

Flitters from page 1A

The 231 butterflies counted by the naturalists were of 24 species, which is the same amount of species counted as last year. But this year, club members discovered 13 species that up to now have not been counted in the city. All species, however, are common to south-east Michigan. "We didn't identify any oddball types," Nowicki said.

Of the new species not counted before, volunteers found a Baltimore checker spot, question mark butterfly, coral hole streak and cross line skipper. Unlike last year, volunteers did not encounter the giant swallowtail, which is the city's designated butterfly. Last year, a swallowtail with a five-inch wing span was counted.

Survey results will be correlated to determine what could possibly cause changes in butterfly counts. "It could be changes in habitat, changes in development. Then we might be able to make some valid statements about what is happen-

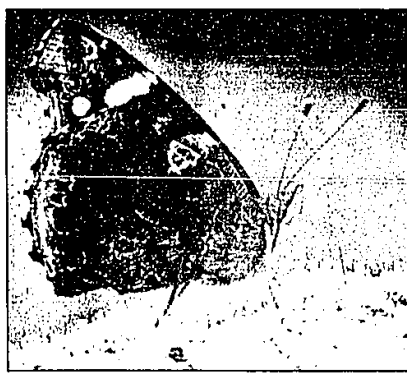
'Butterflies that are out now should have been out in June. It hasn't been a good year so far. Everything is a month behind.'

Joe Derek Hills naturalist

ing," Nowicki said.

The counts also serve other purposes. They allow volunteers to get involved and become aware of wildlife and insects. They provide an opportunity to demonstrate the variety of species to volunteers and the public, Nowicki said.

The Xerces Society is named after the Xerces Blue butterfly, which is now extinct. When the Presidio in San Francisco was built in 1943, it was built on the last known home of the butterfly.



At rest: A red admiral butterfly finds a perch on a Queen Anne's Lace flower in Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.

SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hill from page 1A

implying that it's safer" than the rest of the hill.

Ironically, the district agreed to the walkways just last year thinking it would help make the hill safer by separating those walking up the hill from those sledding down.

According to the district's business support services manager Betsy Rothrock, the suit has been turned over to the district's insurance carrier.

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman had little comment on the suit, except to say that "periodically, we're going to get injuries in a sledding sport." He said closing the hill would be a policy decision of the school board and city council, and added that he hopes the city is kept apprised of any planned action by the district.

With the help of the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the Farmington Jaycees, the district agreed last year to leave the hill open to sledding, despite concerns about safety and liability issues raised at several meetings. The district originally planned to plant staggered evergreens on the hill, effectively closing it to sledding, but public outcry caused the district to reconsider the issue.

Rules posted

The district posted specific rules for hill use, the city of Farmington Hills offered recreation personnel to monitor activities there, and the city of Farmington handled public safety calls and also set up hay bales on the hill. The Jaycees volunteered their time to monitor the hill and helped replace hay bales as needed.

Webb said that comments made by a resident last year about how Farmington is an old-fashioned, "Leave It To Beaver" community without regard to liability turned out to be false. "Unfortunately that is not the case," she added.

Director of building and student services for the school district, Don Cowan, said staff is preparing a two-year cost study on the sledding hill which is expected to come before the board prior to the winter season. He said the board could review the issue in October.

"There have been, certainly, a lot of complications" regarding the hill, Cowan said. "I knew the board would have to review it at some point."

The district regularly tracks activity on the hill, including requesting reports on injuries when they are filed with local police. Rothrock said although there were several other injuries logged during the past season, only the one lawsuit was filed.

The suit was assigned to Oakland Circuit Judge Hilda Gage.

Just two incidents

Records from the Farmington Public Safety Department show only two incidents reported to that department during the past sledding season. One, on Jan. 26, is the incident which resulted in the aforementioned lawsuit. The other, on Feb. 13, involved a 42-year-old Farmington Hills woman who injured her back after hitting a manhole cover which was exposed after the snow which covered it had melted.

Commander Chuck Lee said the department has responded to a number of other incidents on the hill during the winter months involving complaints of property destruction, drinking and other problems.

The hill is on school district-owned property in the city of Farmington, sitting below the Lewis Schulman Center which houses the district's central office. The school district parking lot offers residents convenient parking to use the hill, which draws hundreds of people of all ages after a major snow.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile Road
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 11

For the agenda call 473-9540.

Farmington Community Library Board of Directors
Hills Branch Conference Room
32737 12 Mile
5:15 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 13

The board will consider partici-

ipation in the proposed Metro Net Library Cooperative as a replacement to the Wayne-Oakland Library Federation. The board will decide new circulation policies as they relate to the new automated circulation system. The director will present a proposal for a rental book collection to assist in meeting the patron demand for best seller. An update will be given on discussion with Oakland Community College regarding a merged library.

The director will report on a grant proposal for a cultural diversity collection, "Limited English-Speaking Proficiency" for \$17,301 in federal funds.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission
Farmington Hills City Hall

31555 11 Mile Road
7:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 13

Commissioners will consider three revised site plans, a special approval for a proposed restaurant and billiard parlor, five new site plans including the first phase of new city park development on Eight Mile, and a zoning amendment to allow planned unit developments in several currently excluded zoning districts.

Revised site plans include: allowing used car sales in a general business district at 29656 Grand River; allowing an additional and drive-through window for the Taco Bell, 29925 Orchard Lake; and allowing cluster housing in a single family residential on the west side of Middlebelt north of 12 Mile.

Special approval is being requested by proponent Duane Gmerek of G & G Entertainment for a restaurant and billiard parlor in the Orchard-12 Plaza.

New site plans include: the first phase of new city park development on the north side of Eight Mile east of Metroview, also known as the sod farm park; a building addition at Richard Tool & Die, 28600 Grand River; an addition to Art's Rental, 28811 Grand River; allowing retail store Children's Art Studio in a business district on the east side of Middlebelt south of 10 Mile; and an addition to the existing Antioch Lutheran Church, 33560 13 Mile.

The zoning text amendment proposed would allow planned unit development as an option in the following districts: all RA, RC-1, RC-2, RC-3, OS-1, OS-2, OS-4, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, ES, IRO and LI-1.

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M-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Sat. 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. We hope most attended workshops.

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