

## Rates from page A1

"That's a lot of water," said Peggy Griffin, Suburban Hockey business manager.

Rate increases are largely due to Detroit Water and Sewerage hikes that are being passed onto residents.

"Nobody likes to see rates go up," said Tom Biasell, Farmington Hills Public Services director. "I'm sure some residents will be concerned ... (But) Things do get more expensive. I guess it's a matter of degrees."

Detroit Water and Sewer is charging 29 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, from \$9.60 to \$9.89, which accounts for the increase. Operation and maintenance costs remain at \$2.93 for the same amount of water.

Improvements to Detroit water and sewer lines that feed into Farmington Hills are being cited for the increase.

Last year, Farmington Hills sewer rates went up 10 percent and 2.5 percent in 1997-98. One year, rates dropped 2.5 percent.

"It does vary," Biasell said. Detroit's charge to operate the Evergreen/Farmington sewage disposal system has gone up 77 cents from \$9.70 to \$9.47. A bulk - 46 cents - is Detroit's charge to operate the system.

Excess flow charges will increase 29 cents, which is the difference between water used and sewage disposed.

Industrial and commercial surcharges also will increase 7 cents. An industrial surcharge is levied against commercial businesses that put pollutants exceeding recommended levels. Residential customers are exempt from the surcharge.

# Farmington Hills man honored as Italian-American of the Year

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER  
loconnor@oe.homedomain.net

**A** Farmington Hills man finds being selected Italian-American of the Year is a privilege and an honor, especially in an area of 300,000 people who share that heritage.

But it's just as important to be Italian and American, he said.

"When I'm here, I scream my head off for the University of Michigan to score a touchdown," said Franco Iaderosa, who was honored by the Italian Study Group of Troy April 25. "When I'm in Naples, I scream my head off for my soccer team (Napoli)."

Iaderosa, 46, is on the ball in other ways. He is educational director for N.O.I. (New Italian Horizon or *Nuovi Orizzonti Italiani*) Foundation and promotes Italian language and culture through a total-immersion program. The group includes 2,000 students and meets at Hoover Elementary in Livonia as well as in Dearborn, St. Clair Shores and Warren. He's also a member of the Livonia Italian Club.

Iaderosa has come full circle: As an immigrant at age 16, he had to digest American culture at full stop.

"It was one of the most intimidating things you could ever feel," he said. "Moving into a new country at that age (16) is a very traumatic experience."

"At that age, you're so in tune with your friends, and you have all these insecurities at that age."

Iaderosa remembers hearing kids speaking English on the street corner. He vowed to eventually know what they were saying.

He took English classes with a large group of Hispanic people, who lived in southwest

Detroit. "Six months later I spoke perfect Spanish, but I didn't know a word of English," Iaderosa said.

He learned the parlance as a bag boy at Kroger on Fort Street and Junction. He went on to the University of Michigan where he majored in mathematics and romance languages. He has a master's degree in education from Wayne State University.

He's been a Detroit Public Schools educator for 21 years. Iaderosa teaches math at Detroit Chadsey High, which is not far from where he grew up.

"I feel an affinity towards the kids and the neighborhood," said Iaderosa, who uses his Spanish, a vital commodity in that part of the city. "I feel very close to the neighborhood."

"I'm able to relate to the (students) in a very effective way. I feel I have a line of communication that is very fruitful."

Iaderosa and his family - wife Angela and children Nina, 10, and Marco, 7 - try to visit Italy every two or three years.

With the Italian Study Group's honor, he joins past recipients: Birmingham Brother Rice football coach Al Fracassa, 1984; Troy restaurateur Dominic Panno, 1987; Farmington Hills neurologist Michael Nigro, 1992; and Troy Judge Michael Martone, 1997.

The Italian Study Group of Troy is a non-profit group that raises money to support cultural activities and a performing arts club that works with adults who are physically and mentally disabled.

The Farmington Hills City Council recognized Iaderosa's achievements at a meeting



**Awarded:** From left, Lino Scamardella presents Farmington Hills resident Franco Iaderosa with the Italian-American of the Year award. Scamardella is former president for the Committee of Italian immigrants.

April 19. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi - another Italian immigrant - gave him a proclamation.

"I'm very proud of where I came from," Iaderosa said. "I'm extremely proud I was born there and I was able to come here and make a living."

"I never left my roots; I've added to my roots."

