

Farmington Observer

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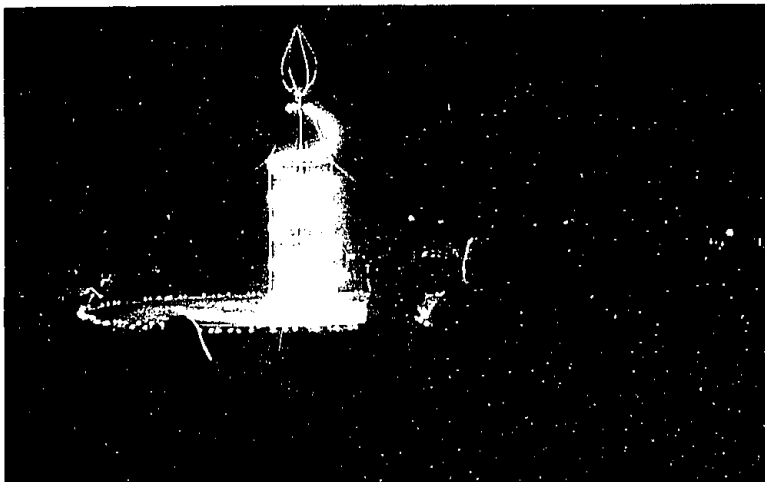
THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Opportunity: Here's your chance to tell the Michigan Public Service Commission what you think of your electrical service. The MPSC will meet at 6 p.m. at the William Costick Activities Center. Residents who have had problems with service and outages are urged to attend and give their thoughts and opinions.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DILLI DREXLER

Celebrate: Area residents didn't have to snuggle up because of cold weather, but they nonetheless gathered round to kick off the holiday season with the lighting of a giant candle in the fountain at Farmington Hills City Hall.

Let the holidays begin!

■ That turkey dinner you ate Thursday was only the beginning of the holiday season as Farmington Hills turns on the lights.

BY RICHARD PEARL
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Wishes for peace and unity — made all the warmer by unexpectedly balmy temperatures — flowed out to the crowd of 200 who gathered early Tuesday evening at the Farmington Hills municipal complex for the city's seventh annual holiday lights ceremony.

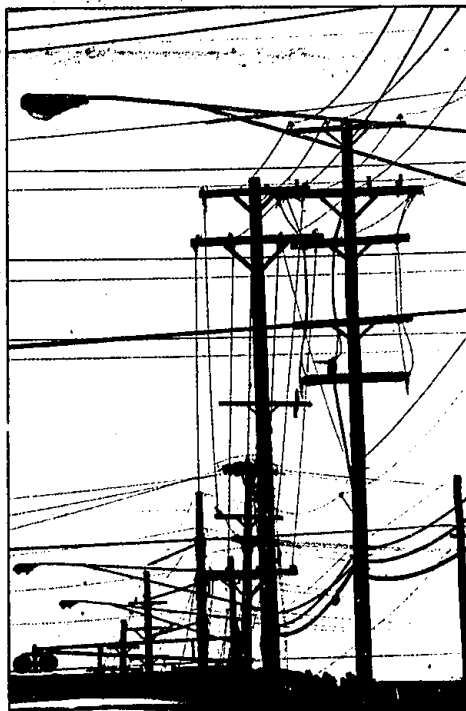
The event, which included first-time participation by the Farmington Hills/Farmington Multi-Cultural/Multi-Racial Community Council, saw Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, aided by a crowd of youngsters, pull a lever that lighted

Please see **LIGHTS**, A3

RU Y2K OK?

THE YEAR 2000

Editor's note: It's called the Year 2000, the Y2K, the end of the millennium (which it isn't). Much has been written about what could happen about a month from now. However in advance of New Year's Day, the Observer decided to get some local viewpoints on what's planned and happening in our towns, and what you should do to prepare.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Power play: Keeping the electricity on, and other utilities operating, will ease any Y2K impact, local officials say.



