

Philharmonic to honor city's 25th

The Farmington Area Philharmonic will perform a free family concert at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Heritage Park as part of the weekend's 25th anniversary celebration of Farmington Hills being a city.

A host of Philharmonic favorites will be performed, including "1812 Overture," "Over the Rainbow," "Magnificent Seven," "Flashdance," and more.

"This is a great opportunity to go to know the Philharmonic before the start of our new season this fall," said Karen Nixon-Lane, music director.

"We're scheduling an exciting line-up of concertos that will appeal to a broad audience. We think this free concert will whet your appetite for more."

The performance — originally announced as being on another date — is being sponsored as a gift from Botsford Hospital, with additional support by the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

Store from page A1

doughnuts and a gift bag, all part of Farmer Jack's "Getting to Know You Days" program.

"When we were ready to leave, they gave us a bag of things to show their appreciation," Dawes said.

According to a flier distributed at Farmington Place, Farmer Jack will repeat that service Tuesday, with pick-ups "every hour on the hour" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The final return bus leaves Crossroads at 5 p.m.

Dawes noted that she was told that the Tuesday outings are pretty much an appetizer for the main course: on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting June 30, there will be five pick-ups and returns to and from Farmington Place.

"I was on the afternoon bus, and there were only two of us on there," Dawes continued. "But I think a lot of people from here went. The ones I talked to thought it was a good idea. It is an idea that has potential, particularly since it would elim-

'The ones I talked to thought it was a good idea.'

**Margaret Dawes**  
—Farmington Place resident

inate the need for seniors to walk to the store in poor weather, Dawes said. "If it worked out the way it did on Tuesday, it (the shuttle) would be fine."

News of the shuttle surprised Annalee Morrison, especially since Farmer Jack has yet to confirm the accepted news that the downtown store is closing on June 27.

"They can hand out these fliers, but they won't announce they're closing the store," Morrison said. "What does that indicate to you? Why would they offer that (shuttle) if they're not closing the store?"

Morrison is one of the residents spearheading the campaign to keep a quality grocer in

the Downtown Farmington Center. Morrison delivered a petition with more than 800 signatures to center landlord Kimco Realty Corp. and presented a copy of the petition Monday to the Farmington City Council.

According to Morrison, the petition drive still could make the difference. At least, Kimco knows how residents feel about the subject.

"I really feel if we just sat by and did nothing," Morrison said, "Kimco would never know how much we really need a grocery store."

Despite speculation about the store's future, City Manager Frank Lauff last week said Farmer Jack officials hadn't even made a courtesy call about whether or not the rumored closing were true.

Lauff said a face-to-face meeting with Kimco officials could take place in the next few days.

Power from page A1

the publicly-held utility is using state-of-the-art equipment. "The trouble is: Is Edison cutting corners in terms of equipment in order to make their profit margins?" asked Ron Oliverio, a Farmington Hills resident.

The utility is using modern technology, said Edison officials.

Edison has been working to upgrade seven of 61 circuits serving the city identified as poor. Since 1991, the utility has spent \$19.6 million on improvement projects — \$1.14 million is planned this year alone.

Other improvements include pole-top maintenance and tree clearance from electrical lines.

That's not good enough, said City Manager Dan Hobbs, who lives in the same Meadowbrook Hills subdivision afflicted by frequent outages.

The latest outage from the May 31 storm prompted Hobbs to ask for another meeting with Edison officials. He said it isn't the inconvenience of power outages as much as the mindset that disturbs him.

"When the storm comes, in my mind I know the power is going to go out. That's not acceptable,"

Hobbs said.

Hobbs wants an objective third-party, someone like accountants at Plante & Moran, to audit the Edison system in order to compare the utility with others. An Edison official said the Michigan Public Service Commission already files that role.

"Theoretically, the public service commission should be out there as an arbiter," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. "Unfortunately, we have a weak public service commission. It's symptomatic of the utility industry."

The meeting is the latest in a series between the utility and the city task force. The purpose is not to beat up on Edison, but to make the utility more responsive, Vagnozzi said.

Improvements have resulted, according to Vagnozzi and Hobbs.

Shiawassee Street resident Paul Phelps attended the session Thursday, though he has no gripes with Edison.

"We had 11 outages and Edison has corrected the problem," Phelps said, "but it was through the help of these meetings, too."

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For our next Health Night Out, the University of Michigan Health System will present **Diabetic Eye Disease: What you need to know**. Leading the presentation will be University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center comprehensive ophthalmologists Jerome I. Finkelstein, M.D., and Susan S. Thoms, M.D., both of whom treat patients at the University of Michigan Center for Specialty Care in Livonia.

During the presentation you'll learn how the normal eye functions...how doctors diagnose and treat the two types of diabetic retinopathy...why diabetic patients are more likely to develop cataracts and glaucoma...who is at risk for a vitreous hemorrhage...what surgical options are available...what every person with diabetes can do to help prevent eye problems...and more.

Join us on Thursday, June 25 for our next Health Night Out at the Holiday Inn — Livonia West. Find out what people with diabetes can do to lower their risk for eye disease and to preserve good vision for a lifetime.

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1-275 and Six Mile Road in Livonia

**University of Michigan Health System**

For directions to the Holiday Inn — Livonia West, please call (734) 464-1300.

Visit the U-M Health System Community Calendar at <http://www.academic.med.umich.edu/LessoPages/PublicEvents.lesso>

Health Night Out is sponsored by the FRIENDS of the University of Michigan Health System. For further information, call U-M TeleCare at (734) 783-9000, category 1075.

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