

First storm of season leaves its mark

BY TIM SMITH
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The severe thunderstorm that hit metropolitan Detroit late Monday and early Tuesday, as might be expected, did some damage in Farmington.

But it wasn't insurmountable and no injuries were reported, said Michael Wiggins, deputy director of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

From 8 a.m. Monday to 8 a.m. Tuesday, 19 of 41 public safety runs were storm-related, Wiggins said.

"Most of those were downed (electrical) wires and downed tree limbs," Wiggins said.

There was one reported garage fire, which broke out about 7:30

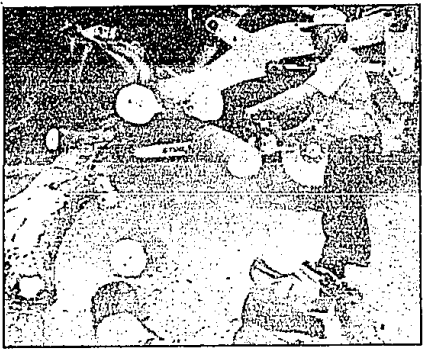
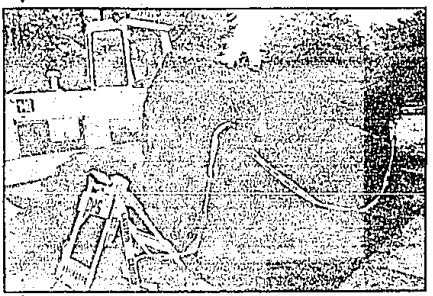
p.m. Monday on Marblehead near Colchester. Although it was kept under control, firefighters were not able to totally extinguish it until about 2 a.m. Tuesday because of a live power line on top of the garage.

"We had to wait for Edison to make the area safe," Wiggins said. During the interim, firefighters kept people away from the area and sprayed water to keep flames from spreading.

Officer John Coyle said other downed electrical wires include on Leeland near Marblehead and on Meadowlark.

Coyle added that the storm felled tree limbs on Lilac, at Grand River, Meadowlark and Meadowlark Court, and near city hall on Liberty Street.

Also, the loss of electrical power forced both Flanders and Lanigan elementary schools to be closed on Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Hard work: Above, city of Farmington worker Don Rogers clears a tree that fell across Meadowlark Street during the Monday night storm. At left, the uprooted tree took a large section of lawn with it.

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THURSDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

No penalties levied for staying home

BY TIM SMITH
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Kids stayed home in droves from two of the Farmington district's high schools because of threats and rumors of trouble.

But they won't be penalized for deciding not to attend classes, said James Myers, executive director of student services.

"Everybody's going to be allowed to make up things," Myers said Wednesday. "That will be taken care of appropriately. We're not going to penalize kids."

Myers said the attendance Monday at North Farmington High School was "half or less" and that a similar turnout was expected Wednesday at Harrison High School. At North, some students didn't show up and others came but left early, he said.

Many parents opted to keep their children home to ensure their safety.

An e-mail message, circulated more than a week ago among as many as 70 North students, predicted that "negative activities" would take place on Monday at North. Those did not materialize, in part due to strong police presence at the 13 Mile Road high school.

Meanwhile, threatening graf-

THREATS

fi found Tuesday in a Harrison bathroom prompted a number of students from that school to be kept home Wednesday.

A Harrison parent decided to keep her son home, even though important end-of-year tests are being taken this week.

"One of the most disconcerting aspects is the issue of not feeling safe in school," she said. "It only hurts the kids who want to be in school."

The parent, however, did say she backed Harrison administrators in their decision to not close the school. "They did not buckle to threats."

During Tuesday night's school board meeting, NFHS parent Daryl Tregler expressed concerns about Monday's low attendance. But Myers said things were "pretty much back to normal" as of Tuesday at North.

Superintendent Bob Maxfield lauded Tregler for his comments.

According to Maxfield, "He (Tregler) said enough is enough to the phony threats... that it's time for parents to take a stand and not enable this kind of behavior."

Graduate reunion set to assess school quality

In an effort to assess the quality of its educational program, Farmington Public Schools is hosting a "Class of 1998 Graduate Reunion" from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 26, at the Farmington Training Center.

All 1998 grads are invited to attend.

District administrators will lead students in small group discussions about their experiences in Farmington schools and how those impacted their post-graduate educational or work careers.

Farmington Training Center is located at 33000 Thomas Street in downtown Farmington, north of Grand River. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (248) 489-3349.

Correction Notice

The Pre-Print Insert for the Resource Recovery & Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County Backyard Composter Sale - MRF Open House was incorrectly printed to say the wrong day.

THE INSERT SHOULD HAVE SAID "SUNDAY, MAY 23"

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