works part-time at Garden City Osteopathic Hospital. "We don't know if he can interpret anything he sees."

Carla is currently embroiled in litigation with Providence Hospital in Southfield, trying to prove that Joey's severe mental and physical difficulties are the result of a birth injury.

SHE'S HOPING the outcome of the lawsuit will assist her in purchasing a home that is barrier-free for her son.

"I want him to be taken care of properly," Carla said. "I don't want him to go to a nursing home. I haven't gotten to the point where I can leave him with strangers. If I quit my job, I would get lots of help. I have applied for SSI (Social Security), but was denied."



Carla Davis and retarded son Joey in their Northville home. "He never cries."

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New site to save towns \$10 million

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A regional recycling authority will save \$10 million by using a Southfield site for its recycling station, and the head of that group hopes the facility will begin operating as early as 1992.

Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager and chairman of the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland

County, said language is being finalized for a \$19 million option to purchase and engineering and environmental assessments will soon begin on property at the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Evergreen, a machine shop site.

The authority will have 90 days to exercise its option on the property. "When this site came to our attention, it clearly was a better site, if for nothing more than economic reasons," he said. He said RRRASOC

would save \$10 million over a proposed site on the Novi/Farmington Hills border, which would have cost more than \$20 million and faced strong opposition from area residents. The project will now cost the eight RRRASOC member communities an estimated \$12.5 million.

CALLED A "material recovery facility," the station will be used for crushing, sorting and rebundling recyclables such as newspaper, glass,

aluminum and plastics. RRRASOC is comprised of representatives from the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, South Lyon and the recently added community of Lyon Township. Its charge is to aid in the handling of the solid waste stream in all the communities; many have already begun curbside recycling programs and have recycling centers as part of the process. Deadman said the Southfield site is in "impeccable condition" and that "we are very hopeful we can

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Stolen pets need warmth

Could die out in cold

Two exotic pets stolen from a Farmington store last week might die if not properly cared for, say the owners.

A South American cayman and a Cuban anole, both lizard-like creatures from a tropical environment, were snatched from Pet World of Farmington on Thursday afternoon in sub-zero weather.

"If they're out in the cold, they'll die pretty quickly — probably within 10 minutes," said Linda Mosley

who owns the store with her husband Mike at 31830 Grand River, two blocks west of Orchard Lake. "It's not the money, it's the little critters. We don't want to see them get cold and die. They may die if they don't get fed properly."

The Mosleys reported the creatures stolen by three young teenage boys at about 2:30 on Thursday, shortly after one of the boys had inquired about how much one of the pets cost. When owner Mike Mosley

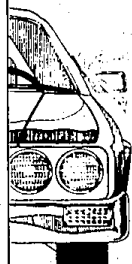
'We don't want to see them get cold and die.'

— Linda Mosley

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Have a Happy and Safe New Year

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