

DDA keeps eye on sewer project

News briefs from the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls will appear regularly in this column.

FARMINGTON

● **Project on hold** — Members of the city's Downtown Development Authority board are waiting to see how a city sewer improvement project will affect the third phase of the DDA rejuvenation project scheduled for this summer. Working documents for the phase are being prepared, although they might not be able to be used until 1991. The third phase would include a portion of Grand River east, from Grove to Mayfield, at the DDA limits.

● **Decorative additions** — Benches and decorative trash cans will grace the streets of downtown Farmington this summer, after DDA members approved the purchase of these street furnishings last week.

● **Purchase pending** — The DDA board is awaiting an answer from the owner of a house on Orchard Street, whose property they offered to buy last month for future development.

● **Request pending** — State financing wasn't approved this year for improvements to two city parks, but the state Natural Resources Commission will recommend improvements to Drake Park in the coming budget year.

● **Reappointments** — Harry Wingerter and Frank Clappison have been reappointed to serve terms on the DDA board. Both terms are for four years and expire in February 1994.

● **Hearing set** — A public hearing for comments on the \$9 million sewer improvement plan has been scheduled for 8 p.m. March 6, prior to the regular city council meeting.

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CITY HALL newsbeat

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police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● probe continues

Farmington Hills police and fire officials and the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division continue to sift through the charred remains of the Orchard Ridge Plaza for clues to what caused a \$1-million-plus fire Feb. 4.

No one was hurt in the Sunday morning blaze in the seven-business complex northeast of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. More than 100 people were left jobless.

Investigators "are not ready yet to commit (to a cause). Right now, they are looking at electrical issues. There are a multitude of private investigators there (from insurance companies)," Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin said Thursday.

Investigators are trying to determine "what burned first and where did the ignition source come from," Baldwin added.

Investigators determined the fire started between the ceiling of the first floor and the floor of the second floor in a Roman Terrace restaurant

storage area on the east side of the building, north of the center stairs. The restaurant washes and dries napkins in that area, according to investigators.

● mobile home fire

Damage was estimated at \$50 when heat tape under a mobile home at the Flamingo Mobile Home Park arced, igniting the insulation.

The fire, reported at 5:15 p.m. Feb. 5, was doused with an extinguisher, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

Flamingo is at Middlebelt and Nine Mile.

● videos taken

Four videos valued at \$224 were reported stolen by a shoplifter at Major Video, 25200 Middlebelt, Wednesday night.

A man thought to be in his 20s had been in the store for 30 minutes before the clerk discovered he didn't have a membership. He was asked to leave and did so.

He returned a short time later, saying he planned to open a membership. But as he approached the counter with his video selections, he bolted from the store, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● burglars flee

Two burglars fled from a unit at Freedom Village Apartments when a boy who lived there entered the room in which they were stabbing the walls with a long knife Thursday afternoon.

The incident occurred at 3:15 p.m. in a third-floor unit. Freedom Village is at 32126 Freedom Road. The burglars were thought to be teenagers, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● school loitering

Two men — a 25-year-old from Novi and an 18-year-old from Livonia — were ticketed for loitering on school property when an officer on patrol found them in a car drinking beer at Power Middle School, 34740 Rhinewood, early Friday.

The Novi man also was ticketed for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when a quart of beer was found in the car, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● damage reported

Damage was estimated at \$90 when the tire of a car at Farmington Oaks Apartments in Farmington was punctured Feb. 5-6.

Damage was estimated at \$200 when the rear window of a car traveling westbound on Grand River, east of Shilohswissee, in Farmington was shattered Feb. 8 about 2:45 p.m. No projectile was found.

An airless paint sprayer and 90 locks valued at \$4,999 were reported stolen from a house under construction on Northpoint, Farmington Hills, Feb. 4-5.

Custom stereo speakers valued at \$200 were reported stolen from a vehicle parked on Hayden Street in Farmington Feb. 4-5.

Building materials valued at \$3,000 were reported stolen from inside the new addition at First Church of the Nazarene, 21250 Haggerty Farmington Hills, Feb. 6-7. The materials belonged to Touch of Glass of Virginia, Richmond.

Personal items valued at \$240 were reported stolen from a car parked on Kirby in Farmington Feb. 8. A brick thrown through a window caused \$100 in damage.

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Glider piloting pair shoots for record

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100 percent of the pledges for the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

THE PROJECT "Just made a whole lot of sense," said Sakmar, a self-made businessman who wants to help kids. "Everybody, in the course of a lifetime, formulates their own philosophy. I discovered that an individual can make a difference.

"I'm saying that, for the modest amount of this investment, if we can reach and change one person's life, then it will be worth it."

Steel Industries employees Janice Buxton and Roy Tisassale have also spent time helping to coordinate Project Soar since the dream began more than a year ago, Sakmar said.

The logo designed for Project Soar includes the Latin inscription "Honor Habet Omnis" or "Honor Brings Responsibility," which is something the pilots want to stress to young people.

"The only constraints or limitations on their futures are the ones they choose to impose upon themselves," Drake said in a flyer about the project.

"To fly an aircraft, or do anything else that requires an alert mind, a

responsible attitude and a healthy body, you cannot be under the influence of a narcotic."

DRAKE AND his crew will leave for Minden on Feb. 28 and will make the flight sometime between March 3 and March 11, depending on weather conditions. They will be in touch with the San Francisco air traffic control tower, which will route all commercial air traffic around them.

The pilots are suggesting community members pledge a certain amount for every 1,000 feet they fly over 18,000 feet. To make a pledge contact: Betty Arnold, administrator; Farmington Area Advisory Council, 23450 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills, 48018 or call 477-6767.

Upon their return, they hope to set up a long-term flight school for youths to teach them the pleasures

of gliding. "If you could bottle this feeling, it would be tremendous," Drake added. "It's exhilarating."

Agency rep wins honor

William J. Ashwell of Farmington Hills, representative for the Century Companies of America, was named a member of the 1989 Executive's Club.

This is the first year that Ashwell, who joined the Century Companies of America in 1987, has qualified for the club. Ashwell is an associate of the Bernard Alter Agency of Farmington Hills.

Ashwell's efforts helped make 1989 the best year in the past five for the Century organization. Nearly

\$1.3 billion of new insurance was issued during the year by Century Life of America, and \$48 million in securities sales were made by registered representatives of Century Investors of America Inc.

The Century Companies of America consist of five financial services companies, the parent of which is Century Life of America. The organization has more than \$9 billion of insurance in force and assets exceeding \$1.5 billion.



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