

Fireworks from page A1

include, but are not limited to, Roman candles, M-80s, firecrackers, cherry bombs and bottle rockets.

Lt. Mike Garr of Farmington Hills' fire prevention department said it's fairly simple to determine whether fireworks are legal.

"If it moves, leaves the ground or makes a loud popping noise, it's illegal in the state of Michigan," Garr said.

These types of fireworks have

been illegal for about 15 years, but are legal in neighboring states, including Ohio and Indiana.

Even legal fireworks, such as sparklers, can be dangerous.

"They can get super-hot," Garr said. "This time of year hospitals see a lot of sparkler-related injuries."

People violating Michigan's fireworks law face confiscation and fines of up to \$500. It is a misdemeanor.

Other Fourth of July events planned include a performance by organist Rich Cuchi, who will perform Independence Day themed music 8 p.m. at Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

For more details, call 476-8860.

"Welcome Home," a patriotic musical, will be performed at Farmington Civic Theatre at 7 p.m. For more information, call 478-1511.

Tips for having safe fun with fireworks

Fireworks may be a fun, colorful tradition celebrating the Fourth of July but they can be very dangerous, especially in the hands of children, warns the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

In 1998, 8,600 people were treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. About 55 percent of those injuries were burns, and most involved the hands, eyes, and head/face. More than 40 percent of the victims were under 15 years old, and 76 percent were male.

Class C fireworks are illegal in

all states, including Michigan. They include cherry bombs, silver salutes, M-80s and M-100s — the types of fireworks that cause the largest share of injuries. Other illegal fireworks in Michigan include bottle rockets and Roman candles.

Legal fireworks in Michigan include flat paper caps, pop-fis, sparklers, flitter sparklers, fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs and grenades, signal flares, and blank cartridge pistols.

Some safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with fireworks

- Read and follow all warnings and instructions
 - Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks
 - Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves and inflammable materials
 - Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned
 - Keep a bucket of water handy in case of fire
- For more information, call Farmington Hills' fire prevention department at 426-4403.

Stadium from page A1

improvements.

"Although our recent bond issue provided the funds for renovating the school itself, it did not include funding for outside facilities," said Farmington High School Principal John Barrett in a recent letter introducing the Falcon Society.

"These facilities impact dozens of athletic teams, the marching band, cheer teams, pom-pom squads, the Special Olympians, community youth recreational programs and community residents who utilize them."

The groundbreaking heralds the first of the work. The asphalt will be torn up this weekend and fences taken down between the bleachers and school.

"We will demolish and excavate," Washer said. "Portable classrooms and Dumpsters will be moved out."

Fund-raising has moved along at a rapid pace. About \$40,000 of the \$100,000 needed for Phase One has been raised and the group is looking at funding options, according to Washer.

Parent volunteers Denise Albrecht and Janet Szopko mailed out 13,000 fund-raising letters during the months of March, April and May to alumni dating

'Although our recent bond issue provided funds for renovating the school itself, it did not include funding for outside facilities.'

John Barrett
—Principal, Farmington High

as far back as the 1960 graduating class, Washer said.

One 1961 alum, grateful for an initial \$250 scholarship to Michigan State University received from the Farmington Education Association, which was refinanced for three more years, donated \$5,000.

The enthusiasm generated from what some might call special interest groups has boosters discussing improvements together.

"We have never all been together before," Washer said. "We met with about 60 people at Farmington High School. We created a list from that meeting and we were challenged by Mr. Barrett to put together a steering committee."

A golf outing at Cattails Golf Club in St. Leon last month netted \$12,000, Washer said. A dinner dance and silent auction

is planned Nov. 18 at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

The group is also selling commemorative bricks for \$100 each or three bricks for \$200 which can be personalized. Twenty-five percent of each donation order can be designated to the activity, sport, department or building organization of your choice. The remainder of the donation will fund the design and development of Falcon Field and other Falcon Society projects.

Brick purchase orders will be made in 100-brick increments and the first order will go out Monday, Washer said.

For more information call Geary Tuddall (248) 477-4946 or Charlie Fellows (248) 473-4087.

Farmington High School is located at 32000 Shiawassee in Farmington.

West Bay from page A1

asked West Bay to provide more information before approving its permit — and that the city did not make a "final decision."

"The matter will be remanded back to circuit court for determination on the merits of the case," Donohue said. "Our position was that it was not a final decision. (West Bay) was free to come back to apply."

'Our position is that it was not a final decision. (West Bay) was free to come back to apply.'

John Donohue
—Hills city attorney

The city is still deciding how to proceed. "No decision has been made on that," Donohue said.

City Manager Steve Brock said city council's primary concern about the oil drilling pertained to safety.

"It was very unpopular," he said, recalling council meetings that attracted as many as 100 opponents, primarily local residents.

"Council was concerned about the general health and safety of these (drilling) operations," Brock said. "You're dealing with toxic gases that can be released from these things."

Officials wanted to know how West Bay planned to prevent the release of the gases and how they would deal with it if it happened. They never got an answer, according to Brock.

