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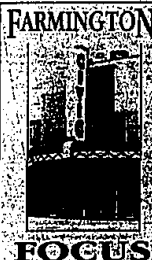
Thursday, October 10, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

88 Pages

Fifty Cents

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FOCUS

DRAKE ROAD is a pretty stretch of rural highway between 11 and 12 miles from Farmington Hills. The Michigan Municipal League thinks so.

Farmington Hills received an honorable mention for the reconstruction of Drake Road, preserving the natural beauty of the area and its historic past from the MML.

The project cost about \$1 million and the money came from a bond issue passed in 1986, said William Costello, city manager. "We had a lot of challenges," he added. "It was a gravel road with a lot of curves. There are also a couple of historic homes along that stretch and we had to be picked up and moved across a creek."

A citizens committee worked closely with city officials to plan the project, said Costello, and 11 residents were named homeowners.

Farmington Hills was one of 17 cities and villages to be recognized at the eighth annual Michigan Municipal Achievement Awards Presentation during the 93rd convention of the Michigan Municipal League Oct. 2 in Grand Rapids.

WINTER'S coming. Is your car ready?

Motorists can get a pretty good idea by stopping at AAA Michigan's Free Winter Car Care Inspection through Oct. 31 at Metro 25 Tire Centers — including the one at 38410 Grand River.

The inspection offers a free, 12-point checkup designed to help drivers avoid potential cold weather problems. There is no obligation to purchase products or services from Metro 25 Tire Centers.

Motorists will receive a written analysis of the inspection results along with safety and care literature.

Last year, about 5,000 Michigan motorists took the inspection. AAA officials said.

The most common problem uncovered was improper antifreeze level or strength.

For more information, call AAA Michigan's Member Service Center at 358-1000 or 1-800-482-5300.

SPEAKING OF AAA Michigan, that organization presented the city of Farmington with a Pedestrian Safety Achievement Award during last Monday's city council meeting.

Farmington earned the award by going 13 years without a pedestrian fatality.

Some 51 Michigan cities are being honored in AAA's 52nd annual Pedestrian Safety Award Program this year. Farmington is one of just 358 cities and states across the country honored by AAA for outstanding efforts in pedestrian safety.

MEMORY LANE

From the Oct. 11, 1981, Farmington Enterprise:

From the Around the Block column: "Next Monday will see and hear the opening of the 1981 hunting season. The annual invasion of hunters will converge on Farmington in force, probably in the wee hours Monday. But don't be frightened. Just get under the bed until a full moon and then calmly walk out with a corner of the white bedsheets tied to a broomstick. This may seem amusing, but we've already had a few reports of nicks from the corners of houses, wild shots and near misses."



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Three-year-old Joshua Gordon and Farmington Hills firefighter Bob Wojciechowski have their eyes peeled as they watch the ladder on a fire truck extend up to the sky during the 14th annual Farmington Hills Fire Prevention Open House.

Fire away

Department teaches safety at 14th annual open house



Five-month-old Ashley endured Sunday's cold weather at the Farmington Hills Fire Department's annual open house thanks to her dad, Ray Lalinsky.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For the first time in his young life, five-year-old Preston Drowitz learned how to use the 911 emergency telephone system. Ilyse Kaplan learned how to get out of a smoke-filled building.

No, it wasn't a real emergency or fire. But Preston and Ilyse had the opportunity to practice just in case of an emergency at the 14th Annual Fire Prevention Open House, sponsored Sunday by the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

"I kinda know what to do," said seven-year-old Ilyse as she crawled out of a window of the Fire Safety House at fire headquarters on Drake Road.

"You should try opening the door. If it's too hot, you should go out the window," Ilyse explained.

Learning how to get out of a smoke-filled or burning building was key to the special day that kicks off the annual Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12. This year's theme, "Fire Won't Wait... Plan Your Escape," hit home with the hundreds of children who took their turns in the smoking house.

EVEN THE colder, damp weather Sunday didn't turn away many visitors — especially kids — to the fire department. Some activities had to be curtailed because of the cold. But kids kept busy meeting Sparky the Fire Dog, climbing into the big, red fire trucks, and not to mention the Survival Flight Helicopter that landed mid-way during the day across the street from the department.

