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Hills swings into golf study

Farmington Hills City Council wants to go with a local firm to do an environmental study of a landfill on the proposed site for the expansion of San Marino Golf Course.

An average golfer may have an easier time getting out of a sandtrap than Farmington Hills City Council members did picking an environmental consultant for the Eleven Pines property — the site for San Marino course expansion.

The city's purchase of the 92 acres — that will be used to expand city-owned San Marino from a nine- to 18-hole golf course — is contingent on an environ-

mental analysis of an estimated 23 acres of landfill.

After considerable consternation at Monday's regular meeting, the city council voted to hire Farmington Hills-based NTH Consultants Ltd. to do the job.

That went against a city staff recommendation of Plymouth-based Techna Corp., which proposed doing the job in three days for \$10,700. NTH Consul-

ants will charge \$14,200 for 21 days work.

NTH will figure out the size and shape of the former municipal landfill. If the \$4.5 million purchase of the land goes through, then NTH will prepare a Baseline Environmental Assessment report and help with an application for a state Site Reclamation Grant.

Unlike the bid process, the city doesn't have to go with the lowest bid on request for proposals. Techna Corp. has experience in doing municipal environmental analysis on golf courses, which factored into the city staff's recommendation, said Dale Countegan, Hills city planner.

An environmental study is not an area to cut corners, a council member said.

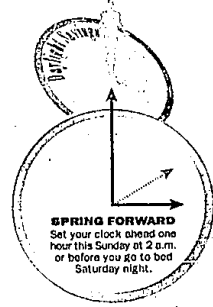
"It's not the \$4.5 million. It's the mistake of finding out the contamination is greater than we think," Councilman Jerry Ellis said.

NTH proposes using a geophone to locate the landfill, which Ellis said is necessary. Sale terms of the land prohibit drilling into the actual landfill.

Instead, the company would drill around the site of the former municipal landfill and mark it off.

"We know if we go three feet and hit

Please see GOLF, A5



IN THE PAPER TODAY

History talks: Warner Middle School students — including Meghan Webb, at left, as Hernando Cortez — put life in a living wax museum. /A3

COMMUNITY LIFE

A real break: A group of students from Farmington Hills' Mercy High School will spend their spring break helping out for others, not themselves. /B1

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VOTES ARE IN:

No topping Bean & Bagel



By a mouthful, Bean & Bagel has the best bagel in the Farmington-Farmington Hills area — especially when you add some cinnamon.

The locally owned Bean & Bagel, with stores at 12 Mile-Farmington and 10 Mile Road, chewed up the competition by nudging out downtown Farmington's Big Apple Bagel by just one vote in a recent Farmington Observer reader's poll. Several other bagel outlets picked up votes.

"I like cinnamon buns, I like cinnamon bagels and I like cinnamon toast," said Farmington Hills resident Eyle Johnston, one of the Bean & Bagel boosters. "I just like cinnamon."

Bean & Bagel bastes butter on the outside of the round bread and then dusts on the sweet spice. "And the cinnamon sticks to the outside," Johnston said.

Another Bean & Bagel devotee is Jill Stolman of Farmington Hills. Her favorite: the "everything" bagel.

"They have a lighter, fresher bagel," Stolman said. "It stays fresh for 2-3 days. It's just not as dense as the other bagels are."

Weekends at the Stolman home usually include a sack of six or 12 bagels.

"It's the thing now," she continued. "They're convenient, they have (a) choice of flavors ... and the coffee's great, too."

Jim St. Louis of Farmington Hills



Creaming the competition: Seth Berg of Farmington Hills enjoys a bagel sandwich at the Bean & Bagel in Farmington Hills. It was his first visit, but it was return customers who voted it No. 1 in the Farmington area.

Please see BAGEL, A5

Wolf at the door — vet leaving county seat

Citing a desire to get back to family life after years in the political spotlight, Oakland County Commissioner Donna Wolf today announced he will not seek re-election to the commission in this fall's election.

"I just want to meet my family again," said the former Farmington Hills mayor. "When the 4-year-old grandkid starts calling me 'Commieh,' I think it's time to do something different."

The veteran Republican called it a difficult decision to not seek a sixth term, but added that "it's time to take a break from public office for a while. I've held public office for 18 years and am looking forward to some time of my own." He'll spend that time with his wife, Shirley, five children and 11 grandchildren.

Wolf's long run of public service has been equally divided between Oakland County and the city of Farmington Hills.

Since 1989, he has represented the 19th District of the commission, which consists of the southern half of Farmington Hills, the city of Farmington and one precinct in Southfield. He also was a Farmington Hills City Council member from 1980-88 and served as mayor in 1981.

Please see WOLF, A5



Case opened: Attorneys Matthew Abel, left and Gregory Mikat have filed a class action suit over a fake Salvador Dali piece.

Attorney says 'Hello, lawsuit' to fake Dali

A Livonia attorney isn't singing "Hello, Dali."

His artwork — certified to be that of the Spanish surrealist artist is a fake. So, say hello to a lawsuit.

Michigan Professional Corp. has filed a class action suit against a New York art company, which sold the Salvador Dali pencil signed etching at an auction in 1991 at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. The suit before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Robert Ziolkowski asks for \$25,000 in damages from Marlin Art Inc.

Attorney Matthew Abel bought the piece, "Comic Horseman," along with other artwork for his office on Farm-

ington Road, north of Five Mile.

"It was a nice evening; I had a bunch of fun," said Abel, who lives in West Bloomfield. "I bought a few pieces that night. I had just opened an office and I needed it."

Abel became suspicious the artwork was a knockoff when reading "The Official Catalog of the Graphic Works of Salvador Dali."

A noted Dali expert Bernard Ewell confirmed Abel's fears, saying the piece is likely an unauthorized photo offset lithographic production of an ink drawing by an unknown hand. The signature is also forged.

Please see DALI, A5

Disaster awareness

Spring is here and vacation season is gearing up for everyone from high school seniors to families looking for a break from the humdrum daily routine.

We don't want to hear your stories of holiday bliss. That would make us jealous.

Disaster vacations are another story. If you've watched your rental car float out to sea at high tide on Daytona Beach, rolled from one side of a cruise ship to the other during a hurricane, or had a close encounter with a bear in the woods, please tell us. Maybe what started out as a disaster turned into a family bonding experience, or at least a memory that can be laughed at once enough time has passed.

Send your story to Holiday Disasters, in care of Mary Rodrigue, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; fax us at (248) 477-9722;

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or e-mail your story to: dvarga@homecomm.net Please include a name, phone number and best time to contact you.

Finishing up in Farmington Hills

The "Ask the Professor" show will end taping for its 45th season by recording two shows live 7:30-9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, at the Borders Bookstore on Orchard Lake, south of 14 Mile.

The University of Detroit Mercy-based national radio show's will finish this season's programs. In

addition, this performance will also mark the final shows by moderator Edwin DeWindt and panelist George Pickering after 25 years. The show asks audience members and letter writers to stump 10 professor panelists for the chance to win an honorary A.B. (Academic Befuddlement) degree and an autographed photograph. Losers will receive the photographed autograph.

DeWindt describes the show as "a bunch of screwballs who get together and swing."

"When the show began 45 years ago, the format was more in line with academia's arid image," he said. "When I took the show over, it became something of a Monty Python goes to college."

Locally, the show airs on WNIC-FM (100.3) at 7 a.m. Sundays and WDR-FM (90.0) at 7 p.m. Thursdays and 4 p.m. Fridays.