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highlighted. 1E

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Twenty-Five Cents

Farthington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farthington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 3203 Grand River, Farthington 48024.

EDWIN Matysiewicz has received the Farthington Area Jaycees' highest honor, the Jaycee International Senatorship.

He was honored Feb. 10 for outstanding service to the Jaycees at the local, state, national and international levels.

Matysiewicz joined the Farthington Area Jaycees in 1981. He was a director in 1981-82 and vice president over two areas in 1982-84. He was elected president in 1984-85. He is now on the board of directors, overseeing all fundraising activities.

Matysiewicz has donated "countless hours to better our community. He serves as a role model to others in the organization and truly believes that service to humanity is the best work of life," said Louise Coleman, Farthington Area Jaycees president.

He is employed by Ford Motor Co.'s fuel injection technology division in Dearborn.

BARRIER-free will be the rule in newly platted Farthington Hills subdivisions. The city council recently amended the city code to require that streets connect to adjacent subdivisions in appropriate locations. But the streets must be patterned to discourage through traffic.

MAYORAL appointments in Farthington Hills continue. Paul Wolday is the newest member of the Farthington Hills Planning Commission. His three-year term will expire Feb. 1, 1990. Paul Sowerby and Richard Corey also were appointed to three-year terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

MAKE a choice. That's what members who serve on more than one Farthington Hills board or commission are asked to do. A new city policy calls for limiting one person to one board or commission to encourage more residents' involvement.

"The Farthington Hills City Council proposes to use a broader spectrum of citizens to serve on boards and commissions, thereby utilizing a greater amount of talent and ability represented in this city," according to a resolution adopted by the city council.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farthington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Building a new school plus a short-term student shift would be Lawrence Freedman's first choice in solving an increasing enrollment problem in westside Farthington elementary schools. But the district's boundary study committee chairman's recommendation may not be accepted by the committee or the Farthington Board of Education, he stressed at a Longacre Elementary parents meeting.

Assessments reflect Hills' housing boom

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It might be a surprise to some. But those paying attention to the booming housing market in the last couple of years might have suspected it.

Residential property assessments are going up this year in Farthington Hills. Assessments will increase an average 6 percent — some well below that and still others increasing up to 10 percent, Farthington Hills Assessor Dean Babb said.

Commercial and industrial property assessments are increasing an average 35 percent — the result of a recent reappraisal conducted by the Oakland County Equalization Department.

In 1984, Oakland County put the city on notice that commercial and industrial property assessments were far below the 50 percent market value at which the state requires all property to be assessed for tax purposes. A city's tax rate is levied against the assessed value of property.

The culprit for increased residential assessments this year, and the increases anticipated next year, is a raging housing sales market that has put Farthington Hills on the map.

'In light of the radical increases in market value we have had, it (assessments increase) is not following the increases (in sales and prices). The market has gone up more than 6 percent.'

— Dean Babb
Hills assessor

"IN LIGHT OF the radical increases in market value we have had, it is not following the increases (in sales and prices). The market has gone up more than 6 percent. 1985 and 1986 have been banner years as far as real estate," Babb said.

Residential assessment notices will be mailed Friday. But only those property owners whose assessments are increasing will be notified. Commercial and industrial

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Competition



Dennis Skidmore, manager of the Union 76 station at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farthington Hills, is waging a price war with the neighboring Speedway station, which continues to lower prices.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Gas war fueled

By Chris Rizk
staff writer

There's a war waging but not the kind that sends bullets or harsh words flying in all directions.

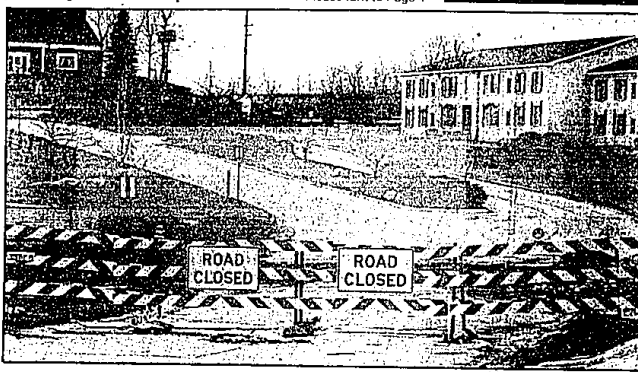
No. The battle taking shape at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farthington Hills resembles a subtle confrontation as gas station attendants slyly sneak out to change gasoline prices just before their competitor does likewise.

