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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Local delegates: Reporter Tim Richard and convention-goer Susan Singer Mitchell get reactions from your community's representatives to the GOP National Convention. /5A

OPINION

Town picnic: In days of old, people provided their own entertainment, the kind you'll see at Family Day in the Park this Saturday in Farmington. It's worth the trouble. /16A

COUNTY NEWS

Strength in numbers: The Southfield-based Oakland County consortium of black business men and women creates networking opportunities and chances to bid on state and county projects. /18A

SPORTS

Soccer preview: Farmington High returns a veteran soccer team for the 1992 boys season and anticipates a successful campaign. /1B

ENTERTAINMENT



Renaissance Festival: If the entertainers have their way, you'll have a good time at the Michigan Renaissance Festival. Working at the festival is a labor of love for many performers. /5B

Eating out: Chef Ernest Di Michele serves up pasta, pizza and other delicious Italian entrees in a country inn setting at Ernesto's in Plymouth. /5B

BUSINESS

Retail trend: Non-traditional outlets in traditional shopping centers are cropping up in the form of kiosks and carts. Retailers are appealing to impulse buyers and browsers, and entrepreneurs are attracted by minimal start-up costs. /12B

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Power line path gets Hills' OK



Farmington Hills and Detroit Edison officials are happy with the recently approved route of power lines through the community. Now the officials hope the path will get the blessing of some residents who had opposed other routes.

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The path of least resistance is what some are calling a new route for Detroit Edison's 120 KV (kilovolt) line designed to provide additional electrical power through outage-plagued Farmington Hills.

"I think it's probably the least disruptive route to residents," said Larry Elia, engineering director for Detroit Edison's Oakland County division. "This should reduce the number of outages they may experience as compared to prior years."

City and Edison officials are hoping

the new route will meet with residents' blessings — particularly those who previously opposed other suggested routes.

"I'm sure some residents are not aware of this," said councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, who initiated a citizens committee on the heels of a week-long power outage in the city last year.

The citizens committee, which also approved the route, has met three times with Edison officials to push for greater reliability and to review alternative routes for the new 120 KV line, which will feature 80-foot poles.

The new route, approved by the city council Monday, will start at Drake Road and I-696 on the south side of the freeway to Farmington Road, and on an existing pole line run north on Farmington to 12 Mile.

The new route continues on 12 Mile, past the Clarion Hotel, and east of Orchard Lake Road. It will then run south to the north side of I-696 where there is an existing pole line to about a half-mile east of Middlebelt Road. From here the route will continue to Inkster.

See POWER LINE, 2A

Howdy to GOP



Party time: Jason Allen and Suzanne Miller Allen of Farmington Hills flank a patriotic pink elephant at a delegates reception at the Republican convention in Houston. For more on the convention, see Page 5A.

Stroll through history

See related editorial, 16A

Stroll to Farmington's Shilohsawee Park this Saturday for a trip back in time to 1867.

"Family Day in the Park" will be held 1:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. throughout the park, which is on Shilohsawee between Farmington and Power roads. The day-long event is part of Farmington's 125th Anniversary Celebration of the community's incorporation as a village.

It will be held rain or shine. Most of the events, with the exception of the bovine raffle and chicken barbecue, are free.

Farmington public safety Director Frank Leubhoff reminds residents that a portion of Shilohsawee between Farmington and Power roads will be closed starting at 2 p.m. Saturday until the festivities are over. North-south travel along Power Road and Farmington Road will be continued. Access to Raphael Street will be closed at Shilohsawee, but allowed from 10 Mile Road.

Parking for handicappeds will be allowed on the closed portion of Shilohsawee, with access at the bottom of the hill at Farmington and Shilohsawee roads.

At 1:30 p.m., the south Farmington Baseball Association will host an Old-Timers Game showing how baseball used to be played.

From 3-5 p.m., several activities are scheduled including: old-time games and hayrides sponsored by Farmington Hills Department of Special services, period crafts sponsored by the Farmington Community Library, puppet shows sponsored by Farmington Families in Action, and a free popcorn and lemonade wagon sponsored by Metrobank.

