

Major roads to be 'passable' for school

Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said he expects major roads to be passable for the start of school in the Farmington district this week, despite ongoing construction work.

"It seems that we have things pretty well under control," he said.

Major roadwork on 12 Mile Road in front of Harrison High School should be completely finished and cleaned up by the time students report to school Tuesday, Costick said.

Road construction on 13 Mile in front of North Farmington High School will not be completed, but will be passable.

Don Cowan, director of building and student services for the Farmington Public School District, said he is hoping for good travel when school opens this week.

He encourages students driving in affected areas to carpool to minimize the number of cars driving through construction zones.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile
Monday, Aug. 24
5 p.m. — Special meeting
7:30 p.m. — Regular meeting

The special council meeting will be held in the lower level conference room at city hall to enter into executive sessions to discuss pending litigation in the matters of Farmer John's Nursery, McMahon property rezoning and Grouney property rezoning. The council will also discuss land acquisition, neighborhood park property and property adjacent to fire station on Middlebelt.

At the regular meeting in council chambers, the following public hearings are scheduled:

- Introduction of rezoning request from L-1, light industrial, to B-3, general business, at 29199 Orchard Lake Road, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads. Proponent: Mark S. Cohn. Owner: Orchard Lake Road Properties.
- Introduction of zoning text amendment regulation area of accessory buildings.
- Cost hearing for watermain improvements for Westmoreland Drive, from 600 feet north of Springbrook to 1,300 feet north of Springbrook.
- Cost hearing for watermain improvements for Westmoreland Drive, from 1,300 feet north of Springbrook to 1,720 feet north of Springbrook.
- Cost hearing for road improvements for Ruth Avenue.

Drive, from 600 feet north of Springbrook to 1,300 feet north of Springbrook.

• Cost hearing for watermain improvements for Westmoreland Drive, from 1,300 feet north of Springbrook to 1,720 feet north of Springbrook.

• Cost hearing for road improvements for Ruth Avenue.

The council also will consider approval of a proposed site plan for Copper Creek Golf Course club house and a request of a Class C license at 27925 Copperwood Blvd.

In other business, the council will consider a resolution supporting the Farmington Community Library project on Metro Net; approval of appointments to boards and commissions; approval of communication tower rental agreement with Cellular One for rental of tower at DPW yard; approval of compliance actions with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Regulation; and proposed revisions and increase in water system connection charges for new service connections.

Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals
Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile
Tuesday, Aug. 25

Call 473-9540 for agenda.

Local writer lived life to fullest

By HELEN NIEMIEC
STAFF WRITER

Dean Fiske Coffin, a noted Birmingham novelist and screen writer in the 1940s through 1960s, was working on a novel about raising a family in the World War II era.

"The Almost Perfect Marriage" focused on the Coffin family and life in the 1940s and 1950s. It was nearly complete when Coffin died Aug. 24. He was 81.

A memorial service was held Saturday at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial tributes be made to the Christ Church Cranbrook Discretionary Fund.

Howard Coffin, his son, described his father as someone "who celebrated life." Some of his fondest childhood recollections center around his father serving as master of ceremonies at parties, with either children or guests — and of course his actress mother Winifred Coffin — performing.

"There was always a parade of talent in the house. My father was fond of people using their talents. My father lived life to the fullest and he saw life as a chance to celebrate," Howard Coffin said.

Dean Coffin never slowed down, according to his son. And, in addition to the novel, there were several

■ **'There was always a parade of talent in the house. My father was fond of people using their talents. My father lived life to the fullest and he saw life as a chance to celebrate.'**

Howard Coffin
writer's son

short stories in the work at the time of his death.

"Dad had more projects going now at his age than most people half his age have in a year," he added. An article he wrote for an automotive magazine is slated for publication within the next few months.

Coffin made the front page of The Eclectic in June 1991 when, upon returning from a vacation in Ireland, he saw that the Prompter, a newsletter put out by the Village Players, listed him as deceased.

Coffin laughed about the obituary, explaining that he had been vacationing in Ireland at the time of his alleged death. He assured readers that he indeed was well and had just completed a "pub crawl."

The premature obituary didn't ruffle Coffin, who returned to Ireland, as planned, in July 1991. "I'm just not ready to kick the bucket yet," he said.

Coffin was the son of Howard Coffin, former president of White Star Refining Co. and U.S. con-

gressman representing Detroit from 1946-48. A 1933 graduate of Brown University, Coffin won a special prize for his essay on Wagnerian opera. While a freshman there, he met his wife, Winifred DeForest Coffin, who was a freshman at Connecticut College.

Coffin was a member of the vestry of Christ Church Cranbrook and a longtime member of St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild and the Detroit Players, of which he was the oldest living member. His Detroit Players production of "The Women" was staged with an all-male cast.

He also wrote, produced and directed three original musical productions — "The Bloomingham Eccentric," "Bloomington Newcomers" and "The High Cost of Loving" — for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Arts Festivals in the 1960s.

