

Community Corner

This week's question:

How do you feel about Sandinista President Daniel Ortega losing the election in Nicaragua this morning?

We asked this question outside of K. Mart at Grand River and Halsted in Farmington



"That's the bad guy, isn't it? I'm glad he lost."
— LaJean Nagrant
Farmington Hills



"We didn't want him to win anyway, did we?"
— Ted Widlund
Farmington Hills



"Surprised. He was the favorite."
— Kay Martell
Novi



"Grrrrrr-eat!"
— William Maloney
Farmington



"Maybe it will help the American cause in Nicaragua."
— Ian Horn
South Lyon



"Happy — happy that he lost."
— Victoria McConaghie
Farmington

Investigators sift through debris at plaza fire scene

No cause has been determined for a November fire at Suburban Aluminum & Glass or a February fire at Orchard Ridge Plaza, a Farmington Hills fire investigator said Tuesday.

The fire that destroyed Suburban Aluminum & Glass Nov. 22 has been classified as undetermined, said Detective Darnel Krause of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

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

The midday fire at the home improvement company started in a product storage loft. Damage to the two-story, wood-frame building was estimated at \$200,000. One minor injury was reported.

Despite lack of fire insurance, company owner Antonios Chrysogelos of Livonia plans to rebuild a

smaller store on the same site, the northwest corner of Eight Mile and Inkster.

This fire spread to the roof of the Towne Square Pub next door, but no major fire damage was reported there. The pub reopened for business five days later.

The city will pay for removing the burned remnants of Suburban Aluminum & Glass and include the cost on the property's next tax bill.

"We'll proceed and remove the debris post haste," Farmington Hills planning and community development director Dale Coutegant told the city council Monday.

TWO FIREFIGHTERS suffered minor injuries in fighting the early-morning blaze at Orchard Ridge Plaza, northeast of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

"We can't yet say what started it," Krause said. "I have a couple inter-

views to go but the cause of this fire could end up undetermined as well."

Investigators are trying to determine what burned first and where the ignition source came from.

They 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 washed and dried napkins in that area.

Insurance agents haven't "made a final determination on value," said City Manager William Costick, who has met with building owners Lou and Don Bosco.

No plans have been made to demolish the charred remains of the seven-business plaza. "Sometimes, this takes several weeks to resolve with insurance companies," Costick told the city council Monday.

Hills council OKs 3-way stop

A three-way stop has been established at the east intersection of Inkster Road and 14 Mile on the Farmington Hills-West Bloomfield-Franklin border.

A traffic control order approved Monday by the Farmington Hills City Council requires both eastbound

and westbound traffic on 14 Mile to stop before entering the east intersection of Inkster Road, making the intersection a three-way stop.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners, following a traffic study by the county road commission, previously approved the three-

way stop.

The change stems from several near-miss accidents involving northbound Inkster Road motorists not knowing if eastbound 14 Mile motorists are going to turn south or proceed east.

The village of Franklin supports the traffic control order.

police/fire calls

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

● 2 fight

Two Farmington Hills teenagers were ticketed for fighting in the parking lot at Taco Bell, 29925 Orchard Lake Road, at 10:20 p.m. Friday.

The fight, between a 17-year-old and an 18-year-old, started inside the restaurant, said Farmington Hills police officer Matt Koehn, who separated the two.

● on the road

Saturday's near-blizzard conditions, which left roads snow and ice covered, kept Farmington Hills police busy taking weather-related traffic reports.

Between midnight Saturday and noon Sunday, officers took 75 accident reports, mostly fender benders. No serious injuries were reported. "Almost every accident was related to speed — drivers driving too fast for the road conditions," said officer Don Pradette of the Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Division.

A six-car pileup was reported on 12 Mile.

Officers handled 33 reports of road hazards, road runoffs or disabled vehicles. They also handled three snowmobile complaints.

One downed wire was reported, on Kendallwood Drive.

Boisford General Hospital in Farmington Hills treated one case of frostbite Saturday. A 22-year-old man suffered frostbite to his fingers and toes.

● marijuana seized

A 21-year-old Detroit man was charged with possessing marijuana after a baggie of it was found in his pocket during a traffic stop on M-102 at 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Farmington Hills police said.

He also was charged with transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when a bottle of malt liquor was found in his possession, detective Brian DeGrande said.

A loaded 32-caliber revolver was found behind the car's backseat armrest. But neither the 21-year-old man nor two other occupants of the car — an 18-year-old Detroit man and a 19-year-old Highland Park woman — were charged with carrying a concealed weapon, pending a fingerprint analysis, DeGrande said.

Crime Suppression Unit surveillance officers initially observed the

car at Motel 6, 38300 Grand River. The manager had called police to report possible drug activity in a room there. After the traffic stop, officers went to the room and found a small amount of marijuana and minimal property damage, DeGrande said.

● open beer

Two Macomb County residents were ticketed for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when open bottles of beer were found in a car parked outside Five Brothers Party Store, 29010 Eight Mile, Monday afternoon.

Ticketed were a 24-year-old Roseville woman and a 25-year-old Warren man, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● thefts reported

Avia shoes valued at \$350 were reported stolen from a car parked on Shawwassee in Farmington Feb. 22.

● damage reported

Damage was estimated at \$800 when a 1982 Porsche parked at the Valley View Condominiums on Grand River in Farmington was damaged with scratches and dents Feb. 17-23.

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