



Ron Jedwab, a cook at Dimitri's restaurant in downtown Farmington, clears the walk for customers Tuesday.



Lorle Hunter of Farmington Hills and her son Michael get help digging out of Tuesday's snow from Ron Jedwab, who also helped to jump-start the family's car.

photos by SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photographer

No mercy

Snowbound residents dig themselves out

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Farmington Hills did the same, requesting that all cars be removed from roadways for 24 hours.

Roads were kept as passable as possible despite high winds and drifting thanks to public works crews in both cities.

In Farmington Hills, crews were called in during the middle of the night to start plowing and salting. By morning, city director Dan Rooney also had "mobilized the help" of the parks and recreation, engineering and mechanics staffs.

"Things have settled down," Rooney said by mid-morning Tuesday, as high winds and flurries calmed down.

Throughout the night, county and city road crews concentrated on major roads. By morning, Rooney said his crew's efforts were on local roads in subdivisions.

IN MANY area offices, skeleton crews were holding down the fort.

"I think everybody took someone's advice and stayed home," said Farmington Hills fire Chief Richard Matinuel, who had no major reports of problems due to the heavy snows and high winds.

At the office of Certified Public Accountant George Shemie in Farmington Hills, four of 11 employees, including Shemie who lives just down the street off of Nine Mile,

made it into work.

"You have to persevere," Shemie said. "It wasn't easy, but I made it."

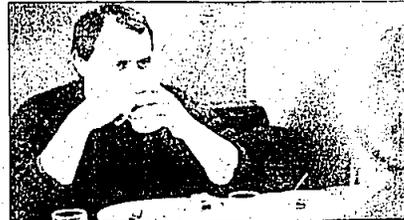
Accountants Michael Flynn and Pam Meyers, both of Livonia, were busy at work because payroll taxes were due for their clients the following day. Rachel and Justin Meyers, who had the day off school, came into the office with mom and hunkered down in the company's conference room with a bag full of toys brought for the day.

The snowstorm also blanketed the community with quiet as schools, colleges and some stores closed. Public meetings, such as the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission and Farmington Natur-

alists — both scheduled to meet Tuesday night — were cancelled.

The Farmington Board of Education, however, planned to meet as scheduled.

Farmington Observer photographer Sharon LeMieux contributed to this report.



Downtown Farmington residents Bob Schwartz and Linda Andridge drink hot tea and coffee and eat breakfast at Dimitri's restaurant after walking five blocks from their house Tuesday.



Eleven-year-old Rachel Meyers plays with her sports cards as brother Justin, 7, opens the refrigerator to get his lunch at the Farmington Hills office of accountant George Shemie. The two went to work Tuesday with their mom, Pam, who is in the background with Shemie.

Tips help keep winter safe

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. Residents or business people with questions or concerns should call the department at 473-7262.

With winter and cold weather part of our lives, Farmington Fire Marshal Joseph Schornack offers some safety tips from the Safety Council for Southeast Michigan.

Winter hit the Farmington area this week with full force. And "sometimes, February and March really seem to hit us," Schornack added.

In the area of electricity and appliances, remember to use a three-pronged appliance in the proper plugs, purchase items approved by Underwriters Laboratories, and always watch for damaged wires or loose and broken plugs. He also recommends covering wall outlets with plastic safety caps if small children are in the house.

WINTER CAN include icy road conditions, and Schornack reminds drivers to keep an emergency kit on hand at all times, keep cars tuned up, keep snow off of window areas when driving, and reduce speeds and increase following distance. Sunglasses can also be a handy driving tool when sun causes glare on the snow.

If a vehicle's battery dies during the winter, here are the steps a person should take to give it a jump start:

• Be sure the car helping the disabled one don't touch each other and that both batteries are of the same voltage.

• Turn off both engines, set the parking brakes, and put transmissions in park for automatic cars and neutral for standard transmissions.

• Connect the positive booster cables to the positive post of the dead battery. Then connect the other end of that cable to the same marked post of the booster battery.

• Connect the second, negative booster cable to the other post of the



booster battery. Make the final booster cable connection on the engine block of the stalled vehicle, away from the battery.
• Start the booster vehicle and let it run a few minutes; start the disabled vehicle. Then, remove the cables in reverse order of connection.



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