

Where's the worst pothole?

Freeze, thaw... Freeze, thaw... CLUNK! Ughhhhh!

Driving around Oakland County is certainly a tooth-rattling, wheel-cover-jarring experience these days, with potholes popping up faster than city or county road crews can say "cold patch."

Inquiring minds—and Observer editors—want to know: where's the worst concrete crater in the city?

The good sports at Tom Halbelsen Goodyear, 835 Haynes at Hunter in Birmingham, will help us out by offering a free front-wheel alignment to the person who submits the winning entry as chosen by a local judging panel. Ties will be broken by random drawing.

Wary road warriors can report horror stories on a special phone line through 4 p.m. Monday. Be sure to include your name and a daytime phone number.

We'll share your pothole pain in Thursday's paper.

Observer readers call 901-4723

Rotary dial may be used

Cardiac Arrest event set

Local volunteers are planning the Farmington area's second annual Cardiac Arrest event to benefit the American Heart Association. It will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 15, at the Community Center on Farmington Road.

Committee members include: Farmington Councilman Bill Hartsock of Roney & Co.; Deborah Grant of Gelman & Grant; Bob McCann of MetroVision; Donna DeCenaro of AIF Life Co.; Gerald Morris of Wyandotte Hospital; Ben Marks of the Community Center; David Ramirez of AIG Life Co.; and Kim Evola of Botsford General Hospital.

This group is working to identify and recruit "model prisoners"—individuals who will agree to be arrested and who will agree to be held in the AHA jail located in the Community Center until they donate a sufficient "bail" to win release.

The committee members also report that they have identified Florine Mark, president and CEO of The WW Group, Inc., the largest franchise of Weight Watchers International, as Farmington Hills' "Most Wanted Jailbird."

This distinction is given to Mark based on her model behavior as a prisoner of the American Heart Association.

"I firmly believe that promoting a healthy lifestyle for men, women and their families is one of the best ways to help decrease the incidence of heart disease and stroke," said Mark.

The money prisoners raise as a result of their terms in the slammer will support the American Heart Association's research, education, and community service programs.

The committee is still looking for people interested in participating. If you'd like to be thrown in the slammer, please contact any of the committee members or AHA representative Karen Kotlin, 657-9500.

Hills brokerage, development firm names principal

Fred C. Seeley has been named a principal of Ludwig and Karas Inc., a Farmington Hills commercial real estate brokerage and development firm.

He has been executive vice president of the company and will continue in that position.

He had been senior vice president of Perry Drug.

City: Bag plastic for yard waste

Beginning Friday, April 1, plastic bags no longer will be accepted for yard waste collection in Farmington.

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves and garden waste. Plastic bags are still accepted for regular rubbish.

Recycling coordinator Ken Birkholz said there are several alternatives to plastic bags when preparing yard waste for collection. One of the easiest is to let grass clippings fall back on your lawn.

Clippings are composed of about 85 percent water, and left on the lawn will quickly decompose and add nutrients to the soil.

Or, residents can use a 30-gallon can with a "Yard Waste" label. If you choose this method, Birkholz said not to line the can with a plastic bag. Labels are available from Farmington City Hall and the Department of Public Services.

A third alternative is to use a large 30-gallon paper yard waste bag available at local retail outlets.

Other recycling rules to remember include: Brush and small branches must be bundled and not exceed six inches in diameter, four feet in length, or 60 pounds a bundle. Fall leaf vacuuming will continue.

Plastic bags create problems for compost programs, according to Birkholz. Grass clippings stored in plastic bags create strong odors and the plastic does not decompose in the composting process.

NBD still banking on site

Although NBD is delaying construction of its 750,000-square-foot office center on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, the project is still on.

"The only thing that's holding us up now is the design," said NBD spokesman Rick Johnson. "We've got the land, the DNR approvals and everything."

The company wants to make sure that the building fits the bank's need over a long period of time, Johnson said. Construction should begin by the spring of 1995 at the latest, he added.

Farmington Hills assistant city manager David Call, the city's point man for the project, said NBD officials are still "gung-ho" on the site, which they've already purchased.

"They don't want to build something and then have to pull out in 10 years," Call said.

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