



# Farmington Observer

## IN THE PAPER TODAY



**Lots of students:** North Farmington High's '92 graduating class stacks up as the largest in the history of the Farmington School District. /3A

**Gone in 40 years:** Retired SEMCOG administrator Ed Hustolet saw Farmington and Southfield turn from pastoral wonderlands in the '50s to what they are today. /5A

**OCC negotiations:** Faculty and administration negotiators expect little trouble in getting 4.5 percent pay raise for teachers. /6A

### STREET SCENE

**He's back:** The Caped Crusader has his hands full with the criminal element in the latest Hollywood installment of "Batman." /7A

### TRAVEL

**Oregon's trail:** It doesn't rain every day; in fact sunshine makes Portland a bright spot for summer travel. /11A

### TASTE

**Vegetarian cookout:** Festive vegetarian cookout features delicious, low-fat Popeye Spinach Burgers, Seitan Barbecue, black bean dip, and Rainbow Crisp. /1B

### SPORTS

**All-star game:** Mark Temple of North Farmington made an appearance in the high school all-star baseball game Thursday at Tiger Stadium. /1C

### CABLE TV WEEKLY

**Local access:** The "Sharon Steen Show" will be presented on Channel 12. Check your cable guide for time and date.

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## 2 say they'll quit park panel



BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Two outspoken Farmington Hills naturalists are expected to resign from an ad hoc parks committee today because of their continued disenchantment with the city administration.

Joe Derek and Roy Lindhardt say they resent the fact that they and other Peltz-MDOT Committee members —

Farmington Hills residents Joe Derek and Roy Lindhardt, critical of how the city's parks are developed, say they will resign from a citizens' committee on Woodland Hills Park. They say they're upset by the city's decision to put a sewer line on the park.

including Mark Davis, its chairman — were not notified that the city council would vote to approve construction of a sanitary sewer line on Woodland Hills Park, formerly known as the Peltz-MDOT property.

They charge that, since the ad hoc committee was formed last August, committee members have been often left in the dark.

"I'm quitting the committee, but I'm still going to fight," Derek said.

The item under discussion was listed under the public hearing section of the agenda for the June 15 council meeting. Up for consideration was a special assessment district for sanitary sewer installation for Quaker Valley Farms Addition Subdivision.

The agenda did not specifically indicate that the council would vote on placing the sewer line on public property — Woodland Hills Park to the north. They and council watcher Masha Silver felt the item should have been spelled out on the agenda.

Derek and Lindhardt were present at

the council meeting. Silver, who watched the meeting on cable TV, rushed to council chambers to deliver an angry statement criticizing the city for not notifying the public.

It was close to midnight when Silver was finally able to make her views known during the public comments session.

"It's important for the public to be heard because this park is being paid for by my taxes and by my fellow citizens' taxes," Silver said. "I wonder how many cities vote to protect one private person's beautiful property and put a

See PANEL, 2A



SHARON LAMBERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Good for a laugh:** Claudia Paschke of Farmington laughs as she talks about the recent power outage. Paschke had placed neighbors' frozen meat into her own freezer. Then her power went out.

## 10,500 area residents find ways to weather power loss

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Some 10,500 Farmington-area residents lost power following Wednesday's thunderstorm and high winds, said Lorie Kessler, Detroit Edison spokeswoman.

Kessler expected all power to be restored Friday.

Edison estimated that 220,500 Detroit-area customers were affected by the storm; 61,000 in Oakland County.

"We handled 8,000 calls an hour," Kessler said. For the last year, Edison has been striving to improve its communication system so that more customers can get through quicker to record outages, Kessler said. Capability has increased to 30,000-40,000 calls per hour, up from 2,600 calls an hour last year, Kessler said.

Locally, Farmington area folks struck by the storm found ways to weather the situation.

At Roney & Co. in Farmington Hills, power was out Thursday after

**■ 'There was smoke and big blue flames. I heard crack, crack and then VAROOM! It sounded like a firecracker. I was at the sink when it happened.'**

**Claudia Paschke  
Longacre resident**

the company lost its air conditioning the previous day.

"Unfortunately, it's just our building," said William Hartsack, a Roney partner, who is also Farmington mayor. "It's kind of discouraging. A client called this morning and I couldn't help him."

Roney relies on electric power to monitor the financial markets on a daily basis.

The only thing working was the phone, Hartsack said Thursday. Roney & Co. is on Middlebelt, north of Northwestern Highway.

In Farmington, Claudia Paschke, who lives on Longacre, had just finished packing her refrigerator/freezer with her neighbors' food. Vickie Higgins and Linda Short emptied their freezers into Paschke's freezer after they lost power.

Just as the woman finished, about 11 a.m. Thursday, the electrical wires on Paschke's property popped and arced.

"There was smoke and big blue flames," Paschke said. "I heard crack, crack and then VAROOM! It sounded like a firecracker. I was at the sink when it happened. I was afraid to touch the metal sink."

Being without power is nothing new for Paschke and her neighbors. They lost power for varied amounts of 4-7 days after the July 1991 storm;

staff to design such a program, and called them "pioneers" for their efforts.

"All the hype about outcome-based learning can be brought into one nutshell" with this program, he added. "We haven't been focused on outcomes — not just here in Farmington, but everywhere" in education.

"We've been focused on time." And time is the issue Farmington school board members will address on July 13, when they are scheduled to vote on the district's first proposal to restructure the school day for an entire building.

A majority of the staff members at North Farmington propose to restructure the school week by giving teachers a two-hour block of research and development time on Wednesday mornings, having the school day start at 9:30 a.m. They also propose adding an optional "zero" hour at 8:20 a.m. on the other four days so students can take additional academic classes. The teachers believe that would free up time later in the day for students to take more electives like music and art.

With the time to discuss and brainstorm, teachers believe even more change will come to North Farmington in the future.

Although a majority of Farmington school trustees appeared to favor the concept after hearing the proposal June 16, at least two trustees raised concerns and many made suggestions.

And parents in the audience spoke on both sides of the issue, some supporting it and others concerned about the early morning for the "zero hour" and concern over what students would do with their Wednesday mornings. Parents said they were also upset that no notice was given to parents about the change until a few weeks ago.

See PLAN, 2A

### Seniors can register

Attention, Farmington-area senior citizens who are not registered voters:

Personnel from the Farmington Hills Clerk's office will be at the Mercy Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, to register voters.

Center officials ask that participants enter through Gate 4, Door C. Upcoming elections are: a primary on Tuesday, Aug. 4, and a general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

### A Temple of food

The Farmington Founders Festival is coming up (July 7-12) and once again the Farmington Masonic Temple will be involved.

Several meals will be served and other events held at the Temple at Grand River and Farmington Road. They include:

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

• Chicken barbecue dinner noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 28, an earlier date than in previous years. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children 12 and under.

• Craft show 9 a.m. to dark Thursday-Saturday, July 9-11. More than 140 exhibitors are expected to be on the Temple's lawn.

• Chicken dinner 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 9, Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children 12 and under.

• Swiss steak dinner 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 10. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children 12 and under.

• Bake sale in the Temple beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, July 10. The sale includes cakes, pies, tarts, cookies and breads.

• Homemade soup and salad luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 and under.

• Farm breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12. Cost is \$3.75 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under.

### Memory Lane

From the June 26, 1952, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

• Efforts were under way to improve telephone service in Farmington, Michigan Bell officials said. Several new switchboards and operator positions were added.

• Farmington residents were asked to cut water use while one of the two city pumps was being repaired. The broken pump forest officials to close the wading pool in City Park.

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