Meals by the box: Ready-to-eat food is a big seller for Brian Wais, manager of Metropolitan Army and Navy store.

Cash registers jingling for Y2K

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

A sign on the window of a store that says: "Don't be Scared. Be Prepared. We carry Y2K supplies," is getting a lot of attention.

Brian Wais, manager of Metropolitan Army and Navy in Westland, an outdoor outfitter and uniform shop, said he decided to post the warning after reading stories about potential Y2K problems earlier in the year.

He reports a 25 to 30 percent increase in business from customers preparing for potential chaos from computers getting confused about whether "00" means the year 2000 or 1900.

Sales in camping items, water purification tablets, sleeping bags, thermal-underwear, blankets, freeze-dried foods and extended life candles are adding a boost to an otherwise slow time of year.

"What I've found to be the biggest sellers are the meals ready to eat," Wais said. "The scary thing is that people are buying a lot of ammo cans (metal boxes to store ammunition). For what I have no idea. You think to yourself: 'Do they know something that I don't know?'"

Sales in riot helmets worn by police have risen, too, Wais said.

Please see **AMING**, A6

Cheap ways to survive it

BY BARRY JENSEN
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Want to do something about a possible Y2K problem without spending a lot of money? Here are some steps you can take while spending very little money.

Store water in glass or plastic bottles. Or buy water from the store. To store tap water indefinitely, put 8 drops of 5-percent hypochlorite bleach into a gallon of clean water

and then pour the water mixture into a clean gallon bottle. Goal: half a gallon of water per person per day. Don't throw away the filled bottles — they are very cheap insurance.

Don't forget about the 40 gallons of potable water in your water heater. You might want to drain it now so that there will be no gunk in the water, should you need to use it for drinking, said Scott Wilson of

Please see **CHEAP**, A8

Practice effort makes perfect for year 2000

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington and Farmington Hills city employees Tuesday will conduct a practice run-through of what is hoped to be a more efficient way of transmitting election results from local precincts to the county

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

canvasser's office.

From 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, employees will send "mock election" results electronically in hope of determining whether such a system might be successfully used during the presidential election in November 2000, said Farmington City Clerk Patsy Cantrell.

Many municipalities in Oakland County are expected to participate, including Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi and Walled Lake.

"We'll use the Internet and modem," Cantrell said.

That likely would be a less time-consuming

Please see **PRACTICE**, A5



The first place to visit when you're looking for a new place to live? The Real Estate ads in today's

HomeTown Classifieds!

Club celebrates 75 years of service and bad jokes

BY TIM SMITH
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EXCHANGE CLUB

The Exchange Club of Farmington is celebrating 75 years of ugly neckties, bad jokes and — most importantly — "Unity for Service," the still-pertinent club motto.

"Everybody loves to have fun," explained Exchange Mike Harrison. "But we have fun in the name of a good cause. Having the chance to combine both is a very special opportunity."

Last week at Farmington City Hall, those 75 years were featured in a slide-show presentation "Fast run" of sorts, for the Observer. The program will be shown for the benefit of the Exchange Club membership during the meeting scheduled for 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Brass Pointe Restaurant on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Harrison and Paula Boegner, both members of the local Exchange Club's history committee, presented the test run, along with another Exchange, Farmington City Manager Frank LaHoff. The slides were assembled by history committee member and club photographer Frank Grady.

"It's a real time capsule if you look at the names of the founding members," said Harrison. "There are a lot of things in this town that are named after these people."

Charter members who attended the first session, May 26, 1924, at the Farmington State Savings Bank (now the Village Mall) included Spencer J. Heeney, Harley D. Warner, E.F. Holcomb, Isaac Bond and F. Devere Fleming.

The Exchange Club, originally an "old boys club" filled with bowling, deer hunting, card games and other sporting events, preceded by two years the incorporation of Farmington as a city.

Please see **EXCHANGE**, A5

