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ELECTION changed. The date of a fall school bond election has been changed to avoid conflict with Rosh Hashana, the beginning of the Jewish New Year, according to Farmington school district spokeswoman Pam O'Malley.

Approval from the state Board of Education will allow the district to hold its election Monday, Sept. 19.

The bond issue will ask voters to approve \$27 million over 16 years for a new elementary school, new early childhood center and building improvements.

HELPING hand. John Farquharson, a Farmington Hills CPA, was elected treasurer of the Arthritis Foundation Michigan chapter board of trustees.

ON camera. Alan Lowy of Farmington Hills is a first-place winner in the ninth annual Michigan Renaissance Festival photo competition, judged by Detroit Free Press chief photographer Tony Spina. He'll be honored Aug. 14 during the festival's Royal Lunch for his work with color photos.

CHANGING trends. The Farmington City Council is expected to review the city's sign ordinance in the near future. Concerns have arisen involving mansard-type building facades, and what are appropriate signs for these buildings.

10-YEAR award. The city of Farmington will receive an award for 10 years without a pedestrian fatality. The Pedestrian Safety Award is given by AAA of Michigan and is expected to be presented at a council meeting in September. "There are few communities in Michigan of our size that have established a safety record similar to Farmington's," said city manager Robert Deadman.

Stores to replace closed drive-in



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The large closed sign signals the end of an era in Farmington Hills for the more than 40-year-old Grand River Drive-In. Owners Tom and Fred Goldberg are planning to open a 300,000-square-foot shopping center in its place.

It's the end of an era. Nostalgia buffs will decry the closing of the more than 40-year-old Grand River Drive-In. But some are equally fixated with plans to transform the Farmington Hills silver screens into a 300,000-square-foot shopping center.

"If that's the case, I'm leaving. We don't need it right there," said a Shiawassee Road resident, who has lived in the Farmington area for 25 years. Concerned about traffic and other problems accompanying a busy shopping center, the resident said she would prefer to see housing, especially for the elderly, along congested Grand River, east of Tuck Road.

Fred Goldberg of G.R. Associates Limited Partnership, Southfield, said the drive-in, the third the firm has closed, is not turning off its speakers because of a lack of business. The drive-in has continued to be popular, Goldberg said.

But a shopping center "will pro-

'There's a little nostalgia. It's a part of the country that, for better or worse, has gone to the wayside.'

— Fred Goldberg, G.R. Associates, drive-in owners

vide the opportunity to build stores that offer more long-term potential" than keeping the popular three-screen drive-in open, he said.

"THERE'S A little nostalgia," said Goldberg, whose father, grandfather and uncle opened the drive-in in 1947. "It's a part of the country that for better or worse has gone to the wayside."

Planning continues for the shopping center that will feature a Dayton-Hudson Target store as the ma-

por retailer in the strip center. With his brother Tom, Goldberg is hoping to include a health-and-beauty aids shop, a grocery store and other small tenants. "We're still working on a number of other store concepts," he said.

It's been no secret in the last few years that the Goldbergs have been seeking alternatives to their family-owned drive-in. In March, the Farmington Hills Planning Commission designated in its master land use plan that the future use of the drive-in area should be for multiple-family housing.

"When they (planning commission) did their review, they said, 'let's look at the best land use.' They decided the multiple family would be best for the city," said Farmington Hills planner Ed Gardiner.

The shopping center plan, however, conforms with the existing commercial zoning on the property.

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Tough alarm rule in effect Aug. 8

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Too many false alarms and too much police officer time and expense has forced Farmington Hills officials to toughen the rules on residential and commercial security and fire alarms.

The new ordinance goes into effect Aug. 8 and requires:

- Larger fines for false alarms;
- Alarm permits and fees;
- Alarm installer state licensing;
- Automatic shut-off devices.

"We're doing this to try to reduce the number of false alarms that we have. Ninety-six percent of the alarms are false, which is really

kind of a nationwide average," said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department. Police are projecting a 20-percent increase—or at least 6,000 false alarms this year with accompanying expenses of more than \$90,000. Farmington Hills had 4,558 false alarms in 1987, which represented a 23.4 percent increase over 1986. Last year false alarms cost the department approximately \$78,000 in wages, dispatch services and billing, said Sgt. Dennis Green, crime prevention division.