A Hollywood screen writer in the audience for "The High Cost of Loving" spotted an actress — Win-

ifred Coffin — whom he recommended for a television role.

That led to the Coffins leaving for an eight year stay in California where Winifred Coffin appeared in six movies and more than 40 productions as a guest star, including some of the day's most popular television shows like "Bonanza" and "The Red Skelton Show."

A supporter of the arts, he was one of the founders of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association in the early 1960s.

In 1970, Coffin published his first novel "Under the Robes," a fictionalized account of a traffic court judge. The National Bar Association in Chicago provided a grant for that effort.

Before striking out on his own writing and directing pursuits, Coffin was vice president, programmed operations, for the Jam Handy Organization, a firm specializing in the arts. Coffin held management roles in motion pictures and meeting programs for business and industry.

In addition to son Howard, Coffin is survived by his daughter, Celia Morey of Los Angeles; sons, Triam of Hiram, Maine, Frederick of Hollywood and William of Olympia, Wash.; sister, Carolyn Nash of Detroit; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

ARMED ROBBERY

Two unidentified men walked away with more than \$200 from a discount beauty shop after holding up the cashier Wednesday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

According to the cashier, the two men walked up to the counter of Howard's Discount Beauty Supplies, 30060 Grand River, and the younger one, described as in his 20s, implied he had a gun under his shirt. Both men told the cashier "Give us the money or we'll shoot."

The men told the cashier to give

them money from the cash register. She gave them one \$50, four \$20s and bills of other denominations, according to police. As soon as the men had the money, they left on foot east toward the parking lot.

The younger black man was described as 5 feet, 9 inches tall, 165 pounds, and wearing a plaid shirt, jeans and tennis shoes. The other black man was described as in his 30s, 5 feet, 5 inches tall, 135 pounds, and wearing shorts and a tank shirt.

DESCRIPTION REVISED

The description of a man involved in an Aug. 17 assault on a 73-year-old Farmington woman should have noted that he is Caucasian, 200 pounds, in his 20s with a full beard and bushy hair.

Farmington police reported that the assault occurred at about 8:22 a.m. in the area in front of St. Gerald Church, 21300 Farmington Road. According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, the victim was walking along the Farmington Road sidewalk when a man walking from the opposite direction grabbed her and attempted to pull her into a nearby vacant lot. She was uninjured.

THEFTS REPORTED

Twelve fire extinguishers valued at \$480 were reported stolen from Botsford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, July 13-Aug. 17.

Wire wheel covers valued at \$200 were reported stolen from a 1992 Chevrolet at 12 Mile and Farmington roads, Aug. 18.

A 1989 Ford valued at \$9,000 was reported stolen from the parking lot of Strawberry Hills Market, 92906 Middlebelt, Aug. 18.

A 35mm camera, mountain bike, 10-speed bike and golf clubs valued at \$1,700 were reported stolen from a storage shed on Washington Court in the Independence Green Apartments at Grand River and Halsted, July 1-Aug. 18.

A tennis racket and 12 cassette tapes valued at \$300 were reported stolen from a 1983 Chrysler on Heatherwood Court, Aug. 17-18.

A TV, Nintendo and phone valued at \$200 were reported stolen, as well as \$15 in cash and coins, from a unit on Roosevelt Court in the Independence Green Apartments at Grand River and Halsted, Aug. 19.

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Phone: 478-7860



TMJ PAIN

TMJ pain refers to discomfort in the jaw joint anatomically called the Temporomandibular joint. TMJ pain can travel down to the chin or up into the ear. The discomfort may be sharp, aching, intermittent or pulsating. You may have pain only while chewing, or the pain can be severe enough to wake you at night.

The differing features of TMJ can depend on whether the jaw joint takes the brunt of the strain or if the muscles of chewing that surround the jaw are under the greatest stress. In most cases the pain comes from a malocclusion of teeth or dentures. Another common source is from unconscious grinding of the teeth as a reaction to tension. These are the reasons why your physician, if he believes you have TMJ pain, will refer you to a dentist for an evaluation.

However, TMJ discomfort can occur in rheumatoid arthritis, can be part of fibromyalgia, and may arise as a late reaction to a previous fracture or dislocation of the jaw. Medical treatment may not be satisfactory. The anti-inflammatory drugs used for arthritis do not work well. Most physicians have little experience in TMJ diagnosis and depend on dental colleagues for this procedure. Surgery, while possible, is the subject of controversy. Fortunately in most cases, time and nature intervene, and the initial distracting discomfort resolves.

In school, he's one of 30. Here, he's in a class by himself.

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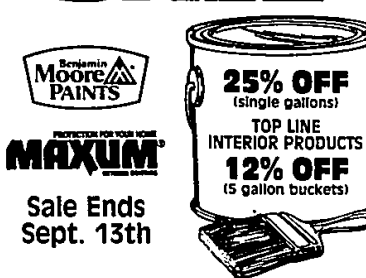
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