

Favorite parks;
here and nearby, 1E



Swimming
results, 1D

Questionnaire prompts
rebirth of association

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2300; fax line, 477-9722.

CHOCK told of
knowledge.
Almee Cox, starting
her senior year at
Mercy High, told the
Farmington Hills City Council,
which paid \$170 to sponsor her,
that she "learned more about
the way our government works
in nine days (at the American
Legion Girls State) than I have
in 11 years at school."

At the June program at
Central Michigan University,
she was city manager of a 21-
resident city and one of five
finalists for the bar association
presidency.

She also was one of three
Federalist Party candidates for
the state supreme court.

"The next day, I gave a
speech to 500 citizens," said
Cox, who later won a seat on
the high court.

As a justice, she not only
judged moot court competition
but also helped the justices
committee draft a code of
ethics for lawyers and judges.

"By the time I left, I'd
learned quite a bit about
politics and government," she
said.

QUOTE of the week

6 I told them I wasn't
nervous, I was scared to
death.

— Diane Woolsey, on meeting
the Secret Service during a visit
she and her husband, Bruce, had
with President Bush in the White
House last week. Story: 1A.

Hills holds firm; 'No' to hospital

□ Providence eyes
Novi satellite, 8A

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials aren't
budging on their resolve to protect
Woodcreek subdivision despite a legal
fight from Providence Hospital for
an office building near the
Northwestern Highway neighbor-
hood.

"Woodcreek has suffered enough,"
Mayor Terry Sever said.

Hospital officials are fighting the
city council's February refusal to re-
zone 15.5 acres of a 21.5-acre site
southwest of Inkster and Northwest-
ern Highway for a 90,000-square-foot
office building-outpatient clinic.

In the June 30 legal complaint, the
Southfield-based hospital is seeking
more than \$10,000 in damages for
being denied its request to rezone the
acreage from single-family residen-
tial to office use.

"We probably aren't going to be
interested in making any comments
while this is pending," said Carol
Johnson, hospital spokeswoman.

The city's master land use plan
recognizes the existing use, known as
quasi-public. The site is where the
original Marilline Hall of the St. Vincent
and Sarah Fisher Center stood
until recently demolished.

"I'm certain the council's position
now is that they are going to
have to take us all the way to the
U.S. Supreme Court," Sever said.
"Right now, we're standing firm to
keep it residential."

THE CITY council in February
unanimously denied the hospital's
request because office use doesn't

conform with the city's master plan
and because the request was for
more acreage than needed to com-
plete the hospital's proposed offices.

But the complaint argues that the
council's reasons for denial "are not
substantial or legitimate govern-
mental interests" and are "unrea-
sonable" and "unconstitutional."

The complaint maintains that off-
ice zoning is appropriate for the land
because of nearby commercial and
office uses. Hospital officials also
agreed not to use one-third of the
property to the west of the proposed
outpatient center.

"The use proposed by the hospital
of the parcel would create no more
deleterious effects on the surround-
ing uses than the former use of the
property as a home for unwed moth-
ers," the complaint said.

THE COMPLAINT maintains that
the parcel is unsuitable for single-
family use. "There is no demand for
single-family use on the parcel nor
could it be developed for single-family
purposes in view of the major
highway along approximately one-

Please turn to Page 4

Study committee pushed to review fears of toxicity

□ Homeowners react, 4A
□ Related opinion: 12A

By Susan Buck
staff writer

In the wake of a disputed proposed
industrial-research-office (IRO)
complex, Farmington Hills city
councilman Philip Arnold is recom-
mending formation of a citywide ad
hoc committee on toxic/hazardous
materials.

There are very few people on the
city staff, planning commission and
council who have the background
and personal knowledge on the sub-
ject, so it makes it difficult to evalu-
ate existing or proposed situations,"
Arnold said.

Homeowner comments about the
fear of toxic chemicals and waste
elicited a decision by the city council
last week to table rezoning 14.5
acres pending further discussion
Monday, Sept. 25. In the interim, the
council will meet with the planning
commission to review IRO zoning
restrictions.

Rezoning the land immediately
south of Hillside Estates Condomin-
iums and north of Indoplex Circle, in
the Drake-Grand River area, is under
consideration.

Rezoning, from office service (OS-
1) to industrial research office (IRO),
would clear the way for a proposed
\$7-million, 120,000-square-foot
project of up to 100 cubicles devel-
oped by property owner and devel-
oper Melvin Kaftan.

Leonard Siegel, architect for Kaf-

tan, said there are restrictions as to
specific materials that can be used
in an IRO zone and he didn't think
toxic chemicals or waste were
among them. He said the city can en-
force performance controls.