Children's games will include frog jumping, three-legged sack races, marbles, hoop rolling, rope jumping, ring

See HISTORY, 3A

New school year brings different styles of learning

By CARMY HANS
STAFF WRITER

School, in the traditional sense, just isn't what it used to be. Many Farmington-area students return to school next week to a different style of learning, including things like alternative scheduling and mixing various teaching disciplines for secondary students, and the start of year-round school for some elementary pupils.

Younger students will also begin learning about local history and their community in a newly designed social

■ 'It's moving so fast — I've never seen education move so fast. It's in every area. Our whole training calendar is completely filled up.'

Judith White
Farmington schools

studies program, and a new math program also will be introduced in the district's 13 elementary schools.

"It's moving so fast — I've never seen education move so fast," said Judith

White, assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development for the Farmington district. "It's in every

See LEARNING, 2A

Water main proposal flows into hearing

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Victor Cassar's stepdaughters used to be blonde. Now they've got a tint of red, actually more like orange. And his wife hates the white socks he wears with everything. But then, it's the only clothing she can bleach.

"I guarantee, if they check my water, it's got to be hazardous," said Cassar.

For the Cassars, who live in the Blidestone Woods subdivision in Farmington Hills, the culprit is their well water. And the solution they and a few others in the neighborhood want is city water. But that's easier said than done.

Just ask Stephen and Sandra Secrest, a couple with whom the Farmington Hills City Council is familiar. After

quite a controversy last year, the Secrests and some of the neighbors managed to get sanitary sewer service.

Now the Secrests are back. This time, they're asking for a water main so homeowners can hook up to city water. But not everyone in the subdivision off Farmington Road, north of 11 Mile, wants city water or the accompanying costs.

To top it off, even if the Secrests and their neighbors get a water main, they can't hook up because of a state health department moratorium while a 72-inch main is being built through Franklin.

On Monday, the Secrests presented the council with a petition and a proposed special assessment district in-

See WATER MAIN, 4A

Cookies disappear

Cookies baked from a Hillary Clinton recipe were snatched up at the Farmington Democratic Club's recent get-together at the Farmington Hills home of Aldo and Lela Vagnozzi.

"I got half a cookie," said Vagnozzi with a laugh. "They went real quick. I think they were chocolate chip and oatmeal."

Hillary Clinton, wife of Democratic presidential hopeful Bill Clinton, made headlines with her quip about women who stay home and bake cookies. Since then, a recipe for her cookies has appeared in a magazine.

The Farmington Hills event drew more than 50 people — including Democratic candidates Walter Briggs IV, Betty Howe, Robert Jurczyk, Al Zolton and Ken Murray. Also on hand were Jack McDonald and Marla Parker, opponents in the non-partisan local judicial race.

"Briggs, Howe and the others in the county-wide

FARMINGTON FOCUS

racers are going to be spending a lot of time in the Farmington area," said Vagnozzi, a Farmington Hills councilman. "It's a key area with a lot of independent voters who are ticket splitters."

"It's an area that has a lot of opportunities for Democrats. Jim Blanchard (Michigan's Democratic governor who was defeated in his bid for re-election in November 1990) got 47 percent of the vote here two years ago."

Briggs is running for a Congressional seat in the new 11th District against Republican Joe Knollenberg, the surprise winner in the heated GOP primary.

Howe hopes to beat L. Brooks Patterson in the race for the office of Oakland County executive. Jurczyk takes on incumbent Jan Dolan for a seat in the 37th State House District. Zolton and Murray are challengers for county commission posts in the 18th

and 19th districts, respectively. Zolton faces David Moffitt, and Murray squares off against Donn Wolf.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 21, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

From the Around the Block column: "Congratulations . . . to Mayor Loomis and the City Council for the way they conducted the Council meeting Monday night. More business was transacted in less time than has been done in many, many months. In fact, the meeting was adjourned a little before midnight with the entire agenda taken care of. Last month, the meeting broke up at 2:15 a.m. with still many items untouched, and the month before it was 1:15 a.m."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.