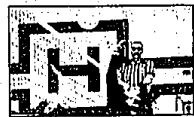


Daddies and daughters make it a date, 1B



North city champ, 1D

New worlds open up to hearing-impaired kids

Farmington Observer

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NEW tuition.
Tuition rates for non-residents of the Farmington school district have been set for the 1990-91 school year.
Elementary students next year will be charged \$387 and secondary students \$1,463, following school board action Feb. 6.
Tuition students are categorized from the following categories: children of district employees, children of those moving into or building a home in the district, a high school senior who has completed the junior year but whose parent or guardian has moved from the district.

SOOTHISAYER.
At the start of the Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday night, Mayor Jean Fox announced that Metrovision of Oakland County was taping the session for future cablecast.

"That's if it gets over at a reasonable time. Otherwise, it's going to be part of a continuing saga," Fox said, only half in jest.

The six-hour meeting ended at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

QUOTE of the week

6 You are hearing a demand by your citizens to get your house in order. If you cannot, and will not do it, we as citizens will do it.

— Paul Sowerby, former councilman, urging the Farmington Hills City Council to dissolve its new ad hoc study committee. Story, 1A.

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Hills council told to scrap study panel

Related opinion, 14A

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills residents peppered the city council with verbal darts Monday night as they demanded dissolution of the controversial ad hoc study committee.
In the 1½-hour verbal boxing match, no council member remained unscathed either by residents or by fellow council members.
As the meeting convened, residents armed themselves with petitions — bearing more than 200 signatures — demanding dissolution of the three-member committee charged with studying major financial issues.
"Political ambition should not lead to oligarchy, government by a few, which is what the three-person ad hoc committee . . . really seems to be," said Julianne Hovanessian, who led the petition drive as a member of Citizens Supporting Open Meetings.
Residents charged councilman Terry Sever, committee organizer, with grand political ambitions. He and councilman Ben Marks are considering running for the 15th State Senate District seat now occupied by Democrat Jack Faxon.

RESIDENTS ALSO charged the three committee members — Sever, Jonathan Grant and Lawrence Lichtman — with trying to run the city from behind closed doors.
Two council members who supported the study group, Nancy Bates and Ben Marks, were accused of helping undermine the city charter, Mayor Jean Fox and the Michigan Open Meetings Act.
"You ought to be ashamed of yourself in how you're handling yourself," resident Sam Rollick said. "What you are attempting to do is usurping the function of the mayor and the entire city council. You are

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Former councilman Paul Sowerby calls for the dissolution of Farmington Hills' ad hoc study committee on financial issues during a public discussion on the issue before the city council Monday.

Council debates committee's value

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

As a residents' war of words muted to a dull roar late Monday, five Farmington Hills City Council members mounted their own verbal campaign to protect the ad hoc committee they gave birth to two weeks ago.

But Mayor Pro Tem Aldo Vaggoni continued to chide the council and vowed to put an end to the three-member group, charged with studying major financial issues, at the next council meeting Monday, Feb. 19. Mayor Jean Fox, who also opposed the group, was silent.
The five council members defended the committee's purpose and the

intent to return to council with recommendations only. Council members denied any attempt to keep the public in the dark about the group's deliberations.
"I don't think you're going to see the type of agreement (among study group members) you think you are going to see come out of this committee," committee chairman

Jonathan Grant said.
Committee members' intentions have been "misconstrued," Grant continued. "I find this to be extremely distressing."

He said he believes the controversy was "incited by certain members

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5 mayoral appointments blocked

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Jean Fox was on a roll Monday night with support for 85 percent of her board and commission appointments when opponents blocked her bid to replace key members of the planning and the parks and recreation commissions.
All went smoothly until Fox — amid charges of acting on a "political agenda" — attempted to replace John Bailey and Mike Horner on the parks and recreation commission

and Jack Joyn and Phillip Arnold on the planning commission.
"The problem comes sometimes when we start to mix politics and private agendas with what's good for the community. I'm asking you not to mix politics with the parks and recreation commission," parks and recreation commissioner Jerry Ellis said.
Fox denied the charge. "I can assure you not one of these 38 appointments has anything to do with politics," Fox said, as she was about to lose the last 15 percent of her ap-

pointments.
Five council members — Ben Marks, Lawrence Lichtman, Terry Sever, Nancy Bates and Jonathan Grant — opposed Fox's efforts to replace the four existing commissioners. That means she'll have to present another batch of appointees if she wishes to replace the four existing commissioners, which have the steadfast support of the five council members.
FOX WANTED to appoint Dean Pollard of the Normandy Hills subdivision, adjacent to Heritage Park,

and Clara Lawrence Urban of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center to the parks and recreation commission. She suggested Brenda Kandt and Gregory Kocak, of industrial-research-office-zoning controversy fame, to the planning commission.
Fox reapointed parks and recreation commissioners Sandra Denlon, Mary Foran and Barbara McCann. She also reapointed planning commissioner Paul Blizman.

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Jean Fox Hills mayor

Students looking at life outside school

By Casey Hane staff writer

It's not that book learning is passe. But many Farmington-area teachers are enhancing their classroom fare by inviting parents and others into the classroom, or taking the classroom out to the community, to offer students a slice of life.
They're taking the bait.
Students learn more about the real world, can better apply their book learning and begin to learn about future careers and hobbies at an earlier age, educators say.
"The more career students know about, the better decisions they make," said Corky Parrott, career development coordinator for the Farmington school district. "They might as well learn early just how things fit in."
THE EXAMPLES in Farmington are numerous. A few include:
• At Forest Elementary, a physician and parent demonstrated his profession by setting his daughter's leg in a cast — a big hit for the rest of the school day.
• Farmington Hills mayor and

"I think the schools benefit so greatly by having community people come in. You can see what's going on around us."
— Mary Beth Sikora Farmington schools

local historian and author Jean Fox was invited to visit Flanders Elementary as part of a unit on Farmington-area history.
• Beechview Elementary first graders were invited to decorate the McDonald's restaurant on Orchard Lake near 10 Mile as a class project.
"It is my belief, anytime we do this, we're making school more relevant. We're bringing the world into the classroom," said Bette Buckler, a sixth grade teacher at Warner Middle School.
Buckler, who is planning a Career Day for her own class in March, said



Rochelle Liberman, visiting a first grade class at Wooddale Elementary in Farmington Hills, shares the work of painter Amedeo Modigliani as part of the Picture Lady Program sponsored by the Farmington Art Foundation.

Hospital patient reroutings increase

By Darrell Pressley staff writer

For many hospitals in Oakland County, emergency room closings and ambulance reroutings have increased in the last year.
With the shortage of nurses and monitored beds, hospitals are now screening their ambulance calls and rerouting some patients to other hospitals.
To patients, this system may be an inconvenience, but to health care professionals, it is a way to maintain the quality of medical care.
"It's a fact of life," said Dr. Andrew Wilson, medical director for Oakland County Emergency Medical Services.
Wilson said the emergency rooms do not actually close, and that walk-in patients are still being admitted.
"The word 'closing' says we do something we never do," Wilson said.

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