While Preston Drowitz dialed 911, Annette Sweet, who is married to firefighter Harold Sweet, played operator. "They are learning not to be afraid to talk to people on the other end. Kids freeze because they are afraid to talk," she said.

As kids waited their turns at the face painting table, others tried on real firefighter clothes, entered a coloring contest, checked out an emergency response truck and watched a live kitchen fire.

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Fire chief honors heroes

Three lauded for helping to save lives

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Amid the fun and activities of the Farmington Hills Fire Department's annual fire prevention open

house, visitors and firefighters took a few minutes to honor three people who helped save lives in the past year.

Fire Chief Richard Marinucci presented framed civilian citations to Mark Sundberg, Lisa Ballard and Charles Autry.

Sundberg received the citation for rescuing a neighbor from a fire. On Aug. 6, Sundberg discovered a fire in a neighboring mobile home, 22600 Middlebelt Road. While investigating it, he saw the kitchen cabinets on fire and the resident

sitting on a couch apparently disoriented and unaware of the fire.

Sundberg called out to the resident and then entered the mobile home and pulled him to safety. Thanks to Sundberg, the resident only suffered minor smoke inhalation.

ON MARCH 20, firefighters responded to a personal injury accident on Halsted Road, south of M-102. When they got there, fire-

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Farmington tapped as eatery site

By Casey Hana
staff writer

The owner of a successful chain of Detroit-area restaurants has selected downtown Farmington for his next eatery, where he expects to combine aspects of his most successful ventures.

Mike Nash, principle stockholder of six Mr. B's Restaurants in Rochester, Royal Oak, Novi, West Bloomfield and Troy, plans to open a 180-seat restaurant in the Village Commons shopping center next spring, leasing 8,200-square-foot in the center, which has stood mostly vacant since it opened several years ago.

"We like downtown areas," Nash explained about his selection of Farmington. "There's always a diversity of people you can get. We get the young and the old — and we get the Jacks and the Jills, too."

NASH WILL open his seventh restaurant soon in Southfield at site of the former Southfield Charley's. The Farmington restaurant, to be called "Mr. B's Border Cafe," will be his eighth, and will offer both traditional foods and some with a Mexican style.

He plans to combine the menu of other Mr. B's restaurants and that of his successful Monterrey restaurant in Royal Oak.

It will be open seven days a week and will have an owner/manager on

'We like downtown areas. There's always a diversity of people you can get. We get the young and the old — and we get the Jacks and the Jills, too.'

— Mike Nash
Mr. B's Restaurants

site, as do all his restaurants, Nash said. Mr. B's Border Cafe will extend from the south end of the Village Commons complex, joining Italian restaurant Marco's, which anchors the far north end of the center.

Nash said he hopes to have a patio to accommodate another 90-100 customers.

"We're in a niche below what they call 'tablecloth restaurants.' We like family business. We know people like to get in and out."

His success, even in these times of economic distress, "is no secret. We're not a tad place. We just try to give people good food for a reasonable price."

"You know — put a little sizzle into it — a little fun."

PLANS FOR the restaurant have yet to come before the city's plan-

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Candidates talk about vacancies

Just what is the city council's role in drawing new business to Farmington's central business district, and what does the city center need?

Candidates running for three seats on the Farmington City Council had different opinions on the issue, with one suggesting an anchor store was needed, and another saying small, specialty stores were key.

Challenger Arnold Campbell believes the city has "a tremendous advantage" because of active merchants groups in both the downtown and uptown areas. He suggests a council representative attend the meetings of these groups and "learn firsthand the business concerns rather than waiting for them to appear before council."

He is not necessarily keen on landing an anchor store, especially a large chain. "They don't have the local commitment and involvement. That makes a difference," Campbell called for more "specialty stores — stores that are unique to downtown. If we could draw these kinds of stores... I think it would help."

ELECTION

'91

Farmington City Council

INCUMBENT Councilman William Hartcock explained that "the rise and fall of a downtown area is an evolutionary process" and "downtown Farmington has experienced several of these cycles."

The formation of the city's Downtown Development Authority has been a catalyst to rejuvenating the city, he said. He also called for the city council to work closely with merchants.

Challenger John Kenney believes an improvement in parking and a major anchor store are key to curbing vacancies in the downtown, although some are vacant because of the current economic conditions. He also called "superficial" the ongoing downtown rejuvenation project.

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