

U-U church welcomes new minister, 1B



Falcons fly, 1D

Drug testing by police debated, 4A

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MOTORISTS, take note.

All left turns are prohibited at the intersection of Middlebelt and Northwestern in Farmington Hills. The prohibition follows the addition of several turnarounds along Northwestern from Inbaker to 14 Mile. A county engineering study found increased traffic volume at the intersection, Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Ray Cranston said. A similar left-turn prohibition is now in effect at 13 Mile and Northwestern. The turnarounds can hold 15-18 cars.

STUDENT exchange.

Farmington Hills Police Lt. Martin Bledsoe and his wife, Marge, are hosting a Mexican exchange student this school year. Jorge Alvarez, 14, of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico, will attend Milford High School. The eldest of four boys, Jorge comes from Colegio LaSalle, a Mexican school near Guatemala. He is participating in the Youth Exchange Service of Los Angeles.

"Jorge is interested in meeting many American youth and playing team sports," Bledsoe said. "He's an exceptional student with a particular interest in the natural sciences." The Bledsoes have a son, 6, and a daughter, 3.

HONORING Kelly.

Farmington Hills has posted several signs honoring resident Kelly Lynn Garver, Miss Michigan for 1987 and a finalist in the recent Miss America Scholarship Pageant. The green rectangular signs are posted at several gateways to the city.

ON the stump. State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, waxed eloquent in a talk Sept. 17 before the Southfield Democratic Club when he proclaimed, "Partisanship made this country what it is today." Faxon took a few potshots at his Republican challenger, Lathrup Village councilman Frank Brock, for failing to designate his party on campaign billboards. "One sign fits all," Faxon said. "It's like a portable election. You can change parties and use the same signs." As for Faxon, who says he's argued, he's thinking of posting the same signs he used in 1982. His campaign is being run on "deficit spending," he said with a chuckle.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington Community Library officials want to be more open with the community about their monthly meetings and library activities. "The Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees has named a public relations committee," said Library Director Beverly Papal. "They are concerned with making library board meetings and activities more visible to the community."

3 more interchanges planned

I-696 will be widened

A rural-designed freeway now serves booming suburbia: 8A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A DREAM come true. That's what Southfield, West Bloomfield Township and Farmington Hills officials are calling the Michigan Department of Transportation's long-awaited plans for major improvements to the I-696 freeway corridor.

MDOT Director James Pitz announced Tuesday the state's commitment to a \$59 million to \$76 million freeway improvement plan designed to relieve traffic congestion in growing suburban Oakland County communities.

The five-point, five-year plan includes widening I-696 and constructing three new interchanges in Southfield and Farmington Hills.

"Development is occurring and it's time for us to have a plan to deal with that development," Pitz told suburban officials at a press conference in Southfield's American Center on Franklin Road.

"The steps now are to proceed with implementation. We hope to have the whole thing done in a five-year period."

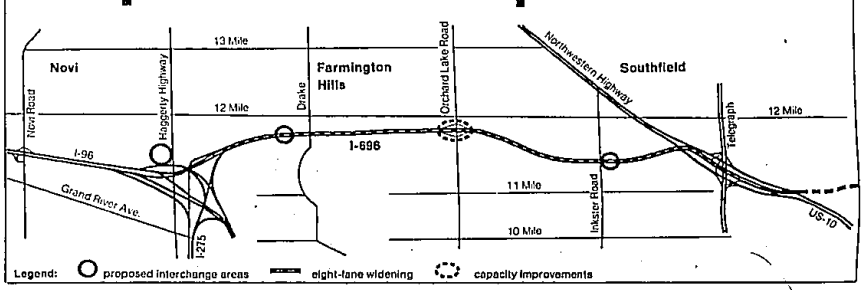
STATE SENS. Jack Faxon, D-

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AT LEFT: Southfield Councilwoman Suzanne Goldstein and state Sen. Richard Foster look on as Michigan Department of Transportation spokesman James Pitz explains planned changes to the I-696 freeway corridor. They were on hand Tuesday at a news conference held in the American Center, Southfield.

