

The good monsters
and the bad ones, 1B



WLAA mat
journey, 1D

Hills home raid yields
drugs, 9 suspects, 3A

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OLDER lighting ballasts in Farmington Public Schools buildings, which could have been contaminated with PCBs, have all been replaced, assistant superintendent Lynn Nutter announced Jan. 24.

The general fund was tapped to pay for the \$850,000 replacement-disposal effort.

MAYOR Terry Sever came up with a novel response to the flak he drew for moving the "Public Questions and Comments" portion of the city council agenda to after "Public Hearings."

Quote of the week

"Now we've reached Nirvana, the city is developed and now we're not happy with that."

— Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Blizman, trying to put in perspective discussion about reducing density and slowing growth (see story this page).

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Voters say yes to west-side school

Farmington Public Schools

\$7.3 million in bonds for a west-side elementary
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 1989 — local precinct breakdown

Precincts	Yes	No
1. Farmington Training Center	863	388
2. O.E. Dunkel Middle School	1,102	399
3. Warner Middle School	585	210
4. East Middle School	489	276
5. Absentee votes	194	259
Totals	3,213	1,532

Registered/active voters, 54,902; actual number of voters, 4,745; turnout percentage, 8.6.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Superintendent Graham Lewis called passage of a \$7.3 million bond issue a "vote of confidence." He said Farmington Public Schools will move ahead immediately with plans for a new west-side elementary.

Voters approved the bond money Tuesday by a 2-1 margin.

"Everything is in place," Lewis said. "The gate went up last night and we're off and running. There's not a minute to spare."

A total of 4,745 voters — 8.6 percent of active registered voters — turned out for the special district election; only the absentee voter category showed a majority against the measure.

A total of 3,213 "yes" votes and 1,532 "no" votes were tallied, according to unofficial vote counts from the district.

"I'm glad it's behind us," said school board president Jack Cotton. "Now we can get on to the job. This indicates to me there's a lot of support for the schools."

THE NEW school will be built on a rolling, wooded 11-acre parcel on the south side of 11 Mile, east of Halsted, already owned by the district; officials plan to open it in fall 1990. The approved bond money will be used to build the school, develop and improve the site and equip the school's playground.

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Students aid renovations

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington High graduates played a special role in renovation plans for the school, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

"They laid the foundation," said principal Gerald Potter, as he thanked the school's previous 99 graduating classes during the project's groundbreaking Monday.

"This is a wonderful time to have this done," added superintendent, Graham Lewis, citing the 100th anniversary.

The project will double the size of the current media center, upgrade it, and improve exterior portions of the building and grounds, including construction and furnishings. It is expected to cost the district \$2.7 million. Money from the district's Capital Improvement Fund will be used.

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Counseling case to reveal patient names

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The issue of patient confidentiality was raised last week during the preliminary examination for a 41-year-old Southfield man charged with counseling patients at a Farmington Hills clinic without a license.

The charges stem from a time when the defendant, Gary Bernstein, worked as a therapist at the Woodcreek Counseling Service in Farmington Hills from April 1983 through October of 1987. Information from patient records was introduced as evidence by the prosecution Friday in 47th District Court.

"I believe these people have a privilege of patient/therapist, which they own," said defense attorney Mark Weiss. "Mr. Bernstein in no way is interested in violating whatever rights they have."

The issue was reportedly discussed between attorneys and District Judge Margaret Schaeffer before the preliminary exam, when the

possibility of using numbers, instead of names, to identify patient files was considered.

But assistant Oakland County prosecutor David Gillam argued that the three patients referred to in the clinic's records had been contacted, and none had objected. "We are not talking about an individual who had the right to give rise to a privilege," he added.

JUDGE SCHAEFFER finally ruled: "Only the person who thinks they are the patient can assert that privilege. There is no one here to assert it — the court won't do it for them."

Bernstein is charged with four counts: uttering and publishing, or writing bad checks; obtaining money under false pretenses of more than \$100; unauthorized practice of a health profession; and violating the state Health Care False Claims Act.

He was arraigned Nov. 2, 1988, at which time he stood mute to the charges; a not-guilty plea was entered in his behalf. He faces up to 14 years in prison if convicted.

Bernstein remains free on bond. He continues to practice at the

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Day care battle keeps brewing

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington, didn't see any need to debate Farmington Hills city councilman Ben Marks over the senator's proposed statewide day care regulations.

"I have no reason to debate it with him," Faxon said. "It has nothing to do with him. There's general support for the bill from many sources. If he wants to grandstand, that's his thing."

Marks has been an active opponent of Faxon's partially successful package of bills overriding local zoning controls and allowing child home day care in residential areas.

"Faxon won't discuss day care," Marks said.

But the councilman went ahead with his scheduled debate Jan. 25 on a Lansing cable television station. He debated the issue with state Sen. Lane Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, a co-sponsor of the day care bills. Copies of the half-hour taped debate are

being made for Marks to distribute to local cable access channels.

"I don't believe anyone could have won that thing," Marks said. "They're talking child care, we're talking governmental authority. I pointed out there are many, many places where it's being addressed. Allow us to address the problem."

According to the Michigan Municipal League, Marks said, 10,000 day care homes for children ages 7-12 are registered in the state. Another 30,000 are not registered and approximately 1,000 have not yet been licensed. "It points up that there are a lot of areas addressing the problem," he said.

SENATE BILL 687, which would apply to cities such as Farmington Hills, lost by one vote in the state House in its marathon session in mid-December. Companion bills 688 and 689, which apply to counties and townships, passed.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

New pals

Three-year-old Jonathon Cage, a preschooler with the Focus: HOPE program, shares a smile with Julie Morrison (left), a second grader at Gill Elementary. The recent Focus: HOPE visit to Gill was part of a developing friendship between the Farmington Hills elementary students and their younger friends. For the story, please see Page 3.

Hills plots growth controls

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills is practically grown-up. Now what? Some city officials are talking about reducing density for the remaining 20 percent or approximately 2,000 acres still undeveloped in the city.

Others are talking about facing the city's adult status and addressing the problems it has brought to the community.

"Now we've reached nirvana, the city is developed and now we're not happy with that," planning commissioner Paul Blizman said Monday.

The Planning Commission is looking at remaining parcels to determine appropriate density, land conditions, traffic and other factors.

TALK OF slowing growth surfaced when planning commissioners and city council members Monday night discussed the application of the density requirements in the city's one-family cluster options ordinance.

expressed concern about developers seeking maximum density allowed for clusters, others told her density control has always been followed according to ordinances.

"We're not being developed any

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