

Lawmakers react to abortion decision, 5A



Pools get review, 1D

Sewer work threatens to go over budget, 3A



Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 41

Thursday, February 21, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

72 Pages

Fifty Cents



FARMINGTON councilman Richard Tupper is worried about joggers, especially those who seem to have a death wish.

Tupper said he regularly passes them while driving on main highways like Farmington Road. "The crowning glory," he said during a recent council meeting, "was a guy jogging down the middle of Eight Mile Road during afternoon rush hour."

Public safety director Frank Lauhoff said the department sometimes issues tickets to joggers and bicyclists who cause a hazard.

"Why they want to risk their lives I don't know," Lauhoff said. "We have issued violations for it."

SPEAKING OF THE Farmington Council, Mayor Shirley Richardson will chair a council committee to plan for the city's 125th anniversary as a village in 1992, it was decided Monday evening.

"I envision a yearlong celebration with three or four events," the mayor said. "Neighboring Farmington Hills will be asked to join the festivities, she added."

FARMINGTON-AREA Lions Club has started its annual sale of chocolate Easter bunnies, each stamped with the Lion insignia.

Club members take a carton of the yellow-and-purple boxes to sell wherever they work, and then it is Beulah Viergie's job to put them up for sale in as many cooperative businesses as she can find.

The bulk of the profits go to aid the blind, especially the Leader Dog School for the Blind and the Penrickton Nursery School for Blind Children.

Last year's Easter sale raised \$1,800. Goal for this year is \$2,500. Boxes sell for \$3 each.

Lion Jack Kavlakian of the Westbrook Cleaners on 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads will answer questions and take orders at 553-4850.

ST. PATRICK'S Day isn't until March 17 (a Sunday this year), but Irish eyes are always smiling at Donovan's Country Store in Farmington.

And on Saturday, March 9, the business, in the Village Mall, 3335 Grand River, will hold its fourth-annual St. Pat's Open House from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Shoppers bringing a non-perishable donation for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen will receive a discount on their purchase.

Refreshments and entertainment will also be part of the scene, according to owners Peggy and Ann Marie Donovan.

MEMORY - LANE - From the Feb. 22, 1991, Farmington Enterprise:

Around the Block item: "Farmington is facing the Great Mud. From now to April, we're told, we can expect mud in various kinds and quantities. It might do well to prepare for it now. It's doubtful that our rural roads have ever been in better condition to meet it. Our rural roads aren't city streets — and even city streets are in for a crucial test if the predictions hold true. They say that forewarned is forearmed. Maybe now would be a good time to swap the Stanley for one of those amaR size tractors we saw down at Everett Implement."



A Capitol job

Republican State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, leads a busy, frugal life at work in Lansing. She will move her office from the state Capitol, which is being restored, to a building across the street. Party voters will remain in the historic building of a story and more photos of the second-term legislator, see Page 3A.

Hills passes up chance to buy golf course

By Joanne Maliszowski staff writer

The city of Farmington Hills will not buy the still-unfinished nine-hole Copper Creek Country Club. And that suits many Copper Creek residents just fine.

"I have visions of beer cans in my front yard," said Candy Nelson, a Copper Creek resident whose home sits near the clubhouse.

Like many others in the development north of 11 Mile, between Hagerty and Haledel, Nelson paid a premium to be right next to what was promised by Biltmore Development Co. to be a high-style, championship golf course and country club. The course meanders around the buses.

But the city course is for sale. Developers used the course to sell Aldrich 650 years. Aldrich is a well-known go course operator up for sale. Biltmore develop-

Stollman and Norman Men were unavailable for comment.

Many residents said they were unaware of the proposal, particularly to the city. The city already owns the nine-hole on 11 Mile and 12 Mile roads.

In a 5-2 vote, the city council agreed to forego plans to open a course, which was announced in August 1989. Marks wanted to buy the course. The other five members of the purchase, which would have been financed most likely by revenue bonds.

Twelve Copper Creek residents questioned the proposed \$560,000 purchase especially because a municipal course and clubhouse would likely not be the type which they felt developers promised. Residents also wondered how their

Please turn to Page 2

Cities see drop in major crimes

By Joanne Maliszowski and Casey Hans staff writers

While some neighboring communities are seeing crime increase, residents in both Farmington Hills and Farmington experienced a major crime drop in 1990, a trend one police chief calls "substantial" and "encouraging."

The crime drop ranges from 16.8 percent in the Hills to 22 percent in Farmington and includes major reported crimes such as armed robberies, rapes, burglaries and larcenies. Neither city had a murder in 1990.

The reported decreases in 1990 are the largest either city has seen in years.

"It's very encouraging," said Frank Lauhoff, Farmington director of public safety, who oversees both

police and fire operations for the city.

"We saw the decrease early last year... with a 15-percent drop in the first quarter. Things continued to decline... even through the summer months," Lauhoff said.

IN FARMINGTON Hills, whose population, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures, is 74,652, the decrease in serious crimes is dramatic, said police Chief William Dwyer.

"We're the safest city in the county, almost. I don't think there is one contributing factor. It's a number of variables," he said.

Both cities fared exceptionally well when compared to Oakland County crime statistics averages.

Dwyer considers the decrease in

Please turn to Page 2

Hills voters to face parks tax question

By Joanne Maliszowski staff writer

Tuesday, May 7, is the date Farmington Hills voters will be asked to renew an expired 0.5-mill levy for parks and recreation for eight years.

The council's approval of the ballot language and an eight-year plan of projects and goals Monday kicks off what's expected to be an active campaign to convince voters to give their blessings to the renewal. The

previous levy, which was for five years, expired in July.

Parks and recreation chairman Dennis Fitzgerald is expected to meet Friday with Patrick Anderson, an economist for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America, to discuss the levy.

"We're going to talk about the coming vote. I've asked Don to bring some facts and figures."

Please turn to Page 6

Snow-removal policy stands, despite lap

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington city council members decided Monday to leave the city's snow-removal policy unchanged, despite an icy reception from residents who believe they were ticketed unfairly.

"We'll just pay our tickets, I guess," said David Nitz, a Wilmarth Street resident who received one of 22 misdemeanor tickets in January. "I'm not happy about it."

Most residents said they did not oppose the city law — which re-

quires residents of businesses to keep their sidewalks clean of snow and ice but liked the city's snow-removal policy unchanged, despite an icy reception from residents who believe they were ticketed unfairly.

"Somebody's wrong here when a whole block gets hit," another resident said.

COUNCIL MEMBERS debated the policy fine for nearly an hour at

Please turn to Page 6



'Fabulous Foremothers'

Dolls representing Elizabeth Gady Stanton (left) and Lucretia Coffin are two of the collection that star in the program called "Our Fabulous Foremothers," brought here by Farmington Older Women's League in celebration of Women's History Month. For a story and more photographs, see Page 1B.

what's inside

Building scene	Sec. 14
Business	Sec. 4
Cable connection	Sec. 10
Classrooms	Sec. 14
Auto	Sec. 14
Real estate	Sec. 14
Employment	Sec. 14
Creative funding	Sec. 14
Crossword puzzle	14
Entertainment	14
Obituaries	14
Opinion	14
Police news	14
Sports	Sec. 14
Suburban life	Sec. 14
Travel	14

The CLASSIFIEDS

One call does it all!

591-0900

Use Your MasterCard or Visa