

## Reward is increased

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gram. Since the Saturday night incident, the reward pot has grown to \$1,000.

**DETECTIVES** are now seeking information on one or more people age 18-22 with a Chevrolet Blazer or Ford Bronco of unknown color. Detectives ruled out four people with a small red Honda originally sought for questioning in the incident, which occurred Aug. 18.

"The lieutenant was down in Birmingham all day Tuesday doing interviews," patrolman Parker said. "He didn't find anything. He found the people with the red Honda and feels they were not involved."

Janet Cowen was one of three passengers in a car driven by Farmington Hills resident Richele Hall, 17. The friends were leaving the music theater after an Aerosmith concert when a grapefruit-sized rock was thrown through the open front passenger window, striking Cowen in the face, Parker said.

Sheriff deputies were called to the incident. Hall drove from the Independence Township theater and reached a sheriff's patrol car. "Her direction of travel from the theater was past where we had a vehicle directing traffic," Parker said. Deputies summoned an ambulance.

THOUGH A second rock-throwing incident also occurred that night about the same time Cowen was injured, Parker said Pine Knob had new plans in the works. "The Aerosmith lead to be the worst concert," he said.

"We generally double the staff for Aerosmith from 10 to 20 (deputies)."

Meanwhile, the family remains at Janet Cowen's bedside, offering encouragement.

Her father, who is putting \$2,000 of personal money into the reward effort, said he is trying to "send a message to others that they won't try something like this."

"We don't want other parents and families to have to go through this." He said he is "hopeful" someone who saw the incident will come forward.

Anyone with information is asked to call Parker at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department at 588-4800. If you wish, you may identify yourself as a Silent Witness and remain anonymous.

## As Sept. 19 mill vote nears, schools seek voter attention

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• An early childhood center on the west side of the district, which would house a center kindergarten and other early childhood programs. The center could be built with the elementary school, or at a separate site.

• Partial remodeling of all existing school buildings, including floor coverings, ceiling tiles, lighting systems and electrical service. It also includes the expense of removing potentially toxic materials such as asbestos and PCBs.

"We're trying to give people as much information as we can," explained Pam O'Malley, school/community relations director for the district.

OF THE money proposed, \$7 million will be used for the two new facilities and \$20 million for the building improvements. The ballot will have one question, asking for the entire sum.

If approved, the owner of a house assessed at \$45,000 — half the market value — would pay an additional \$3 per year for the 15 years of the debt.

School officials are making themselves available as community group speakers, and information is being sent via the district newsletter and newsletters to parents through individual building principals. Principals will also schedule informational meetings at each school building.

Staff members are also getting letters this week re-

minding them about the election as they prepare for a new school year. "We didn't want them to come back without knowing what was going on," O'Malley added.

Special meetings between residents of the subdivisions adjoining the proposed elementary school site — Farmington Hills, Club and Independence Com- munities — and the board's building and site committee are also planned, O'Malley said.

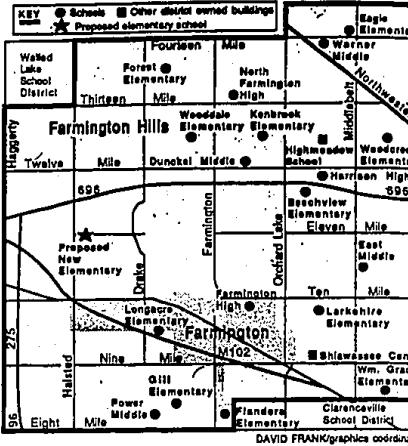
THE IDEA of building a new school was originally proposed by former assistant superintendent Lawrence Freedman in early 1986. But school board members did not seriously consider the matter until one year ago when numbers of elementary and early childhood students began rising and causing some severe overcrowding.

A boundary committee comprised of residents and school administrators also recommended a new school be built.

School officials will look at the costs of running each building, in considering whether to keep the proposed elementary school and early childhood center on the same site. Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan gave estimates early this year that it would cost about \$500,000 to operate a school building.

There are currently no school buildings west of Drake, between Eight Mile and 14 Mile, where most of the new residential development has occurred in Farmington Hills.

### Farmington School District Buildings



DAVID FRANK/graphics coordinator

## Workers notify family of nearby house fire

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two trips and awoke the neighbors on the other side of the burning house: Detroit Red Wings assistant coach Dave Lewis, his wife, Brenda, and their two children. "Sparks and debris were flying onto their roof," Sandy said.

Guth, whose family moved to Farmington Hills from Trenton last October, remembers her 11-year-old son, Todd Haney, waking up at 3 a.m. and saying lightning had struck the house next door, turning it green. Thinking it was just scared, she told him to go back to sleep.

Later, he woke up again, saying he was sweating. "I went downstairs to turn on the air conditioning, then went back to sleep," Guth said.

"The next thing I know," she said, "the doorbell rings. Two guys are there, telling me to get everyone out of the house and to call the fire department because the house next door is on fire."

"Because I was skeptical, one of them said, 'If you don't believe me, look.' I looked through the window and all I saw was red. Realizing they were two concerned citizens, I went on the front porch, I saw

flames shooting 30-40 feet high. It was an inferno."

Ironically, Sandy Guth's sister, Trenton resident Linda Federico and her husband, Eric, had just signed an offer to buy the house Saturday.

Guth was impressed by the men's persistence and calmness. "I didn't even get their names. But by talking to them, the fire department, they definitely saved the first from spreading, no doubt about that."

GUTH SAID she learned two lessons from the experience: 1) take a head count as you lead family members outside so you don't miss anyone; and 2) listen to your children when they sense potential danger nearby.

## Trailer court rezoning delayed

By Joanne Mazzewski  
staff writer

Residents eagerly awaiting a decision on the zoning reclassification of the Flamingo Trailer Court in Farmington Hills will have to wait a little longer.

Too many unanswered questions and news of nearby residents' concerns about the trailer court prompted the Farmington Hills City Council Monday to postpone until Monday, Sept. 12, any decision to change the zoning in the city's master land use plan.

Under the ownership of the Flamingo Trailer Court Inc., the park, at 23600 Middletown, is within three zoning districts, including B-3 general business, RA-4, single family residential and MH, mobile home. But land use of the acreage is designated in the city's master plan as multiple family.

The Farmington Hills Planning Commission recommended to the city council that it approve designating the entire existing park (in the B-3 and RA-4) under the mobile home designation.

A SITE plan for six vacant acres just north of the existing park was denied by planning commissioners last week. "They denied it because it didn't meet certain zoning restrictions," city planner Ed Gardner said.

Even if the master plan is changed, Flamingo Trailer Court Inc. is not forced to comply with restrictions in the mobile home designation in the existing trailer park. The trailer court is considered a non-conforming use because it predates any township or city zoning ordinances.

Planning consultant Claude Coates said the requested master plan change is not new and would bring uniformity to the east side of Middletown, just north of Nine Mile. "The main point is that the present zoning of the property doesn't make any sense," he said.

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