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IN THE PAPER TODAY

MONDAY

Councils meet: With the election past, both Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils will get down to business. The Hills meeting is at 7:30 p.m.; Farmington's starts at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Buyer beware: Farmington Hills Consumer Protection Committee meets at 7 p.m. in City Hall.

WEDNESDAY

Crime watch: Farmington Hills Crime Prevention Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

THURSDAY

Public hearing: Farmington Hills Planning Commission has a public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

ROAD WATCH

CSX railroad company will close Novi Road between 10 Mile and Grand River in Novi Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 16-17, so that the company can make repairs to its railroad crossing. During the closure, the detour route will be Grand River, Meadowbrook and 10 Mile roads.

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HomeTown Classifieds



Man charged in carjacking

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER
Charged: Leoly Sabah Frances
is arraigned Friday.

As his crack cocaine addiction raged, authorities say a Southfield man's crime wave became more daring and dangerous. A week-long carjacking investigation ended with the man's arrest Wednesday night, capping off with what authorities describe as a bizarre chain of events.

On Friday, Leoly Sabah Frances, 32,

was charged in connection with carjacking a 92-year-old Farmington Hills woman's vehicle Nov. 3. Judge Fred Harris imposed a cash bond of \$1 million. A preliminary exam will take place Friday, Nov. 24.

Carjacking is a felony punishable by up to life in prison. Frances also faces similar charges in connection with a carjacking that took place in the Farmer Jack parking lot on Eight Mile and Grand River in Livonia Wednesday afternoon.

The suspect has nine theft or shoplifting arrests in Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford and Livonia dating back to May 1998, police said.

"This is the typical pattern of a person who has a serious drug addiction problem," Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said.

"He indicated he's had a drug habit for the last 10 years. We know his family had a PPO (personal protection order) on him. They had given up all hope."

At 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, a 65-year-old Farmington Hills woman was robbed and forced into her 1998 Pontiac Transport van. She managed to escape unhurt.

That night, South Oakland Narcotics

Please see **CARJACKING, A5**

Celebrating her life



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER
Service: Father Jim Wright delivers the homily during Saturday's funeral service for Lois Vagnozzi at Mercy Center Chapel. The wife of former Farmington Hills mayor Aldo Vagnozzi died Monday after a five-year battle with ovarian cancer.

Hundreds pay tribute to Lois Vagnozzi

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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More than 200 people turned out to honor a woman whose life was marked by instilling an enduring spirit into others.

Lois Margaret Vagnozzi died Nov. 8 after a five-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 71.

During a funeral service at Mercy Center Chapel Saturday, many recalled Lois as the wife, mother, journalist and friend who taught others how to appreciate life.

The Rev. James Wright of St.

Alexander's Catholic Church celebrated Mass.

Those in attendance included elected and city officials from Farmington Hills and Farmington, friends from Church of St. Alexander and others whom Lois touched with her warmth.

Family members offered insight to what made Lois Vagnozzi stand out. Her husband of 50 years solemnly recited a reading from the Proverbs, which extols "The Wife of Noble Character."

"As I read this, you can see it was written for Lois," Aldo said.

"Many women have done

admirable things, but none as many as you Lois."

Daughter Barbara Vagnozzi Floeter read a passage from Corinthians, which celebrates love. Her mother recited the same reading at Barbara's wedding.

"And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love," Barbara said. "And the greatest of these is love."

Daughter Nancy's tribute drew smiles and laughter. As she wiped away an occasional tear, Nancy related how Lois inspired her as a writer

Please see **LOIS, A4**

Bush reflects on term as Farmington mayor

BY RICHARD PEARL
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"Two glorious years!"

That's how Mayor Mary L. Bush, the City of Farmington's top elected official, feels as she prepares to relinquish the gavel Monday night.

"It's really and truly been two glorious years, it really has," says Bush.

"It's been a pleasure. I've been extremely honored and proud to serve as mayor and serve Farmington's citizens."

Although she continues as councilwoman until 2001, her mayoral term ends during the 8 p.m. Nov. 15 meeting at City Hall when she and the other council members choose her successor.

The city charter requires that, every two years, the council select one of its own as mayor.



Mary Bush

If recent tradition is followed, it will be Bill Hartsock, who's been mayor pro tem.

However, there are no guarantees, because the council can choose any member.

Another interesting election Monday night will be that of Hartsock's successor as mayor pro tem.

Councilwoman JoAnne McShane was the top vote-getter in winning reelection Nov. 2, totaling 805, and could succeed Hartsock.

Bush was the top vote-getter two

years ago when she became mayor.

Bush says she won't miss the time demands of being mayor.

"You're really expected to attend virtually all the events and represent the city" at most everything, she says.

That includes the 10 civil weddings she performed. The demands of her real estate brokerage also was a factor.

But she'll "never forget" being mayor. "I've had opportunities to do things I never would have been able to do"

Please see **BUSH, A2**

Firefighter avoids limelight, excels in heat of emergencies

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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With every accolade laid upon her, Farmington Hills firefighter Shelly Hall's eyes shifted upward then downward like Houdini looking for a trap door.

If there's a burning house or a person in cardiac arrest, Hall is the first in line to help. But have the five-year firefighter stand in front of an audience to accept the department's highest honor and she's as uncomfortable as a lobster

that's ambled next to a boiling pot of water.

Hall, 29, is the Farmington Hills Firefighter of the Year. She meekly accepted the honor during the department's annual banquet at William Costick Activities Center Nov. 5.

"I'm really a shy person," said Hall, a 1988 North Farmington High graduate. "I'm not as shy as I used to be, though."

"As a firefighter, you have to deal with the public and you have to be able to communicate with them, especially in times of stress."

Please see **HALL, A5**



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Hall of fame: North Farmington grad Shelly Hall is the Farmington Hills Firefighter of the Year.