

Squalor from page A1

that it is one of the worst she's seen in 22 years as an inspector. "The odor is horrible because there was a dead animal in there."

"It's definitely a sign of an individual who is very ill even to stay in a place like that."

Another city inspector determined if the house should be leveled. Trash will be removed and the place fumigated.

A representative of the man's estate will try to salvage any personal belongings.

"We pretty much agreed the house is coming down," said Tom Williams, Hills building official. "It's pretty bad. It's the smell that gets you."

Neighbors are worried about rats, especially after police found one alive in a toilet. The place doesn't appear to be infested with rodents or cockroaches, "which is surprising," Cocciolone said.

After his brother died, neighbors occasionally had the man over for dinner. When his behavior became increasingly bizarre in recent years, they would take food over to him.

Debby Pothoff, who lived across the street, phoned animal

'They'd take away the dog and he'd find out and get the dog back the next day. He'd find out who called and come over and bite your head off. Ten minutes later he'd forget why he was mad at you.'

Debby Pothoff
—Neighbor

control to take his mixed breed dog, which was running loose.

"They'd take away the dog and he'd find out and get the dog back the next day," said Pothoff, who used to have the man over to her family's house for dinner. "He'd find out who called and come over and bite your head off. Ten minutes later he'd forget why he was mad at you."

Their contact with animal control indirectly got Cocciolone involved.

"These neighbors are very good people," she said.

Holiday's over: Recycling time

The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County is reminding residents to recycle everything from greeting cards to boxes following the holiday season.

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents may not know

that "boxboard" (cereal boxes, gift boxes and backs of toy packaging) was added to their curbside recycling program this past spring.

Boxboard may be recycled by placing flattened boxes in the largest box or in a brown paper bag.

Spish splash



Getting deep: Friday morning's heavy rains and melting snow contributed to flooding on Halsted Road south of 14 Mile.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Fumes from page A1

It was the second time in recent weeks where a construction-related problem took place at Farmington High. In late December, a water main pipe broke, causing an undetermined amount of damage inside the school. (See related story, page A3)

Myers, Friday afternoon, said efforts to play the basketball game later that night would still

be made, including bringing an air tester to the school. But the decision was subsequently made to postpone the contest.

Because of the evacuation, students received a reprieve from getting their report cards.

"Today (Friday) is report card day," Myers said, with a smile. "They get them during the last hour. But now, we'll just have to do it on Monday."

Kenbrook collects books

Kenbrook Elementary School students needed just one week to collect 1,239 books for donation to the Lighthouse of Pontiac.

The books, brought in from homes, were delivered Thursday to the charity organization. They will be used to create a lending library, said Kenbrook fifth grade teacher Michelle O'Brien, whose class teamed up with the second grade class of teacher Melissa McDermid.

The endeavor is part of students' year-long focus on making a positive impact in the community and contributes to their development as a responsible citizen, as outlined in Farmington Public Schools' student profile.

"We're trying to encourage them to see themselves as part of a larger society, and to contribute to that," O'Brien said.

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Dr. Shea lectures nationally on sports medicine, and has special interest in problems of the shoulder and knee. He belongs to the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine.

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