

Father's Day Contest

Picture Dad!
We're celebrating Dad this year with a special contest. Send us a favorite photograph of you and your Dad with a short caption, explaining why it's your favorite (funny, sentimental or just interesting). We'll hold a drawing of all entries and award a winner from each Observer Newspaper with two tickets to the Ford Senior Players Championship golf tournament at the Dearborn TPC, July 8-14. Participants are expected to include Tom Watson, Hale Irwin, Tom Kite and senior "rookies" Fuzzy Zoeller and Ben Crenshaw. All tickets include a free shuttle bus ride to the front gate of the TPC. To enter, send your photo to Joni Hubred, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335. Photos will not be returned. All entries are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, June 6. Even if your name isn't selected for a prize, you'll have a chance to show Dad how much he means to you. We'll have a special page on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, where we'll publish the photos.



THE PAPER TODAY

HOMETOWN LIFE

Best in show: The children at the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home came up with the design for the home's 15th annual Garden Party on Sunday, June 2./CS



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City hikes water rates 12.7 percent



Hills city officials approved a double-digit increase in water and sewer rates Monday and were told to expect more of the same in years to come, as the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department struggles to deal with aging utility lines.

BY PAUL R. PACE
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As anticipated, residents in Farmington Hills will be paying more for their

water this summer as the City Council approved a 12.7-percent increase in customer water and sewer charges Monday. The combined rate of \$15.92 per

1,000 cubic feet (or about 7,500 gallons) will rise to \$17.95 effective July 1.

The city says the average resident uses 5,000 cubic feet of water per quarter, which will represent a \$10.15 quarterly increase.

And it's possible more double-digit increases will follow in the next few years, say officials.

So when will the rate increases to use Detroit water finally level off? There appear to be no easy answers so far, said officials.

There are two reasons for the increase: the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department that supplies the treated water and takes in the sewage from the Hills and other area suburbs is increasing the water user cost by \$1.62 to \$13.13 per cubic foot of water.

The operations and maintenance factor will add 41 cents per cubic foot. Part of that cost is associated with the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office installing a new radio read

Please see WATER, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADNER

In memory: Lindsey McKennett helps Girl Scouts from Troop 3037 plant the tree at the memorial. Power Middle School principal Don Hammond helps hold the tree upright.

Lives well loved

McKennetts honored at memorial service

BY SUE BUCK
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The memory of lives well-loved and well-loved warned a ceremony Monday for Megan and Mike McKennett, Farmington Schools students who lost their lives earlier this year in a car accident.

The service was held outside of Power Middle School with temperatures uncharacteristically cool for May in Michigan.

Mike, 16, a Farmington High freshman, his sister Megan, 11, a sixth grader at Power and their parents, Richard, 47, a security supervisor at the Center for

Forensic Psychiatry in Milan and Judy, 48, an area manager consultant for the state's day care licensing agency, died Feb. 18 while coming home from a spring break vacation. The crash happened on I-75, about a mile north of Dry Ridge, Ky. in the northern part of the state.

Though Lindsey McKennett, the only surviving member of the family didn't speak at the ceremony, she commented briefly afterwards.

"Before I came, I was really depressed to come today," Lindsey said. "But, I thought this was really nice."

She's living with her aunt in Southfield but finishing her senior year at Farmington High, according to a

Please see MEMORIAL, A5

Thief gets cash, purse in holdup

BY SUE BUCK
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The City of Farmington's first armed robbery of the year happened May 20 at the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant located at 20740 Farmington Road.

No customers were in the store that afternoon, but three employees were working.

The man approached the clerk with a silver, semi-automatic weapon. He made the other two employees lie in the ground and then locked them in the freezer, said Deputy Public Safety Director Mike Wiggins.

After taking an undisclosed amount of money and the clerk's Coach purse, the thief jumped a fence and headed toward the businesses on Eight Mile Road, Public Safety Director Gary Goss said.

A Southfield Police K9 tracked the man to the parking lot of a business on Eight Mile where police believe he got into a car that was waiting for him.

The man is described as five feet, 10 inches in height, 180 pounds, wearing a gray and white bandana and a black hooded sweatshirt. He wore black Air Force One shoes and black stone-washed jeans.

The department recorded two armed robberies last year, according to Goss.

■ A Southfield Police K9 tracked the man to the parking lot of a business on Eight Mile where police believe he got into a car that was waiting for him.

C'ville chief gets an offer he may not refuse

BY JONI HUBRED
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"The offer has been made." Early Tuesday morning, Clarenceville Superintendent Dr. Thomas Tattan learned Waterford School Board members had voted 4-3 to offer him their district's top post. In no more than five minutes, Tattan was chosen as the top candidate for the position.

The quick vote may have disappointed some Waterford board members. However, after talking to officials there, Tattan wasn't dissuaded by the circumstances and maintained a positive tone about upcoming negotiations.

"I'm confident that this is a very good opportunity," he said. "I'm interested. I've been looking for an outstanding leadership opportunity."

Waterford's location in the center of Oakland County and opportunities to

work more with Oakland Schools appealed to him, as did the larger size of the district. "It's a career improvement."

"That's not to diminish what's been done here," he said of Clarenceville, which recently wrapped up a successful effort to achieve accreditation through the North Central Association of Colleges. "I'm very proud of the things we've accomplished."

Tattan joined the district at the start

of the 1996-97 school year. Changes in that time include "sinking fund" projects that have enhanced the physical condition of district buildings, significant improvements at the Middle School and the approval of block scheduling at Clarenceville High.

The NCA accreditation took all six years of Tattan's tenure. "It's changed the entire climate of the school dis-

Please see TATTAN, A5

The banner yet waves



Fly the colors: It has been a while since the American flag flew from the pole located in front of Charter House Nursing and Convalescent Center. Veterans who are residents of the facility gathered recently to help change that. Edwin Reynolds of American Legion post 420,

George Reynolds of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 4156 and Charter House resident Frank Saia raised the colors that helped brighten an otherwise cold and gray Monday morning. Charter House residents Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Earl Size, Army PFC Jack Meneilance, Army Master Sgt. Haywood Pearce, Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Michalski, Army Pfc. Ulysses Eady, Army Pfc. Anthony Clerpial and Army Sgt. Clarence Spooner joined with Charter house staff for the occasion. Army Pfc. Frank Saia, a resident of Charter House Convalescent Center, Edwin Reynolds of American Legion post 420 and George Reynolds of Veterans of



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADNER

Foreign Wars post 4156 prepare to hoist the flag.