

FARMINGTON

FOCUS

ATENTION: Farmington's 1991 Focus is a special section of the Farmington Observer. It is a collection of articles, photos, and information about the community. The Focus is a great way to learn more about Farmington and its residents. It is a must-read for anyone who lives in Farmington or who is interested in the community.

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MEMORY LANE - From the Oct. 18, 1991 Farmington Observer: "Normal C. Lee, Farmington resident, died unexpectedly at the age of 53. A longtime Farmington resident, Lee's father, Henry W. Lee, operated a hardware store in town for many years. A fire destroyed the store at 21528 Oxford Street, Farmington Township. There were no injuries."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21896 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48330, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

Residents 'dump' hazardous wastes

See related editorial, 18A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If your basement, garage and under your sink are clean, you were probably there Saturday.

You were probably one of the 938 carloads of people and household hazardous wastes — that drove into the 47th District Court parking lot and let Chemical Waste Management staff open your trunk and remove the paints, thinners and other things there's nowhere else to take that kind of stuff.

Paint, in fact, won hands down as the most common waste Farmington and Farmington Hills residents disposed at the second household hazardous waste day.

"It sits in the garage. It's a normal tendency. You finish the job, you put it in the basement or the garage and you leave it there. What are the chances you'll use that paint again," said Tom Blasell, Farmington Hills

public services director.

A SUCCESS is what this second waste day is being called. And it beat out the first waste day in the spring. Of the 938 households that attended the waste day Saturday, 700 were from Farmington Hills and about 230 from Farmington. The first waste day drew 733 households to the courthouse parking lot.

"It's a wonderful way to clean the basement, the garage and dispose of it correctly," Blasell said.

Farmington Hills councilman Terry Sever said he got a phone call from a woman who attended the waste day Saturday. "She said that what she was pleased with most was the fact that she didn't have to get out of the car."

As with the first waste day, city staff and staff of Chemical Waste Management, a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc., opened 15 minutes before 9 a.m. starting time.

"They (cars) were out on Shilawasee, backed out on the road," Blasell said.

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Cars line up in back of Farmington's 47th District Court, the site of the hazardous household waste disposal site. More than 500 cars had passed through by noon last Saturday, officials said.



Alonezer Rouser of Chemical Waste Management wears hazardous waste gear while he squirts used motor oil into a drum. It will later be taken to a chemical waste landfill.

Candidates differ on library expansion

Candidate profiles, 3A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Joanne Smith says a ballot field would be less intrusive than a new main Farmington Community Library on the Peltz-MDOT acreage.

ELECTION

'91

Farmington Hills City Council

Ron Oliverio says the two-branch library is excellent and wonders if continuing negotiations to merge the local library and the Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge campus library are necessary.

Andrew Raczkowski says the cramped library should be expanded at its current 12 Mile site.

Paul Sowerby says the city lacks a master plan for facilities and should develop one before spending money on an expanded 47th District Court facility and a larger library.

"We've got seniors, library and a court and other things. Before we rush out and spend more money, we need to pull all these needs together. There's been a lack of planning in the past years," said Sowerby, 47, a former appointed council member who lost to councilwoman Nancy Bates in 1989.

Smith, 65, a therapist at St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Center, just doesn't want the library on the city-owned Peltz property, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road.

"If you want to preserve land there... How do we justify putting a library with an expense of black-top and say no to one sports field? A library is the most intrusive."

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Local fire department searches for recruits

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Bob Reboyl will tell you honestly. Serving on the Farmington Hills Fire Department is not like playing a role in the movie "Backdraft."

"We're far away from 'Backdraft,'" said Reboyl, assistant to the fire chief and recruit coordinator.

"But we get involved in the community. We can offer a challenge, camaraderie and a chance to help people and the community."

If that strikes your fancy and you're certain you can commit to

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Need grows Goodfellows plan holiday drive

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Organizers of Farmington Area Goodfellows holiday drive expect a 30 percent increase in families needing help this year because of the down economic climate.

And because Christmas falls midweek this year, organizers must gather money, canned goods and toys even earlier for distribution.

That means getting everyone into the holiday spirit more quickly this year.

"There'll be more food needed," said Dick Tupper, Farmington Area Goodfellow president and chairman of the annual drive. "There are so many families that need help."

In 1990 a total of 165 Farmington and Farmington Hills families, including 379 children, were given food, toys and gift certificates due to Goodfellows donations, and another 161 seniors also received assistance. In addition, 62 families were "adopted" by businesses and other groups to provide food, toys and clothing.

Tupper said the Adopt-A-Family program is becoming more popular each year, with some businesses making their own purchases and others simply writing a check.

THE GOODFELLOWS are asking individuals and businesses to either donate canned goods or money to be used for gift certificates during the holiday season. Also going toward the effort is money raised from the annual holiday Goodfellows News-

per Sale, which will be held this year on Friday, Nov. 29, the day after Thanksgiving. The Goodfellows also are making a special effort to collect canned goods through the Farmington Public Schools.

Tupper said \$16,000 was raised last season, and he hopes to raise \$21,000 because of this year's increased need.

Tupper said the holiday drive began back in the 1940s, when several area residents banded together to help six or eight families. It eventually became a project of the Exchange Club, and eventually incorporated as the Goodfellows in the 1970s.

TODAY THE Goodfellows continue to use their motto as a goal: "No Child or Senior Citizen Without a Christmas" and every year work to help families who are down and out in the Farmington and Farmington Hills areas. The biggest part of their program takes place during the holiday season, but the group also offers funds to help needy families throughout the year.

More than 100 volunteers make the holiday program possible.

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Dick Tupper, Goodfellows president