Gotteschalk said the concerns about H₂S were overblown,

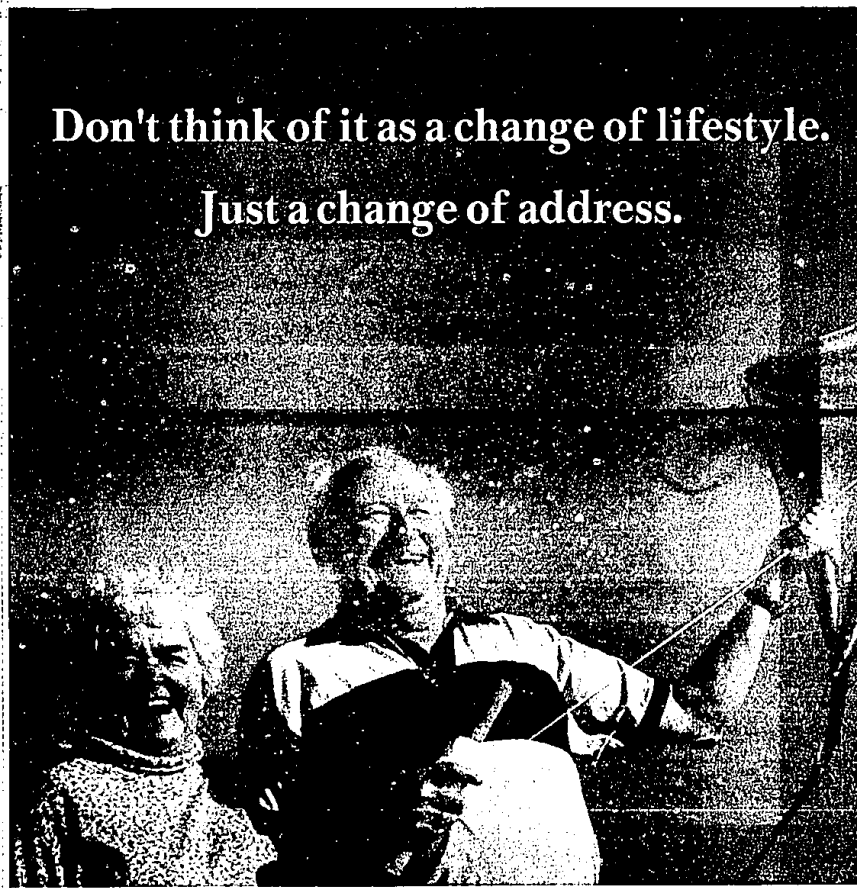
because it is only lethal in very high concentrations.

"There would have been zero chance (of danger)," he said.

The company no longer owns the 3-acre parcel, located on Nine Mile, east of I-275. If West Bay wants to drill on the same site, it would have to negotiate a lease with the land owners because it has since sold the land. West Bay brokered a mineral rights lease with Kensington Metropark in Milford and has oil wells set up near a popular toboggan-hill, Gotteschalk said. No one has complained about the drilling and that Kensington has benefited from the additional revenues.

Gas companies have a bad reputation, Gotteschalk said.

"We are still called the most evil people on the face of the earth," he said. "This makes it very difficult."



Don't think of it as a change of lifestyle.
Just a change of address.

Your dignity and independence are never compromised at the Botsford Commons Community. Whatever living option is best for you, a condominium or rental apartment, when your address changes, your dignity follows. We encourage residents to continue with their lifelong goals and dreams. And if unexpected changes arise, the Botsford Commons campus is equipped with both an Assisted Living Center and a Skilled Nursing Facility to meet those needs. Come in for a visit and see how you can celebrate your same familiar lifestyle in a brand new location.



Botsford Commons Community
21450 Archwood Circle • Farmington Hills, MI 48336 • 248-426-6903

HOW TO REACH US

Circulation Nightline.....	734-593-0500
Classified Advertising.....	734-593-0900
Display Advertising.....	734-593-2300
Home Delivery.....	734-593-0500
Newsroom FAX.....	248-477-9722
Newsroom.....	248-477-5450
O&E Online* www.observer-eccentric.com.....	248-901-4716
Photo Reprints**.....	734-593-0500
Reader Comment Line.....	734-953-2040
Sports Nightline.....	734-953-2104

* OnLine — www.observer-eccentric.com — can be accessed with just about any communications software: PC or Macintosh. You are able to send and receive unlimited e-mail, access all features of the Internet, read electronic editions of The Farmington Observer and other Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and chat with users across town or across the country.

** Photo orders must be for pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers. Please provide publication date, page number and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past six months. Prints are \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print. Payment is in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer

*HomeTown News...
It's all about you!*

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335
(On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Rds.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

CARRIER DELIVERY	MAIL DELIVERY
Six months..... \$25.50	One year..... \$62.60
One year..... \$51.00	One year (Sr. Citizen)..... \$51.50
One year (Sr. Citizen)..... \$41.60	One year (out of State)..... \$97.60
Newsstand..... 75¢ per copy	

Advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department. The Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, Michigan 48335, (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric adLines have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute that acceptance of the advertised order.