Proposed I-696 improvements



Hills voters say yes to better roads

'In the short term and the long run, it (bond issue) is going to prove to be the wisest approach for the city.'

— William Costick City manager

For a precinct by precinct breakdown of the vote, see Page 3A.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

By this time next year, the bulk of a \$4-project road improvement program in Farmington Hills will be under way.

Voters Tuesday overwhelmingly supported a request to finance a \$7 million city share of a total \$14 million road improvement program with general obligation bonds.

"Of the \$7 million in projects, we hope to do \$4-45 million — the bulk — of it within the next year. We could conceivably do a lot of work next year," City Manager William Costick said, following the low-turnout election.

The bond issue was the second successful financial request by city officials this summer. The first was passage of a 0.5-mill tax for five years to finance parks development.

Unofficial tallies show that of the total 2,546 ballots cast, 1,768, or 70 percent, supported the bond issue and 745, or 30 percent, opposed it.

The board of canvassers was expected to confirm final vote tallies Wednesday evening.

AS WITH the park millage ballot in June, voter turnout was low Tuesday. Of the city's 42,234 registered voters, only 6 percent (2,546) of the voters cast ballots. Of the 2,546 votes cast, 1,468 were absentee, according to unofficial tallies.

"You always hope for a larger voter turnout. I expected more people. This was our first effort at a bond issue. I think there is a lot of interest in good roads. But there are a lot of

people who assume they will go out and vote," Costick said.

"Naturally, I am very pleased that the citizens saw fit to approve the bond issue. In the short term and the long run, it's going to prove to be the wisest approach for the city," he added.

Passage of the bond issue means that the city can complete the majority of the 34 road improvements within three years rather than extending work over a 7-8 year period on a pay-as-you-go basis.

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Pastoral urging Stop nuclear weaponry race — bishops

By Bob Sklar staff writer

Nardin Park United Methodist Church has joined other United Methodist churches around the nation in unveiling a pastoral letter opposing nuclear war and use of nuclear weapons.

The letter, entitled "In Defense of Creation — The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace," is from the United Methodist Council of Bishops.

It proposes a comprehensive nuclear test ban, a multilateral nuclear weapons freeze, the ultimate dismantling of all such weapons, a ban on all space weapons and peaceful disarmament talks with the Soviets.

"We have become increasingly aware of the devastation that such weapons can inflict on planet earth. We have watched and agonized over the increase in hostile rhetoric and hate among nations. We have seen the threat of nuclear confrontation increasing in our world," the letter reads.



'I'm becoming increasingly uncomfortable with the notion of nuclear policy that is based on fear of what the enemy might do.'

— Dr. William Ritter, Nardin Park pastor

The letter is an introduction to the 120-page Foundation Document, which sets forth "a theology for peace with justice." The document provides historical background and biblical justification for the bishops' statement and position on the "worsening nuclear crisis."

Although the United Methodist bishops condemned the U.S. nuclear arms policy last spring, the pastoral letter is the first time the bishops have delivered "a clear and unequal-

vocal no to nuclear war and use of nuclear weaponry," Ritter said. "They also said the buildup of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to nuclear war is a position that cannot receive the church's blessing," he added.

"That's a rather new idea. Historically, Christians have differentiated between the use of particular weapons and the possible building and deployment of that weapons system as a means of ensuring no one else would ever use such weapons."

UNLIKE THE bishops, Ritter sees the buildup and deployment of nuclear weapons perhaps acting as a deterrent to nuclear war. "But I personally join the bishops in finding any concept of the use of such weapons as being unthinkable," he said.

"I think the only place we might differ," he said, "is in the speed and unilateral nature with which the present stockpiles of nuclear weapons might be reduced."

A key to the letter is that the bishops are not speaking so much for the church as to it. "In that vein," Ritter said, "it works well."

Although not all Nardin Park worshippers agree with the letter's conclusions, most accepted it for what it was — "a word addressed to

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