

Childhood joys turn
into adult toys. 1C



Prep grid
playoffs. 1B

Fast-working firefighters
give the gift of life. 13A



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Hospital, Hills settle zoning suit

By Casey Hane
staff writer

A court settlement approved Monday will allow a controversial commercial development at the southwest corner of Northwestern Highway and Inkster Road.

It will also maintain three acres of woodlands as a residential buffer, to save the city of Farmington Hills from exposure to nearly \$2 million in damages.

But residents of the adjoining Woodcreek subdivision, who opposed the original develop-

ment proposed by Providence Hospital in 1989, are still concerned about what they believe is a continued encroachment of commercial development along the entire Northeastern Highway corridor.

Woodcreek Resident William Ellmann said the settlement and subsequent building "would go a long way along the road to destruction" and that residents would continue to protest development there.

An agreement between the city and Providence Hospital was reached in Oakland County Circuit Court last Friday and the consent judg-

ment approved Monday night by the city council, after nearly three years of meetings and legal haggling.

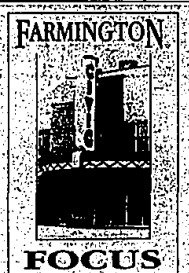
COUNCILMAN TERRY Sever opposed the measure and councilman Larry Lichtman abstained because he is an attorney with the firm representing Providence. Newly elected councilwoman Joanne Smith was absent. Council members including Nancy Bates, Jonathan Grant, Ben Marks and Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi voted in favor of the measure.

At a special meeting Friday morning, the

council voted 5-0 against a settlement proposed by a court-appointed facilitator, but Vagnozzi said Judge Steven Andrews directed the council to appear in the Oakland County Circuit Court later that afternoon and pushed for an agreement. "I did not feel we had that much of a bargaining position," Vagnozzi said about Friday's court appearance. "I had hoped we would have more give and take."

Vagnozzi said he considered the Friday afternoon appearance in court by a quorum of

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NEEDY PEOPLE in the Farmington-area may face a cold winter and a joyless holiday season ahead.

But Jean Herbert, who owns the Great Frame Up, a picture framing shop and art gallery on Orchard Lake Road, wants to do something to make it better for the less fortunate.

During November, a busy month with holiday framing and art purchases, Herbert will donate \$1 of every \$10 spent in her store to the Salvation Army of Farmington Hills.

"We have been in business for six years in Farmington Hills," Herbert said, "and the community has been very good to us. Now it is our turn to give something back to the community by helping those who need our help."

The local Salvation Army, located at Shawansee and Inkster, is one of the organizations that provides food, lodging, clothing and assistance in paying utility bills to area residents in need.

Cheryl Carter, a case worker for the Salvation Army, said she sometimes finds opposition to requests for help.

"People think of Farmington Hills as an affluent community," she said. "They do not realize that there is a need here. We provided help to more than 3,100 local in the first eight months of this year. More than 1,000 local residents will apply for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets this year."

THE COMMUNITY Center will host puppeteer and songstress Maureen Schiffman and her Chanukah Concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

The show celebrates the traditional Jewish holiday. Refreshments will be served after the concert. For more information or for reservations, call the Community Center at 477-8404.

MEMORY LANE — From the Nov. 15, 1951 Farmington Enterprise.

• The situation was improving for Albertine Domperre of 21521 Waldron who lost several hundred canaries and parakeets in a fire that damaged her bird aviary. She has been given nine parakeets, and the Smith-Tupper Lumber Company has donated materials for rebuilding the aviary. The woman had no insurance on the birds or the building.

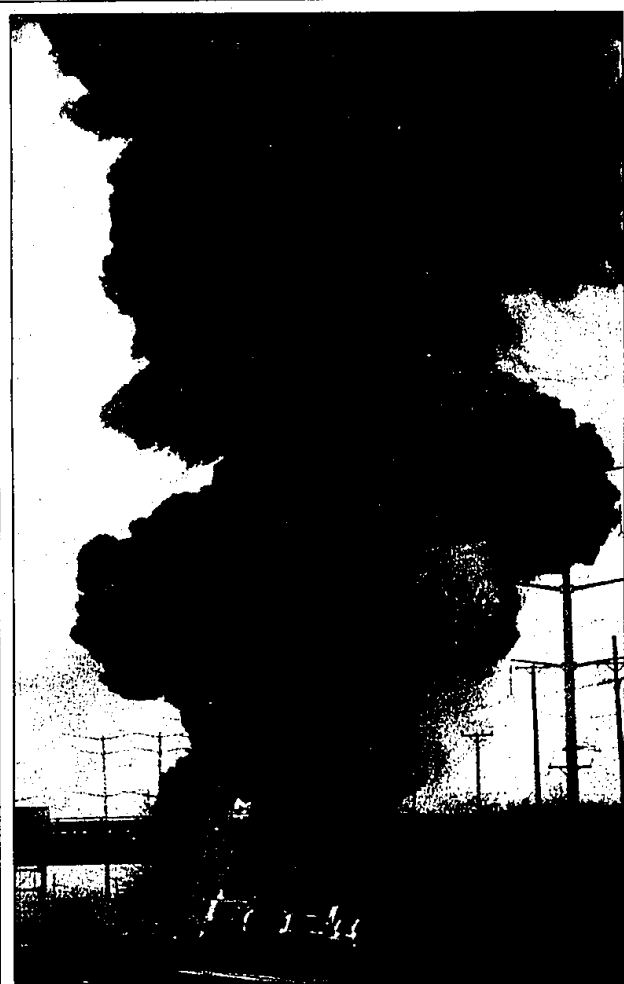
• Three churches — Salem Evangelical and Reformed, First Methodist and First Baptist — were planning for the annual United Thanksgiving Service to be held at First Baptist.