ARNOLD'S RECOMMENDA-
TION will be on the city council's
Monday, Aug. 14 agenda. He recom-
mends a committee of five to seven
individuals, with predominantly
technical or environmental back-
grounds, including:

- One staff person very familiar
with the present inventory and con-
trol of toxic materials throughout
the city.
- One or two board or commis-
sion members familiar with land use

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Bidder files lawsuit when historic house slips away

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Jerome and Rosa Flum, losers
with their high bid of \$6,000 for the
city-owned, 150-year-old Mark Ar-
nold home at 26400 Drake, are suing
Farmington Hills to stop the low bidder
from buying and restoring the
historic site.

The Flums, Farmington Hills resi-
dents, are seeking a temporary re-
straining order and a preliminary in-
junction. They also are seeking at
least \$10,000 in damages.

The city council, acting on a his-
toric district commission recom-
mendation, awarded the home July
10 to Michael von Steeg of Waldheim
Woodworks in Farmington Hills. He
bid \$1,600.

Von Steeg beat out both the
Flums' higher bid and a \$4,375 bid
from Patrick and Marilyn Welch of
Farmington Hills.

Councilwomen Jody Soronen's
motion to accept von Steeg's bid was
supported by council members Paul
Sowerby, Jean Fox, Philip Arnold
and Aldo Vagnozzi. The vote was 5-2.
Nay votes were cast by Mayor Terry
Sever and councilman Ben Marks.

Historic district commissioners
were unified in their recommenda-
tion of the von Steeg proposal.
The city council, acting on a his-
toric district commission recom-
mendation, awarded the home July
10 to Michael von Steeg of Waldheim
Woodworks in Farmington Hills. He
bid \$1,600.

"IT'S A curious result," said the
Flums' attorney, Donald Howard
Stolberg of Goldpaugh and Associ-
ates law firm in Birmingham. "My
clients were rejected even though

they were more experienced, more
qualified, submitted the best propos-
al and the highest bid."

The Flums also were the only
bidders to have an architect review
the property, Stolberg said. Eugene
Hopkins, a preservation architect
from Architects Four Inc., Ann Ar-
bor, visited the site.

Von Steeg and Bernard Ludwig, a
Farmington Hills Historic District
Commission member, also were
named as defendants in the lawsuit,
filed July 21. The lawsuit claims that
16 specific statements made by
Ludwig, which, if taken as a whole,
and in context of the June 27 com-
mission meeting, are slanderous.

The case will go before Oakland
County Circuit Judge Jessica Co-
oper, Stolberg said. He hopes the case
will be heard soon, before the con-
tract between the city and von Steeg

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington businessman Bruce Woolsey with his inven-
tion, the Woolzie putter.

Tinkerer presents golf club to Bush

By Amy Rauch
staff writer

If you take a swing at a golf ball
every now and then, Bruce Wool-
sey's new putter might bring a
smile to your face, like it did to
President Bush's last week.

Woolsey, owner of Bob's
Speedometer and Automotive Ser-
vice in Farmington, is a tinkerer on
the side. Recently, he came up with
a golf putter he thought could help
anyone, including the president.

Woolsey, 45, and his wife, Diane,
41, met with Bush for about eight
minutes July 25. "He asked how the
putter worked," Woolsey said. "He
took a couple of strokes with it,
then picked it up and smiled."

Called the "Woolzie," the putter
is made of a clear plastic with two
red lines. One line is drawn across
the top; the other, on the side close-
st to the ball, is perpendicular to
the first line.

Golfers would line up their ball

with the line on the putter. They
can look at the putter and simulta-
neously see both the ball and the
flag, which are reflected in the
clear plastic prism.

"By looking down through the
top surface, this putter will allow
you to line up your putt as good or
better than Jack Nicklaus," Wool-
sey said. "There are so many peo-
ple who miss a one- or two-foot
putt."

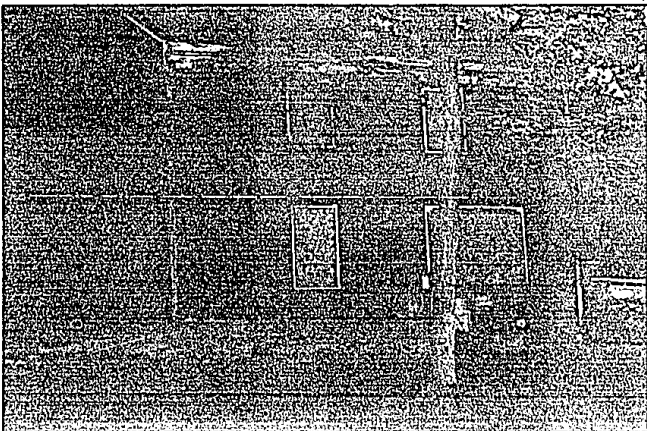
WOOLSEY HAS been working
on the putter for about two years.

His father-in-law saw Bush on
national television in a golf tourna-
ment about a month ago. Bush said
he needed help with his putting.

"He suggested I try to get a hold of
Bush," Woolsey said.

So Woolsey contacted U.S. Rep.
William Broomfield, R-Birming-
ham, who, in turn, contacted the
White House. That was June 21.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The Arnold House is on Drake at Howard in the historic village of Sleepy Hollow.