POLICE ESTIMATE there are 8,000-10,000 burglar alarms installed in Farmington Hills. Police respond to an average 16 false alarms a day, with two officers responding to each call, Green said. "If we reduce the number of false alarms, the better the service we can provide to the city," Murphy said.

The new ordinance allows one false alarm per calendar year, excluding false alarms caused by inclement weather or power outages. A \$20 fine will be levied for the second false alarm. The third will carry a \$40 fine. The fourth and subsequent false alarms will carry \$100 fine each. The existing fine is \$20 for each false alarm.

The ordinance also requires late charges on fines not paid within 30 days. For example on the third false alarm, the \$40 fine will increase to \$50 if not paid on time.

"AS IN THE past, for those alarms not paid within a reasonable amount of time, they will be taken to small claims court," Murphy said. "But by and large, the majority of folks pay."

All existing residential and commercial alarms, including those in rental units, must be registered with the police department by Jan. 1. Registration includes alarm installer's name, state license number and the names of three people to be con-

False alarm: Usually it's user error

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

User error. That's how police and industry experts explain the majority of false security alarms, which are a major problem in a city like Farmington Hills where police expect to answer more than 6,000 false alarms this year.

That's almost 17 a day. "People buy alarms, and they don't totally understand how they operate," Farmington Hills Lt. Richard Murphy said. "People put in alarms, and they don't keep up with the maintenance of them. It's just a culmination of problems."

Ron Huffstutter, president of Alarm Systems Inc. of Farmington

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False burglary alarms in Farmington Hills



Historic business stays in his family

By Susan Buck
staff writer

DON'T COME to H.A. Smith Lumber & Supplies any evening or on Sunday. No one will be there.

Come either during normal business hours, before or after work. This store is still run as its founders, Helen Smith and Bayard Tupper — sister-in-law and brother-in-law — wanted it to be run in 1946 when they bought it.

According to a flyer, the lumber yard, still in its original location on Grand River in Farmington Hills, strives for "quality materials at fair prices, good service, a well-balanced product line and service to the community."

"Most of all," the flyer continues, "never forget, the customer is always number one."

Robert VanEvery, Smith's and Tupper's nephew and the current owner and president, makes sure the customer always is. Mrs. Smith figured if you couldn't make a living six days a week, you shouldn't be in the business," VanEvery said.

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people



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Bob VanEvery keeps in mind the admonition to make a living at H.A. Lumber within a six-day-a-week timespan.

Awaits retrial Man, 20, charged with assault

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

A 20-year-old Livonia man who is awaiting retrial in an attempted murder case in Farmington Hills has been charged with assault and battery in the beating of a 24-year-old man.

Paul Anthony Dober, 20, pleaded not guilty on July 14 in Livonia's 16th District Court to assaulting Gregory Walters of Livonia early on the morning of June 25 at the Taco Bell on Farmington Road.

Dober was released without bond because he had voluntarily surrendered earlier to police, said Livonia police.

Three years ago, Dober, then a 17-year-old senior at Livonia Stevenson and captain of the football team, was charged with shooting an arcade security guard in Farmington Hills

two days after an argument with another guard at the arcade.

Dober was found guilty of assault with intent to commit murder and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony by Oakland Circuit Judge James Thornburn during a bench trial in April 1987.

AFTER NUMEROUS delays, Dober was sentenced in June 1987 to 6-18 years for assault and a mandatory two-year sentence for possession of a firearm. He was sent to the Michigan Training Unit Correction Facility in Ionia.

After serving less than six months of the sentence, Dober was released in November when the Michigan Court of Appeals ordered a retrial because court records do not show Dober had waived his right to a jury trial. He was rearrested on the shooting charges last December.

Dober, who is seeking a court-appointed attorney in the latest charge, has retained Southfield attorney Richard Lustig to defend him during retrial on the shooting charge. No trial date has been set.

"This is the first I've heard of this. I have not been told. I don't know anything about it," Lustig said when asked about the new charges.

A .38-caliber bullet traveled through the security guard's hand and forearm before lodging in his stomach. He has not worked since the incident and has had surgery nine times, said Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Charles Nebus, one of two officers in charge of the original investigation.

Dober said in trial testimony he did not pull the trigger the night of the shooting but would not say who

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