It's what's known in the trade as a gas war and the only ones enjoying the tete-a-tete are the consumers who are saving a pretty penny on the much-coveted commodity.

As of Monday, the prices of regular, unleaded and premium gasoline at Speedway and Union 76 were 73.9, 81.9 and 87.9 respectively.

It is, according to Bill Ryder, manager of media relations for the Marathon Oil Co., which owns Speedway stations, the end of the

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farthington spent 30-50 percent of its annual local road repair money in Chatham Hills this year. Pictured above is a view of Briant Hill.

\$1.2 million road project is approved

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Chatham Hills residents are being asked to pay the majority of a \$1.2 million major subdivision street improvement project approved Monday by the Farthington City Council.

The cost balance — an estimated 33 percent — will be paid by the city.

Many of the more than 270 homeowners from the subdivision attended a special council meeting Monday at Farthington High School to make

comments and ask questions about the proposed project which covers four miles of streets.

While several residents voiced opposition to the project, others asked questions about the logistics of the work and assessment payment options.

The council voted unanimously in favor of the project and instructed the city assessor to establish a special assessment roll. Councilman Arnold Campbell was absent. A public

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Education trends College-bound students seek counseling

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Competition is prompting college-bound high school students to seek ways to keep ahead of the pack.

As thousands of students vie for college entry slots, the idea of private counseling is gaining in popularity, according to education experts.

National news reports have detailed this new trend, which works to enhance the role of high school counselors, taking students a step further. Students and parents across the country are contracting with these non-school advisers who guide students through personality profiles, interest surveys and college applications.

"There's ways of working smart to get into college," said Barbara Kabcenell, West Bloomfield resident, part-time Oakland Community College — Orchard Ridge counselor, and partner in First Semester Inc., a private counseling company for young people in Farthington Hills.

"High school counselors have traditionally done this and still do, but they just don't have the time."

COUNSELORS WORK to give young people a focus, so they can apply to college with specific goals and

have a feeling of self confidence.

"Some very bright youngsters have difficulty making a decision. They should get off dead center; we give them tips for exploration."

By removing anxiety and promoting self-confidence, these counselors make applying to college a more positive experience, one news magazine report said. Contacts these private counselors make can also be a benefit to students, who sometimes need a fountain of knowledge to make an intelligent choice.

One dean of admissions for an Ivy

League college said the private counseling industry has grown "because high-school counselors haven't been given adequate resources to do the job."

Kabcenell saw the problems students encounter firsthand. As former director of career planning and placement for Mercy College in Detroit, she understands the needs the students have and has used her expertise in her new venture.

She said although other private companies offer career counseling, First Semester is one of a few to

stress college admissions.

"Guidance is a good word," she said, "that's what we do."

She estimates about 50 percent of high school juniors and seniors might need private counseling services, while 50 percent might use general school counseling.

"I SEE students who want independence," she said.

She stresses changes happening in career choices and what that means to her clients' college selections.

Gone are the days of having one career in a lifetime. The average number of careers has increased to five, Kabcenell said.

"There's probably 40 (careers) you could do and 10 you could like," she added.

At First Semester, counselors encourage a student to look not only at where the jobs will be, but toward something of interest.

"It's scary, when you think that if people were more prepared, they could be successful sooner," she added.

Private counseling fees are either offered in a package, ranging from \$350 to \$2,000, or there are hourly rates if the client prefers. First Semester charges \$750 for its package or \$85 per hour.



'Some very bright youngsters have difficulty making a decision. They should get off dead center; we give them tips for exploration.'

— Barbara Kabcenell
OCC counselor

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