

A different stroke makes Difference, 7B



Season outlook, 1B

Baker's breads rise to the top at fair, 3B



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Recycling requirement may be eased

Plan offers exemptions

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Certain Farmington Hills residents would be exempted from participating in the city's mandatory recycling program or paying recycling fees, under a proposed ordinance amendment.

The new citywide recycling program, which took effect July 1 in both Farmington and Farmington Hills, does not currently allow for exemptions.

The Farmington Hills City Council

voted Aug. 12 to introduce an amendment to the city's recycling, composting and solid waste disposal ordinance to allow some exemptions from the program for permanent disability, financial hardship or temporary circumstances making it impossible to participate in the program.

A three-member panel including the city assessor, deputy city treasurer and the senior adult coordinator would make up a Recycling Board of Review to consider the exemption applications.



The cities have accumulated a list of residents with problems through the recycling hot line.

— Thomas Biasell,
director of public service

"I think this is a very fine program," said Councilwoman Jean Fox in making a motion to introduce the change.

THE EXEMPTIONS could include either a full or partial fee waiver de-

pending on income, or exemption from participation in the program because of a physical hardship.

Enactment of the Hills ordinance amendment would allow any changes in policy to be made before

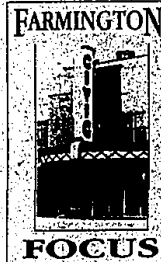
the week of Sept. 9 when recycling program bills are sent out.

The Farmington City Council is expected to consider a similar ordinance this month.

Under the proposed change in the Hills:

• Those with a gross annual household income of \$8,000 or less could be exempted from paying the recycling fee and those households earning \$13,500 or less could have their fee reduced by one half. That would not prohibit these residents from participating in the program, said public services director Thomas Biasell.

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FOCUS

THE LATEST news about the empty Kroger store on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads is that Arbor Drugs will move in. That information isn't from Kroger, however, Farmington Hills staff, according to a city memo, apparently met with Arbor Drugs officials who say they have signed a lease agreement.

Arbor officials also apparently told city staff they have leased their current space — it's unknown to whom — on the southwest corner of Orchard Lake and 13 Mile roads, next to ABC Warehouse.

IN THE wake of a major power outage during a July thunderstorm, everyone is watching Detroit Edison.

The utility says it is spending more than \$5.5 million this year to improve service and reliability for customers out this way in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, West Bloomfield and Commerce Township.

The improvements include a \$3 million transmission line to supply power to a new transformer at Detroit Edison's Drexel substation. The transmission line initially was designed in early 1989 and work was completed July 28.

The Drexel substation is at 12 Mile and Drake roads. Its capacity is being expanded from four to eight circuits. Lines in the area also are being constructed and replaced.

"We are increasing the substation's capacity, which means increased reliability of service to 7,700 customers served by circuits originating at the Drexel substation," said Maurice Vermeulen, manager of Edison's Oakland division.

By this fall, we will double the number of circuits coming from the substation and reduce the number of customers per circuit. This will enable Detroit Edison to isolate problems faster and when problems do occur, they will affect fewer customers.

Customers are being transferred to three of the four new circuits this month and others will be placed on the fourth circuit this fall.

Edison also spent more than \$250,000 to upgrade power lines along Haggerty, between 14 and 15 Mile roads. Almost as much is being spent on a new section of line along Drake, between 14 and 15 mile roads. It's to be completed this fall.

And another section of line along 14 Mile, from Haggerty west to Decker Road is being re-constructed and should be done by mid-August.

MEMORY LANE — From the Aug. 23, 1991, Farmington Enterprise.

The home of Mable Checketts was moved from 33115 Grand River to its new location on Oakland, near Ross Street. The moved drew bystanders who watched as wire repairmen made sure the moving home didn't bump into electrical lines. Moving company workmen were seen sitting on top of the house to take care of overhanging branches and act as guides for wire repairmen.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Stacking books

Mary Sue Munter of Farmington files fiction in alphabetical order by author at the new Books for Less store at the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Road. Owner Skip Rosenthal said most of the books there will sell for \$5 or less. Rosenthal and his wife and co-owner Alice McCoy plan to keep their store across the street, Books Abound, open and

stocked with quality paperbacks and specialty books. "We're still evolving," Rosenthal said, talking about the concept for the new store. "There's plenty of room in downtown Farmington for both." The owners plan to have the new store open by Labor Day.

