

Farmington Observer

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Scraping by In Farmington



SHARON LEMBUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ice ain't nice: Farmington resident Annabelle Gable applies her snow shovel to the ice that coated her driveway Monday morning. Many Detroit-area residents were doing the same in the wake of the sleet, snow and rain that hit the area. Gable estimated that it would take her 45 minutes breaking and tossing to clear the drive.

Hospice from page 1A

Councilwoman Nancy Bates said she would support having the council and hospice meet with area residents to educate them about the project, but was reluctant to do more until the city had a good indication of how the project would be received.

"Let's bring 'em (residents) with us on this one," she said. "It's like we're leading a parade. Sometimes you turn around and nobody's there."

City Manager Bill Costick said the proposal was brought to the

council initially so that the hospice could see if there was support for the project before doing any further work.

Council members voted to meet with area residents. City Attorney John Donohue will review the issue and consent judgment and propose the appropriate amendments for a "mutually beneficial development."

The council did not recommend, for now, that the city's planning, engineering and fire de-

partments meet with the hospice to discuss site development.

The Hospice of Southeastern Michigan serves about 6,000 people annually. It helps terminally ill patients and their families during their last days.

The proposed facility would be designed for patients who can not stay at home either because a spouse or other family members must work and can't provide 24-hour care, or because other family members are themselves infirm or

not able to care for the patient.

The property, which includes a steep ravine, is a perfect setting, LoPatin said, adding that it would fit in with the residential character of the area.

The hospice would also provide \$10,000 toward the enhancement of the corner property it would return to the city.

The City Council plans to take up the matter in a study session or regular session later this month.

MEAP from page 1A

However, the percentage of Farmington students scoring satisfactory (75 percent or better) was still considerably higher than the state average.

A higher percentage of students scored satisfactory than in any previous year, state officials said. Stark contrasts between the Farmington district's and state averages were in high school math, reading and science scores.

In 10th grade reading, Farmington had 67.8 percent achieve sat-

isfactory or better. That compares favorably to the state average of 43.5 percent.

Farmington had 68.4 percent score satisfactory in science compared to 51.9 percent statewide. In 10th grade math, 50 percent of the Farmington student hit the satisfactory mark compared to 35.6 percent statewide.

Farmington middle schools also performed better than the state average. The district had 60.3 per-

cent score satisfactory in reading (35.7 percent state); math, 63.5 percent (48.9 percent state); and science 71 percent (61.7 percent state).

Elementary scores topped the state average in all three: Reading, 56.1 percent (43.6 percent state); math, 75.9 percent (61.6 percent state); and science, 88.6 percent (75.6 percent state).

Statewide, female and minority student performance improved in math, especially in grades 4 and

7. Fourth graders improved in reading and fifth and eighth graders improved in science. Also, the percentage of students scoring low category dropped in all grade levels statewide.

Though pleased with MEAP results, state superintendent Robert Schiller said in a written statement there is no room for complacency. "The quality of education must continue to improve," Schiller said.

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