## New water/sewer rates

Farmington Hills

NEW WATER RATES	1998-1999	1999-2000	INCREASE
Detroit Water Charge	\$9.60	\$9.89	29 cents
Maintenance Charge	\$2.93	\$2.93	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12.53</b>	<b>\$12.82</b>	<b>29 cents</b>
SEWAGE DISPOSAL RATES	1998-1999	1999-2000	INCREASE
Evergreen/Farmington	\$8.70	\$9.47	77 cents
City Replacement Reserve	\$0.67	\$0.66	-1 cent
Maintenance	\$1.74	\$1.60	-14 cents
Debt service	\$1.03	\$1.03	0 cents
Detroit/Evergreen	\$0.23	\$0.30	7 cents
Farmington Master Makeup	\$0.23	\$0.30	7 cents
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11.77</b>	<b>\$12.46</b>	<b>69 cents</b>

## FARMINGTON NOTABLES

### Resident re-elected

Ralph Cipolla of Farmington Hills has been re-elected to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan Board of Directors for a two year term.

Mr. Cipolla, Operations Manager for WCSN/WRRF Radio, was re-elected at CLF's spring board meeting, and will begin his new term July 1.

teenager-friendly environment, "We want to make sure we have a wide representation (of students) on the committee."

It will cost an estimated \$2.5 million to successfully implement the plan, but Maxfield emphasized that "We're not assigning dollar amounts to safe-

ty issues."

And safety is the primary reason why the district wants to close the campuses. Having a lunch option has been permitted since the early 1970s. But the committee apparently felt keeping kids in cafeterias would enhance safety and

curb behavioral issues such as alcohol use or reckless driving. Recently, a Harrison student was hit by a car while trying to cross 12 Mile Road, in front of the school building.

School board Secretary Linda Enberg said the district has an opportunity to help students

accept the change more easily, by making sure the cafeterias are appealing places to eat and spend time with classmates.

"If it's a nice place with food they enjoy, I think they'll accept it much more readily," Enberg said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BAKESZ

**Blessed:** Kermit the frog joined other animals that were blessed by the Rev. Wayne Large of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington in Shiawassee Park.

## Longevity

### Pet frog beats odds at 15 years

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER  
jmaliszewski@oe.homedomain.net

Tim Latimer has spent most of his 19 years snoozing to the tender sounds of croaking. "He croaks all night long," said Latimer, about his 15-year-old frog, Kermit.

Besides his age, what's interesting about Kermit, a water frog, is that he started life as an educational toy - "Grow A Frog" - for kids.

Tim got the toy when he was 4 years old. In other words, Kermit arrived at the Latimer household as a dot. "At the appropriate time we had to put it in water and then it developed into a tadpole," said Tim's mother, Susan. "You watch the metamorphosis."

For the last 15 years, Kermit, who measures about 11 1/2 inches long and is greenish brown with

a whitish belly, has surprised everyone. He is still alive. He lives in an aquarium filled with about 10 inches of filtered water. Every few days he receives his pellet food. And his home is cleaned out once a month.

"I read the pamphlet and they are only supposed to live for a few years," Tim said. Not Kermit. And he seems happy. At least if that's what the nightly croaking is about.

Farmington Hills naturalist Joe Derek was surprised at Kermit's age. "That's a long time. Whatever they have done, they are doing correctly."

Having amphibians - what a frog is - as pets is tough. "They generally don't make good pets. They obviously have taken very good care of him."

No doubt Tim has affection for Kermit. But, "I don't really think

of him as a pet."

Though the puppet character for whom Tim's frog was named is a boy, no one in the Latimer family is sure whether Kermit is a boy or a girl. But it doesn't matter, anyhow, they say.

"Whatever we are doing with him, it works," Susan Latimer said. "But I have told Tim that when he gets married, 'you get custody of the frog.'"

And with some heavenly intervention, perhaps Kermit will continue on to make that a reality. The Latimers joined other members of their church, First United Methodist Church of Farmington, Sunday, May 16, when the Rev. Wayne Large blessed animals in Shiawassee Park. Kermit and the Latimer's dog, Katy, were there.

# Borrow at Prime\*

## Republic Bank

offers Home Equity Loans to qualified customers at the **Prime Lending Rate.**



### Borrow for:

- Home improvements
- Vacation
- Bill consolidation
- That new boat



Bloomfield Hills (248) 258-5300 Northville (248) 735-0775  
Farmington Hills (248) 737-0444 Plymouth (734) 459-7800



\* Prime is 75% as of 4/1/99 for home equity lines of credit with a combined loan to value (LTV) of 75% or less and automatic payment from a qualifying Republic Bank checking account that must remain open for the life of the loan. Rate may be higher dependent upon overall credit evaluation. Variable Annual Percentage Rate is tied to Prime as listed in the Wall Street Journal. Other rates available. Lines are subject to normal credit requirements. Some loans may require title insurance and appraisals. Maximum APR is 18%. Homeowners insurance required. Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest.

FINANCING THE AMERICAN DREAM