• "Here Comes Charlie" was Farmington High School senior class play to be staged in the school auditorium.

• The Farmington Police Department's headquarters was moved to the renovated Fire Hall on Liberty Street.

• Basketball practice opened at Clarenceville High with about 35 candidates — including five returning lettermen from last season — for coach Bob Sietke's team. The Trojans were to open their season Dec. 4 at South Lyon.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Tanker ablaze on freeway

Thick black smoke billows up over I-96 and Meadowbrook Road, just west of the Farmington Hills/Novi border, as a gasoline tanker burns Tuesday morning. One man, the driver of the tanker truck, was reported

killed in the accident, which may have been caused when a fire on the tanker truck blew out. For a story and more photographs, please see page 3A.

Need grows

Goodfellows gear up for annual drive

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Hundreds of Farmington-area Goodfellows are gearing up to gather clothing, toys and money to help the needy, whose numbers are expected to increase this year due to a down economy.

Goodfellows president Richard Tupper said that although the group initially expected between 25 and 30 percent more families this year, statistics show that fig-

ure may hit 40 percent.

About 100 people attended a luncheon in October kicking off the annual Goodfellows holiday drive in the Farmington area, which includes the group's major fund-raiser, the Goodfellows Newspaper Sale, slated for Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

"It's something that I'm sure all of you can say from the heart: 'It feels good,'" said chairman of this year's

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Liquor sting catches few breaking law

By Casey Hane
staff writer

An alcohol enforcement effort in the city of Farmington Friday and Saturday found a majority of businesses complying with liquor laws, unlike the situation here five years ago.

"We've really changed the way the businesses look at the problem," said public safety director Frank Lauhoff. "The cooperation is really there. It's certainly to be commended."

In 1985, only 25 percent of the businesses were found to be complying with laws governing liquor sales to minors. Annual liquor enforcement operations have gradually increased that number, officials said, with only six of 22 businesses getting ticketed last year. Similar liquor law operations are done in neighboring Farmington Hills, as well.

In a sting operation over the weekend in Farmington, some 86 percent — or 19 of 22 businesses — refused to sell alcohol to a minor Farmington Hills Police cadet.

TICKETS WERE issued to em-

'We've really changed the way the businesses look at the problem. The cooperation is really there. It's certainly to be commended.'

— Frank Lauhoff
Farmington public safety director

ployees at three Farmington businesses — Maple Village Drug stores downtown and at the Uptown Plaza, and at the Great Wall Restaurant — for selling liquor to minors. Complaints against the businesses will also be filed with the state Liquor Control Commission.

"The message is getting out," said Gary Goss, deputy public safety director for the city.

Lauhoff attributed the high percentage of compliance to a change in

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Car dealer open despite picketers

By Ryan Tulak
staff writer

Car dealer Bob Saks says protesters won't stop him from keeping his Farmington Hills dealership open Saturdays.

A group of about 30 picketers opposed to car sales on Saturdays marched in front of his Oldsmobile dealership in Farmington Hills Saturday. The demonstration followed threats Saks said he received last week that hundreds of protesters would gather at his dealership if it was open.

Saks said Monday that the protest, the first since he started having Saturday hours two years ago, was

peaceful, caused no property damage and didn't impede business.

"They were there to make a point and then they went home," Saks said. "I think they were just trying to get on TV, frankly, because after Channel 2 left, they left."

He said he had instructed his employees not to antagonize the protesters and that he has received several calls complimenting him on the way he handled the demonstration.

SAKS, WHO also sells Toyotas, Jeep Eagles and used cars in a small strip of dealerships, said he will continue to open on Saturdays.

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