Farmington Hills rejects skateboard law

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council turned a unanimous thumbs down last week to a Farmington Public Schools request to regulate skateboarding, rollerblading and roller-skating on school property.

Councilman Ben Marks said such a law would just add to the problem of young people complaining because there is nothing to do. "I can't see a thing wrong with a young person using a parking lot after hours," he said. "On the one hand, there's a safety issue involved. On the other hand, I guess I'd rather have the police out there trying to make more drug busts."

Councilman Larry Lichtman said his garage is full of rollerblades and

'On the one hand, there's a safety issue involved. On the other hand, I guess I'd rather have the police out there trying to make more drug busts.'

— Councilman Larry Lichtman

skateboards. "I have visions of the SWAT team coming down on my house," he said.

"On the one hand, there's a safety issue involved. On the other hand, I guess I'd rather have the police out there trying to make more drug busts," Lichtman added.

ON JULY 8 school officials requested that both Farmington and Farmington Hills pass laws prohibiting skateboarding, rollerblading and roller-skating, after then Longacre PTA president Debbie Cornwell raised a safety concern about what she had seen at the elementary

school. Such a law would allow police to come onto school grounds anytime they noticed a problem without an official request from the school district. School officials said they were concerned about child safety, abuse of school property and maintenance problems caused because of such activities.

The city council in neighboring Farmington introduced such a "skateboarding law" on Aug. 5 which prohibits skateboarding, roller skating and rollerblading on public school grounds and in private parking lots without written permission and in the city's downtown business district as well.

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Police warn drivers to be wary of thieves

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Safe driving habits and a defensive mindset should prevail at all times, no matter where someone travels.

That's the opinion of Mirl Spencer, Farmington Hills deputy police chief.

Police in both Farmington and Farmington Hills were asked if they saw any evidence or crossover in the Farmington area of crimes occurring recently in Detroit which involved both armed robbery and auto theft.

They didn't. But they cautioned against motorists adopting a false sense of security in the suburbs. "Car doors should be locked when they leave

the driveway," Spencer said. After parking the car, windows should be rolled up, he said.

"They (criminals) pick the easiest mark around," Spencer said.

Thieves often lie in-waiting in the back seat of the car, waiting to pounce on the owner when he returns to the car, Spencer said.

Detroit police are grappling with a rash of crimes, including one recent weekend when car thieves stole 26 cars in three days. But they didn't stop with auto theft. They also injured or robbed their victims of cash and valuables in the process.

"We haven't seen any of it," said Frank Lauff, director of Farmington public safety. "Those kinds of things tend to occur sporadically."

Occasionally, police see instances of what Lauff calls "bump and rob." In this scenario, the car thief first bumps the car in front of him. When the car owner gets out to discuss the accident the car thief grabs his or her wallet or purse before driving away with the car.

Detroit police are using a new category — RA UDAA, or "robbery armed, unlawfully driving away an automobile" — to record this combination crime.

But Farmington and Farmington Hills police say only Michigan State Police can designate crime categories and technically, this category doesn't exist.

"There's a hierarchy," Lauff said. "We go with the highest offense. In this case it would be armed robbery. There's no new crime category."

Traffic flow is reworked at busy intersection

By Susan Buck
staff writer

The Grand River-Farmington intersection in downtown Farmington will be re-striped and traffic patterns changed, in an effort to reduce traffic backup during peak periods.

Plans include re-striping Farmington Road to allow two southbound through lanes, one northbound left turn lane and one combination northbound through/right turn lane. No left turns will be allowed from southbound Farmington Road onto Grand River.

Other design factors will include signage on northbound Farmington Road warning drivers approaching the intersection that the inside through lane will become a left turn only lane at Grand River.

The design was reviewed and recommended by the Farmington Traffic and Safety Board and approved by the Farmington City Council on Aug. 5. The project had been in the works since March of 1990, and required approval from Oakland County and the state.

Assistant city manager Robert Schultz said the project timetable will be tied to an ongoing sewer construction project currently being done along Grand River. It will be "a matter of weeks, not days and, hopefully, not months," he said.

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