



Peggy Labor speaks about the Farmington Hills Beautification Committee's streambank stabilization program.

HILLS
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enforcement of its zoning rules by leading by example."

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission, the school district, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals work together to enhance the city's natural features.

"It's been a total team effort," Brook said. He also pointed out the city tries to put the right kind of trees under power lines so they don't have to be

cut at a later time.

"We try to be thoughtful of where we plant what," he said. "We've also gotten involved with the Rouge River Management program," Brook added.

Beautifying Northwestern Highway is another project. "We're going for a natural look, but also make sure it has a suburban feel to it," he said.

Other community representatives spoke at the meeting about their latest developments. A Brownstown Township representative said that community encourages

people to plant trees by offering residents a program where the beautification commission pays for half of the tree.

"Residents really like it," she said. Other communities also pointed out how they try to get elementary-age children excited about planting trees and keeping areas clean by tying in class efforts around Arbor Day and Earth Day.

Stue Grissom also spoke about the Farmington Schools Beautification Committee, the purpose of which is to enhance schools' curbside appearance.

For more information call (248) 471-5450

County: Watch out for potholes

It wasn't too long ago people had to bundle up just to walk to their cars, but the spring temperatures are bringing back a potential menace to automobiles - potholes.

Oakland County drivers are warned to be on the alert for potholes, thanks to the abrupt change in weather.

"When we go from being in the 20s and snowing to being in the 60s in about a week, there are bound to be a lot of potholes," said Tom Mesler, director of

highway maintenance for the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Potholes form when water flows into pavement cracks, freezes, then expands. When it melts, it creates an unsupported air pocket under the road surface. When cars, and especially trucks, drive over such an area, they cause the road surface to collapse, creating a pothole.

Pothole repair crews have been working on patching the holes, but try to limit working

during non-rush hours and limit repairs to particularly dangerous potholes. Patching materials can last up to a year or more.

Each year, RCOC workers shovel more than 8 million pounds of patching materials into potholes. The annual price tag, which includes labor, materials, and vehicle usage, is more than \$5 million. Anyone wishing to report dangerous potholes may call (877) 858-4804, or visit www.waseweb.org on the Internet.

Wine tasting to benefit area charities

The Detroit International Wine Experience, a benefit for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills, will present approximately 400 wine entries from around the world to a prestigious panel of judges on Saturday, March 29.

Wine specialists from many disciplines including restaurateurs, sommeliers, retailers, chefs and journalists will choose the medal winners in a "blind" judging, followed by an After Flow reception open to the public. The events will take place at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The After Flow, held 6-8:30 p.m., will be followed by an hour of "Coffee & Comedy." The evening will also include enter-

tainment, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and a sampling of 100 world-class wines.

Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased by calling (486) 795-2164 or via Internet, www.detroitwine.com.

"Wine tasting at all price points is more accessible than it ever has been," said Bob Viscetti, president of Detroit International Wine Experience. "An array of high quality wines continue to enter the metro Detroit market."

Judges in this year's competition include Madeline Trifon, Unique Restaurant Corporation's Master Sommelier; Marshall Chin, Mon Jin Lau; Kristin Jonna, Merchant's Fine Wine;

Ray and Eleanor Heald, *Observer* and *Ecclesine* wine columnists, and more.

There will also be seminars and special tastings held on the site that are held in and around the metro Detroit area leading up to the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center's annual fund-raising "Garden Party" gala on June 8. The center provides care and assistance for troubled children and teen parents.

Detroit International Wine Experience, a nonprofit organization, will also donate proceeds from the event to The Children's Center and Schoolcraft College Culinary Salon Team. Visit www.detroitwineexperience.com

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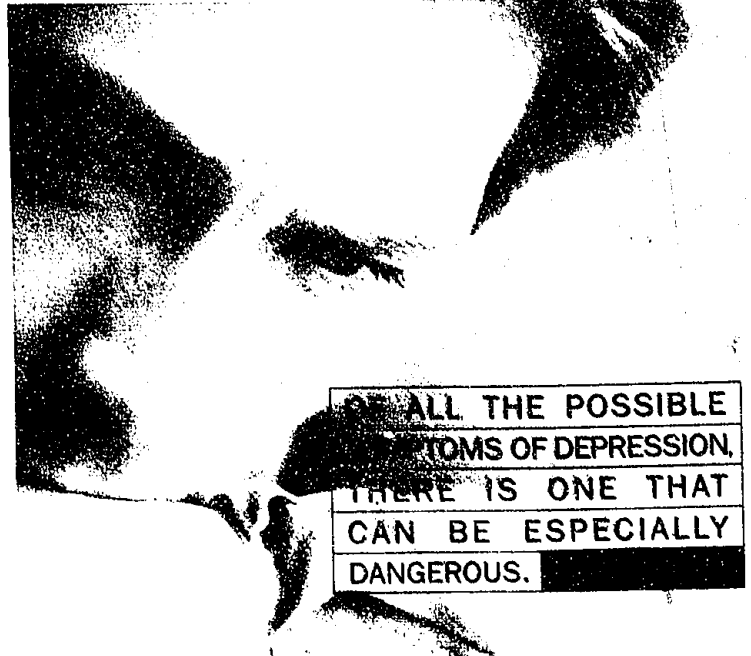
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