

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

Meet: The Farmington City Council will meet at 7 p.m. to talk about Civic Theatre renovations. The regular 8 p.m. meeting will follow with a discussion about customer-only parking.

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Primary: Some folks disillusioned

■ If you're registered to vote, you may cast your ballot 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday in the state presidential primary. You need not declare your party affiliation, but the election is really a primary for the Republican Party. Some folks in the Farmington area offered their opinions.

By JONI HUBBARD
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Even though Farmington Hills City Hall will be closed on Monday, the building will hum with activity as full-time and temporary staff members prepare for Tuesday's presidential primary election.

Over the long weekend, they'll log more than 600 hours and give up a holiday for an event geared toward only one political party. The Republicans have six candidates on the ballot,



Mary Elser

including the three still in the race, while only Lyndon LaRouche appears on the Democratic side.

And Donald Trump, who has already dropped out of the presidential race, is the only name on the Reform Party ballot.



Karen Harris

they planned to vote, even though they weren't registered Republicans.

"Technically, I'm a Republican, but I usually vote independent," said Mary Elser of Farmington, who expressed a bit of skepticism about the entire political process. "There haven't been a

That didn't seem to bother the folks at the Metro Coney Island in Farmington Friday. It's possible they were more worried about an impending winter storm, but most of those willing to comment said



STAFF PHOTO BY DELA BARNER
Thinking Andrea LaFrance is still considering candidates.

whole lot of choices for a long time." Detroit resident Karen Harris plans

Please see PRIMARY, A5

Oh dear ...



Help: Two deer peer up at rescuers who successfully got the animals out of a pit behind the Dana Corp. Thursday. The deer were tranquilized and then carried out and placed in a waiting vehicle. They were later released to the wild.

Alive and well Deer are rescued from pit

Two deer rescued from a Farmington Hills construction pit Thursday afternoon are running wild and free again, thanks to efforts by Hills Police, paramedics and a local veterinarian.

Police called Dr. Steve Burns of Berkley Animal Clinic at around 1:30 p.m. because Burns has worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in similar circumstances. He has training and experience in tranquilizing animals.

Burns said the deer probably fell into the pit by accident while seeking shelter from the wind. It was cov-

ered with white plastic sheeting anchored with lumber to keep out the snow.

"The one that looked the worst had probably been there two weeks," he said. "The older deer was in better condition."

Once Burns had used a carbon dioxide-powered blow gun to tranquilize the deer, paramedics carried them out of the pit and loaded them onto a vehicle. Burns treated the smaller deer with antibiotics and treated minor wounds before the two were transported to a nearby soccer field and released.

Festival changes prompt protest

By TIM SMITH
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Downtown Farmington merchants want answers to a raft of questions pertaining to the new look founder's festival, particularly about why they are being stuck with a \$50 fee to display merchandise in front of their stores.

Hopefully, by early this week, they'll start receiving them.

A lack of communication and involvement in the process is what has apparently angered retailers, much more than the \$50 fee itself, said several merchants Friday.

"It's not a war at all," said Farmington Bakery co-owner Becky Burns, a member of the just re-formed Downtown Farmington Business Association. "We just want everybody to get together and communicate better about this."

Stemming from the association's initial meeting, Burns and her husband, bakery co-owner Jeff Pavlik, put together a list of questions that was submitted Thursday to Jim Stark, president of Farmington Area Founders Festival Inc., the board which manages and oversees the event, now known as the Farmington Area Family Fest.

Please see FEST, A6

Suspects arraigned

By JONI HUBBARD
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They sat in the front row in Magistrate Joan Dudley's courtroom Thursday afternoon, distinguished from the other prisoners awaiting arraignment in 47th District Court by the fresh scratches and wounds on their heads.

Those injuries were sustained when the car police say 26-year-old Cassius Rupert King was driving slammed into a tree at the end of Roosevelt Street, after a two-block pursuit by Farmington Hills officers. They allege he fled in a 1995 Dodge Neon, leaving behind injured passenger Leonard Jerome Vassar, 28, of Detroit.

According to Hills Chief Bill Dwyer, the two men had been parked near Howard's Discount Jewelers in a vehicle spotted several weeks ago and reported as "suspicious." A week-long

Please see ARRAIGN, A5

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