

Woman... calls the...

...ville... 2B

School trustees ask for... skating board...

# Farmington Observer

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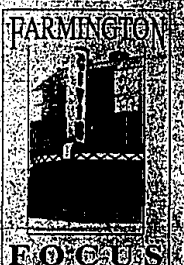
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Farmington, Michigan

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**FOCUS**

**A**N INTERVIEW with Marion Somerville, Farmington Hills resident, who was crowned Miss Farmington Hills 1991. She is the daughter of the late Marion Somerville, who was a member of the Farmington Hills Board of Education. She is currently a student at the University of Michigan. She is also a member of the Farmington Hills Board of Education. She is currently a student at the University of Michigan. She is also a member of the Farmington Hills Board of Education.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

## Here she is . . .

Marion Somerville walked away from the Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant with the roses of victory, the crown and the title of Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills 1991. Crowned by Allison Ayres, Miss Farmington 1990, the new title holder also

won the talent award by singing the Country-Western classic, "Stand By Your Man." She will begin her official duties with a three-day round of public appearances during Founders Day activities beginning today.

## Kids dress up pets for show

□ Civil War kicks off festival, 3A  
What the animals say, 4A

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Kids and pets. There's nothing quite like them.

Just ask Terry Welti.

"When I was a little girl I had my kittens in the best dressed category," said Welti, who was born and raised in the Farmington area.

Welti came back with her children Tuesday for the 24th Annual Pet Show — a spectacular part of the

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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

## No field of dreams Work stirs up residents' complaints

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Something smells on Lamar Street in Farmington.

Residents there say they are tired of living with the noisy trucks, smelly dirt and drainage problems they have experienced since April because of an athletic field renovation at neighboring Farmington High School.

Although the project is nearly complete and many of the problems rectified, several residents vented their frustrations Monday evening at a school board meeting.

"I have dust all over my furniture, and all the dust smells like cow manure," said resident Chris Schoenfeld, who told tales of continuous dump trucks from morning until night which traveled along his property line beginning in early April.

"It's hard to believe, but it's been a nightmare," he added.

Resident Karen Tinn said she was told nothing about a drainage ditch being installed, and that a dividing berm was built on a "very steep grade" and "starts right at the fence line."

started when the Farmington school district contracted with Dan's Excavating — the company doing a nearby sewer construction project on Orchard Lake Road — to bring excess dirt to redo the field area. Residents said the dirt smelled terrible and spring storms flooded a number of back yards before the contractors could build appropriate drainage along a newly built berm.

Although soil samples checking for contaminants came back negative, the smells continued. Ron Aten, district architect, said the smell

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## Storm pounds area, residents see bright side

□ Residents deal with power loss, 10A

By Casey Hans and  
Joanne Maliszewski

Everyone had a storm story to tell this week, as the Farmington area recovered from weekend electrical storms which pounded the area with 70 mph winds, downing tree limbs, cutting off power to hundreds of residents and inconveniencing many.

Things were touch-and-go at the Koon home on Tall Oaks in Farmington, where an underground gas main was apparently struck by lightning and ruptured, filling the basement with gas and making the situation potentially explosive.

Public safety Officer Tony Gubacz smelled gas Monday morning as he was going door-to-door, alerting neighbors about an electrified fence nearby.

Neighbors in four houses were evacuated until utility workers came out and the area could be cleared.

Farmington Hills resident Frank Houtteker was driving home on Newburgh Road when he saw two big bolts of lightning. He had a feeling, "I'll bet that's right at the house."

Sure enough it was. A 70-year-old Blue Spruce that soared about 75 feet into the sky was cracked and lying on its side — thankfully away from Houtteker's Glenmuir house.

"If it had hit the house, it would have been totaled," Houtteker said. "Thank God it didn't hurt anyone or knock the house down."

THOSE FEELINGS were felt over and over Monday morning in the aftermath of a severe thunderstorm Sunday night.

On Floral in Farmington, neighbors gathered around the home of Nancy Oglesby and what was left of her white Pontiac 6000.

"Oh my God," one of Oglesby's neighbors exclaimed when she saw the large tree lying smack in the middle of the car in the driveway.

Nancy wasn't home that night. Her son, Ronald, left before the storm, and returned about 10 p.m., to find the almost halved car as well

*"If it had hit the house, it would have been totaled. Thank God it didn't hurt anyone or knock the house down."*

— Frank Houtteker

as a banged up Volkswagen parked behind the Pontiac.

Monday was clean up day for Farmington-area residents as well as city crews. But Bob Flemming and Marion Somerville on Maple in Farmington didn't wait; they were out early sweeping up debris that fell on their street.

But in Sommerville's backyard she had another problem. A beautiful weeping willow planted in 1974 cracked and fell just within her fence. "I didn't hear a doggone thing," Sommerville said.

For once, Farmington Hills didn't suffer flooding from the quick, heavy rains Sunday night. But the area was full of downed trees and power lines and debris.

"We're working on clean up today," said Dan Rooney, supervisor of the Farmington Hills Department of Public Works. Farmington crews were just as busy.

POLICE and fire call logs were filled with storm-related notations throughout Sunday night and Monday.

At 8:50 p.m., Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer called in the midnight shift. At 9:30 p.m., auxiliary officers also were called. Thirty-five officers were on the road.

Though there were no reported injuries from the storm, 156 calls were received over the 911 emergency service system, with 63 of them fire-related, Dwyer said.

Farmington Hills firefighters spent the evening in much the same way. Arcing wires dominated the evening. Firefighters stood by many areas with downed wires waiting for Edison crews to arrive.

In the smaller city of Farmington, 30 calls were logged between 8:40 p.m. and 10:45 p.m., including a fire

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Zachery Welti of Detroit holds on tight to Peter, a 6½-year-old Great Dane during the Pet Show at Kids Day, a popular feature of the Farmington Founders Festival. Zachery's mother, Terry Welti, used to enter her pets in the show as a child.

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