

Dealers divided on silver law

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ready."

An opposite view of the law and the reports dealers are required to furnish to police comes from Tony Martini, owner of Farmington Assay Office.

"The law created paperwork for us and problems for police," Martini said. "We're seeing more and more broken-up stuff, broken up until you can't identify it. They grind off the markings. They'll beat up a graduation ring until

it's unidentifiable.

"All this law has done is create a black market," he adds. The pros know where to go to sell it and not get caught. And the junkies are always going to get caught."

Martini says he objects to doing investigative work that should be done by police and resents having to fingerprint customers.

He calls the three examples of items

reported stolen traced back to their owners by Farmington Police last month "penny-ante" items that don't amount to much in the big picture.

Further, he adds, since the three incidents involved family members who refused to prosecute, the law isn't a deterrent to crime.

"ANYTHING REALLY rare (professional thieves or burglars) they're not going to bring here," Martini says. "Where do they sell it? I don't know,

I'm not a fence."

Like Duquet, Martini wonders who reimburses him if stolen goods are recovered from his shop after he asked the seller to provide full identification.

"They've turned the whole thing around to where I take all the risk," Martini says. "I'm not in the investment business. I'm in the precious metals business."

Kelly on Kelley: Try public vote

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The burden would be on citizens, she said, "to prove they plan on holding a subsequent election to serve as a subterfuge."

"Council members could claim

the secret ballot was simply an accident they tried to correct — a mis-understanding," Reeves said.

If Tupper is unanimously elected in a public vote, Reeves said council members might claim the outcome "just happened to happen."

Storm dumps 1.5 inches of rain

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fy the man.

Damaged and downed power lines along Inkster near Heartstone and along Lincolnview also were reported by the fire department.

One-hundred-and-fifty Farmington and Farmington Hills residents were among approximately 5,000 Detroit Edison customers in Oakland County who lost electricity.

Some of the outages were caused by toppled tree branches, but most were due to lightning, according to James Connelly, director of custom-

er and marketing services for Edison's Oakland Division.

"The Farmington area was one of the hardest hit, along with Southfield, Commerce, West Bloomfield and Waterford," Connelly said.

Power lines went down on Middlebelt between 12 and 13 Mile roads and along the Grand River and I-96 interchange. Scattered outages also were reported elsewhere in the Farmington area, Connelly said.

THE STORM MEANT 20-hour days for 75 Edison employees who

stayed on after working eight-hour shifts Monday to work throughout the night. By 7 a.m., most power lines were repaired.

Rain-soaked telephone cables caused interrupted service for many Farmington-area Michigan Bell customers, according to Jack Wilson, corporate affairs manager for the company's south Oakland area.

Wilson was uncertain as to how many homes were without telephone service Tuesday, but said the warm weather facilitated repair work.

"Rain got into cables, and tree limbs blown down by the wind broke some lines," said Wilson.

"With the heat drying out the lines, we didn't get the influx of calls we expected. We should have everyone back in service by Wednesday night."

In addition to downed power lines burning and severing telephone cables, Wilson said, many trees were damaged in Farmington Hills.

A flash-flood warning in effect Tuesday night was issued for the Farmington area by Oakland County. No flooding was reported, however.

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