

Bus from page A1

Apparently, the girl was distracted and did not respond when the driver yelled back whether anybody was still on the bus.

"She (the child) was looking out of the window, not paying attention," Tausley explained.

Cannon said the driver — who has a good performance record — dropped off students at High-meadow and "this child didn't get off the bus. The driver didn't walk to the back of the bus, as they're supposed to do, and had some layover time."

"The driver said she yelled to find out if anybody was still on the bus, but nobody answered... She parked into the driveway at her home, the little girl saw the driver get off the bus and she got off the bus (also). She went to the neighbor's house and called her mom."

Tausley said students on that particular run were picked up about 8:40-8:45 a.m., with High-meadow classes slated to start about 9 a.m. The driver's next assignment that day was mid-day shuttles between various district buildings.

Running on empty

At the end of the last stop on each run, bus drivers are expect-

'It's a reminder to all bus drivers.'

Bill Tausley
—Transportation supervisor

ed. to routinely check each seat from front-to-back, on the look-out for any kids.

Once the get to the back, drivers are supposed to turn around the "Empty" sign on the emergency door, so the general public knows no students are left on board, Cannon continued.

"The main purpose of that is not to turn the sign around, but so they'll walk back there and make sure nobody had fallen asleep," she said.

Tausley said the maximum penalty the driver could receive is termination. All department employees will receive letters reminding them "not to take it for granted" that buses are empty.

"It's a reminder to all bus drivers," Tausley said. "That's why there's a procedure in place to double check all buses."

Cannon noted only one other time in her four years with the district when a child was left on the bus. But some students have been roused from their sleep by bus drivers, she added.

Clarification

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Donation: The lead photo in Sunday's Observer should have pictured Dick Chave of Farmington Hills, a tool and die employee at the Ford River Rouge complex gives blood at the Red Cross in Livonia. Head nurse Kathy Rogowski of Livonia (left) checks the blood bag. Behind is Dick's wife, Kathy Chave, who is also giving blood.

Recycle from page A1

from 26.2 percent in 1997.

The increase mirrors an overall trend for curbside recycling, which has gone up steadily from 10.3 percent in 1995 to 11.8 percent in 1997.

People are also composting more.

After a three-year low in 1997 with 14.9 percent of waste being diverted through composting, the figure increased to 15.5 percent last year.

"When benchmarked to any community across the nation, Farmington Hills comes out very well — heads and shoulders above any community in Michigan and the nation," said RRRSOC General Manager Michael Caspo, who gave his report to Farmington Hills City Council. "Residents of Farmington Hills have a lot to be proud of in terms of their commitment to the environment."

Within RRRSOC, Farmington Hills' numbers are above the

average of 11.2 percent recycled materials and 14.3 percent composted.

Farmington Hills also conducts a hazardous waste day during which residents can dispose of potentially dangerous and toxic materials, which keeps them out of landfills.

The authority's Material Recovery Facility in Southfield has also seen an increase in items, especially with paper-board being added to collectibles.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi was concerned about trash collection, especially with the recent buy-out involving the city's contracted hauler, Waste Management. The mayor wanted to know if service suffered since employees had been laid off.

It hasn't, Caspo said. RRRSOC monitors resident complaints.

"We'd keep a very close eye on that," Caspo said.

Drilling from page A1

The company asked the court to rule the city's decision as governmental taking of property, which would have allowed them to sue for damages.

West Bay officials projected the two well heads would have produced \$40 million in gross revenues.

In her ruling, though, Morris stated: "Certainly the possibility of a hydrogen sulfide release would give the city reasonable

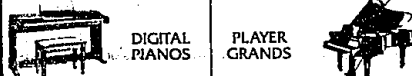
cause to be concerned about the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. It is reasonable that the city would require additional information to allay those fears."

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said he's pleased with Morris' ruling.

"It confirmed our concerns over the safety issue," Vagnozzi said. "We really did not turn it down. We asked them to come back and assure over the health and safety issues."

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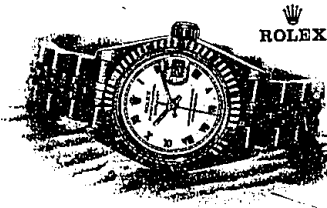
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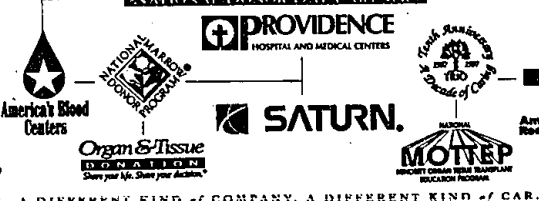
- Register with a Red Cross representative to give blood for those in need.
- Receive a free blood pressure check provided by Providence Urgent Care Centers of Livonia & Farmington Hills Corporate Health Services.

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