

IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Readers,

Effective with today's issue, we've made improvements in the page one namplate - called "the flag" by newspaper folks - of your Farmington Observer. A newspaper's flag carries a lot of information for those who know how to read it. This note is to help you out.

- We've designed a special type face for the namplate of the Farmington Observer. We hope it's both distinctive and easy to read.
- Below the namplate, we list the communities served by the paper.
- To the left of the namplate, you'll find "HomeTown Communications Network" under a graphic that looks like the roof of a house. That indicates that the Farmington Observer is part of the HomeTown Communications Network of fine local newspapers throughout Michigan.

- In the color bar below the namplate, you will see from the left: Volume 113 and Number 40, indicating the number of years the paper has been published and the number of editions published so far during the year; "hometownnewspapers.net" is the address of our site on the World Wide Web; 75 cents indicates the price of the paper at the newsstand.

At the bottom of the front page we run telephone numbers of our classified advertising department, newsroom and circulation and home delivery staff. We want to make it easy for you to reach us. Our aim is to make our newspapers the essential tool for our readers and their families to live the good life in their home towns. That's why we are making these improvements, with others soon to come.

Tell me what you think. You can reach me at (734) 253-2100 or at strosiek@coe.hometowncomm.net

Sincerely,

Susan Rozick

Susan Rozick,
Publisher

THE GREAT SIDA ABEL TODAY

Saying goodbye: The great Sid Abel of Farmington hills and of Red Wing hockey fame died at Bostford Hospital. His friends, including those who played euchre with him at Crowley's in downtown Farmington, remember him. /C1

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Thinking about a new car or a good second car? You'll find a huge selection of auto ads in today's HomeTown Classifieds



To place a classified ad: 734-591-0900

Move to Farmer Jack is closer

Remember where Crowley's used to be at 12 Mile and Farmington roads? Plans are in the works to transform the vacant multi-story building into a one-story Farmer Jack. But the shopping center owner has some hoops to jump through for the city.

By JONI HUBERD
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The former Crowley's store at 12 Mile and Farmington roads took another step toward becoming a new Farmer Jack, with the approval of three zoning

variances Tuesday night. Getting those approvals, however, was no easy task for owner Keith Butler of Butler Farmington Associates. First, he has to explain to several board members who live in the area exactly what he's going to do about bet-

ter maintaining the mall. Architect Michael Rein of Bowers & Rein Associates said the planning commission review had identified the need for three variances:

- A 15-foot variance from the required 75-foot setback from a residential district, for the rear of the building;
- A variance for required loading space in the rear yard, because the store has no rear yard; and
- A variance from the 30-foot height

limit for fixtures, to ensure lighting in the parking lot is uniform with present fixtures, which are 32 1/2 feet high. "We had all the variance requests identified at the planning commission," Rein said. "The technical denial allowed us to come in front of this board." The problem owners faced with the vacant department store was filling the three-story space, explained Keith Butler of Butler Farmington Associates.

Please see FARMER JACK, A5

At the heart of the matter: DON'T BE A HERO

By TIM SMITH
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Susan Dubin finished the work day in downtown Farmington about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29. The last patient the office manager saw at the eye clinic that evening was a man who talked to her about his recent heart attack. Then, she started driving north on Orchard Lake Road.

With her semi-retired optometrist husband Dr. Howard Dubin away from home on business, Susan thought about getting dinner. Either she would dine at a restaurant along the busy north-south thoroughfare or she'd pick up a carry-out order and take it home to the Dubs at West Bloomfield Township residence.

Talk about irony. There would be no dinner that night. But what did transpire was an unbelievable, surrealistic sequence of events that - had any of those happened otherwise - probably would have resulted in Susan Dubin's death from a massive heart attack.

Somewhere on Orchard Lake, between 13-14 Mile roads, Susan Dubin's body temperature rocketed to what seemed like 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

"It felt like a volcano exploded inside," said Susan, 63, recalling her life-and-death experience during an interview last week at home, where she faces a long recovery.

Her basic knowledge of heart attacks, the same kind of symptoms she discussed at work with the eye clinic patient, also played a part in what happened next.

