# Hills got off easy with main break

The most positive thing one can say following the big water main break Nov. 16 is that Farmington Hills get off casy. The break in the Detroit owned, 48-inch transmission line at 14 Mile and Halsted forced restaurants to close, and health officials to issue boil-water warnings – not in the Hills but in communities to the west, said

Tom Biasell, director of public

services.

By mid-morning on Monday, Detroit Water and Sewer crews were running pressure tests on new pipe and testing for bacteria. "Once they have the water restored they can backfill the hole," Blasell said.

Some Hills residents west of the transmission line break reported low water pressure for a time, and flooded basements, he added.

"The only thing on Friday morning we had low water pressure," said Loretta Larkin of Pine Cone Drive, "There was just the inconvenience of not being able to go out to 14 Mile," she said, adding some neighbors reported flooded basements.
Blasell said residents reporting flooded basements were directed to the city of Detroit. Blasell said Dotroit Motro Water and Sewer staff were passing

and Sewer staff were passing out claim forms in the area.

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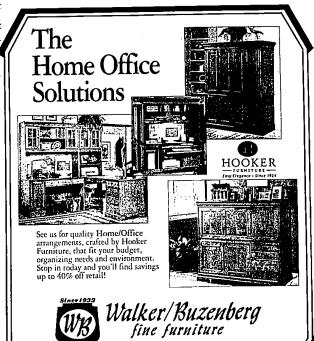


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# Sign of the times

# Council enforces ordinance

A downtown Farmington landmark may be headed for the scrap heap, now that Baskin Robbins Ice Cream has become a Hershey's Ice Cream franchise.

become a Hershey's Ice Cream franchise.

On the Council members voted to reder the free standing Baskin Robbins sign taken done to order the free standing Baskin Robbins sign taken done to be standing ordinances that downtown business district.

This is not a decision by the owner. Baskin Robbins is aliminating single franchise outlets," and Bill Riley, owner of Signorama of Brighton and Doarborn. He accompanied business owner Dave Mihallowski to the meeting.

Gity manager Frank Lauhoff explained the sign had been irgualfathered," having been in place when the new rules were approved. Any alterations in the sign kicked it out of that position, giving officials the

choice of ordering the owner to either lower or remove it.
Mihallovski seemed baffled by the process, given the longovity of the sign. The business has been there 35 years. The sign has been there 35 years. It don't see why we have to remove the sign.

"Those are the laws we created," councilwoman JoAnne McShane said gently. We have to stay within those laws to be fair to everyone.

"My personal belief is we've made a valiant attempt to get rid of a lot of ground signs," councilman Arnold Campbell said. That included a froestanding sign at First Federal Bank on Farmington Read, just down the street from the Hershey's tee Cream store.

Campbell noted if the sign were lowered, it would be level with the building – and with two other signs on its cest and south sides.

"Our council's been pretty

consistent in requiring the non-conforming signs be brought down altogether, councilman Bill Hartsock said. Although permits were issued in October for changes to the building signs, Mihajlovski also complained that trees planted by the Downtown Dovelopment Association blocked their viow.

"We'll take a special look at that location and make sure thatse trees are thinned out," Lauhoff said.

After the council's unanimous vote to order the sign down, Mihajlovski said he would do what he could to fight their decision. On Tuesday, Lauhoff said the council's decision was final; however, the decision could be appealed to Circuit Court.

Lauhoff doubted any appeal would be successful. This has been a non-conforming use for at least 20 years. The council has been very consistent in requiring these signs removed."

requiring removed."

