

FARMINGTON NOTABLES

Largest volume award

Jim Stafford of Morse Moving Company in Romulus was awarded the top prize in sales for the entire Allied System, consisting of 2500 salespeople nationwide. The award is given each quarter to the salesperson with the largest dollar volume in moving services sales for Allied

Van Lines. Stafford's sales were primarily from home services from his territory in Livonia, Novi and Farmington Hills.

Hills agent named to council

Mary Williams, president of Brummett Insurance Agency, Inc. has been appointed to the

Hastings Mutual Insurance Company Advisory Council. The Advisory Council provides insight and offers strategies related to the programs of Hastings Mutual Insurance Company. Williams is an independent insurance agent specializing in women-owned businesses. She is a resident of Farmington Hills.

Police from page A4

main. According to police reports, the line was struck by someone using a 24-inch power auger, digging in the sidewalk east of Warner and north of Grand River.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

In Farmington:

A 46-year-old Lincoln man was

arrested for drunken driving after being stopped about 2:20 a.m. Friday on Grand River at Brittany Hill. The man was observed driving a 1999 Chevy pick-up truck, weaving across the center yellow line. His blood alcohol level was registered at .218 percent; the legal level is .10 percent. His license was confiscated.

LARCENY

In Farmington:

A 52-year-old Farmington Hills woman reported that \$18 in cash and her Visa Comerica credit card were stolen from her purse between 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at Langacre Elementary School, 34850 Arundel. There are no suspects in the case.

Bates from page A1

talk about broad ranging issues like transportation and redevelopment.

"Our community has a lot of political activists," Bates said. "They really come to those things."

Though Bates' manner is soft spoken, she's not reluctant to jump into the political fray.

She staunchly defended city council's position on the controversial Timbercrest issue five years ago.

At the request of nearby residents, Bates turned up on a Saturday morning to stop a bulldozer from revving up. The developer of the Power Road site argued not have a bulldozer in operation unless city staff was present.

Last year, Bates publicly defended colleague Terry Sever after he became a consultant to a developer bidding on the 11-Pines project. The developer

dropped himself from consideration.

"I think it's important to stand for justice," she said. "I think it's unfortunate - I've been in this situation recently on candidate nights - where someone just lays things out there."

"You wonder if it is appropriate to spend time with a rebuttal."

During candidate debates, her opponent has made vague assertions about Bates' "close ties" with a few former council members who had questionable financial dealings.

Sarkisian never elaborated, and the sweeping generalization put all of her former colleagues in a bad light, she said.

"That's just a cheap shot," she said.

Bates took a stance against tax abatements, voting "no" for one to Bosch Corp. The company

needed a tax break from the city in order to qualify for a larger state grant.

Bosch still received its tax break from city council, which set up guidelines to deal with future requests. Bates remained in the minority.

"Why are (companies) entitled to money to come to our city?" she said. "Especially at a time when state government and federal government are making so much out of shutting down welfare, shutting down assistance and making people independent."

"I have no understanding why that same philosophy doesn't apply to businesses."

Her goal of promoting children and families is best seen in the Hills after-school youth centers and the Community Foundation she helped start.

"I've been very fortunate," she said.

Edison from page A1

lights go out on sunny days and where there's nary a tree.

"We're going to try and sit down and see if we can get some commitments from them," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. "Part of the problem is they don't admit there is a problem. They're in denial."

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett

was in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., when the latest hurricane with 75-85 mph winds rolled through. Lights flickered a bit but didn't go out, Barnett said.

"I'd recommend our Detroit Edison representatives take a field trip to Florida," Barnett said. "There are ways to deal with the problem."

The meeting will take place in the lower conference room. However, if the crowd necessitates, the session will be moved to city council chambers, said Dana Whinnery, Hills assistant city manager.

Mayor from page A1

Brigitte Thompson.

Vagnozzi handled the event with his usual mixture of information and humor.

While the mayor discussed traffic backups on Middlebelt Road, 9-month old Danielle Videlich, who was with her mother Sharon, let out a loud squeal.

"Is that a yes?" asked Vagnozzi drawing a few laughs.

When a resident asked about the feasibility of an ordinance to ban feeding wild animals, Vagnozzi sighed. City council had a lengthy debate over the issue in September, he said.

The issue came up after residents complained about a neighbor over-feeding birds.

"It was attracting everything that flies," Vagnozzi said. "Even Peter Pan was seen in the backyard."

City staff updated residents on the upcoming census, proposed charter amendments, Grand River improvements, a future Eight Mile Road study, and Olde Towne Park improvements.

Some \$1.2 million in upgrades on Grand River have paid dividends, a city official said. New sidewalks, street lamps and landscaping have helped increase property values.

Assessed values on Grand River rose \$1.9 million from 1994 to 1998, said Rick Lampi, Hills community development director.

Residential property values on nearby Oxford and Jacksonville streets have also appreciated.

Taking into account the different varieties of housing, assessed values rose from \$57 per square foot in 1994 to \$106 per square foot in 1998.

"We're not saying that is the sole reason for the increase. There is inflation and other factors involved," Lampi said. "The study and improvements have helped... We think it's very positive."

Vagnozzi also credited Olde Towne Homeowners Association members for their support in the three-phase project.

Eight Mile Road is next on the list, Lampi said.

The city will draw up improvement plans for the north side of the county thoroughfare from Inkster to Farmington roads within the next year. Most of the property is zoned industrial.

A resident complained about a vacant parcel on Eight Mile where a doctor's office used to stand. The Farmington Hills Fire Department used the abandoned building for a training burn.

"It's really an eyesore," Thompson said. "It's very dangerous. There's just a parking lot and then it goes down a ravine to the Rouge River."

City officials promised to look into the matter.

Eight Mile is in the Road Commission for Oakland County's five-year plan for repaving, said Tom Biasell, public services Director.

"It's not going to last five

years," said Robinson Street resident Leslie Gola.

Biasell agreed, saying the city is pushing the road commission to move up the project.

Olde Towne Park continues to undergo improvements, said George Morrow, special services assistant director.

Tennis courts have been repaired and painted and playground equipment has been added for toddlers. A slide will be replaced during the next three to four weeks, Morrow said.

City parks and recreation planners are also looking into an in-line skating area. Roller hockey players are still using tennis courts, a resident said.

"The kids have nowhere to skate and people want to use the tennis courts," said Massie Kurzeja, an Olde Towne neighborhood activist. "But these people don't want to say get out because these kids have no place to go."

One proposed area for an in-line skating spot is a seldom-used baseball diamond. One reason for the non-use is a tree behind second base.

"We've lost more centerfielders there ...," Vagnozzi said with a wry smile.

Drug from page A1

delivered the package. No one was at home, so the parcel was left inside the door, police reports said.

A signature wasn't required for receipt of the package. A courier service said it delivered the package and put it inside the door, police reports said.

"You have to be concerned that

the delivery of a potentially deadly drug can be made to a home and just be left on the doorstep when no one is home," Dwyer said. "By law, there is nothing illegal as far as we can tell."

"There should be legislation covering shipments like this."

On Friday afternoon, authori-

ties were still trying to contact the manufacturer to get a description of the drug.

Rapin received Federal Drug Administration approval two months ago, police said. The lot number of the drug is No. 49086 or 49015.

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