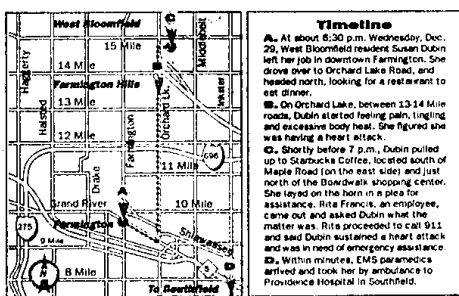
"Then there was tingling across both arms and across my back, and there was pain in my shoulder blade on the left side. And then, there was pain in my heart. I said to myself, 'I'm having a heart attack.'"

Reaching out for help Dubin, who is a member of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority and an active school-community volunteer, fought to continue steering her vehicle despite the searing pain. Cognizant of her situation, but rapidly losing her strength, she sought out a place to park her car and leave the horn for emergency help.

She decided against pulling into the parking lot of the Boardwalk shopping center, south of Maple Road, for fear of becoming "a car in a sea of cars." This, then, she saw a



Heartline: Susan Dubin calls her husband, Howard, a "domestic god" and her best support following her heart attack in December.



Please see HEART, A5

Are you at risk?
Certain factors can increase the risk of Coronary Artery Disease. Use the following quiz to learn what puts you at risk. Some factors obviously cannot be changed. But you can stop smoking, eat a healthy diet and exercise.

- Do you smoke?
- Do you weigh more than you should?
- Are you past menopause?
- Do you have diabetes, heart disease or kidney disease?
- Are you African-American?
- Does your family have a history of heart disease?
- Are you under a lot of stress?
- Do you often eat fatty foods?
- Do you choose to sit when you could be active?

Source: Heart Communications

Cardiologist talks about heart disease

By TIM SMITH
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Coronary Artery Disease is increasingly victimizing American women such as Susan Dubin, who said her family history should have been a warning sign years ago.

As it was, she only really started paying attention to the health of her heart a year or two ago. Her cholesterol registered at about 300, with subsequent diet and monitoring, she brought it down to 240 - still too high for comfort.

If there is a message she wants other women to get out of her story, it's to take coronary care seriously and not assume outward physical appearance translates to being okay.

"She's thin, active, a non-smoker," said Howard Dubin. "She doesn't fit the profile except for the genetics."

Providence Hospital cardiologist Dr. Jeffrey Zaks, who treated Susan Dubin following her Dec. 29, 1999 heart attack, said women, and men, need to undergo regular coronary checkups. Conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, family history all must be factored in. So too, are habits such as cigarette smoking.

Zaks said the risk for men and women suffering heart attacks is about the same.

"But historically, we haven't paid enough attention to our female patients' about heart disease," Zaks said. "Many women mistakenly believe they are protected from heart disease. We know heart disease is becoming a leading cause of death in women" right up there with

Please see HEART, A5

Clerks don't expect rush at polls for primary

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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The Farmington and Farmington Hills city clerks won't be too surprised if the Feb. 22 presidential primary doesn't draw lines of voters to the polls.

"It's really only for the Republicans," said Farmington City Clerk Patsy Cantrell. "The Democrats are having their caucus March 11."

Nonetheless, Cantrell and Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman are planning and gearing up for this primary as they would for any other election.

While the deadline has passed to register to vote,

there's still time for voters to apply for and receive absentee ballots.

In Farmington Hills, voters who are 60 years and older will automatically receive an application. If you don't fit in that category but would like to apply for an absentee ballot because, for example, you will be out of town, call the clerk's office, 473-9560, or stop by City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.

In Farmington, applications are not automatically mailed. They must be requested by stopping at City

Hall, 23600 Liberty, or by calling the clerk's office, 474-5500.

In both cities, the deadline for picking up a ballot is Saturday, Feb. 19. Both city halls will be open 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. to accommodate voters. You need not vote the ballot on that Saturday.

But Cantrell is urging Farmington voters to cast their absentee ballots as soon as possible.

"You can actually hand it in on election day," she said. "But that creates a lot of confusion and extra work. We encourage voters to return them as soon as they have made a decision."

Please see PRIMARY, A6

FEB. 22