

'Twas jolly fun for neophyte Santa, 1C



Boo MSU, 9A

Lubavitch Foundation celebrates, 3A

Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MORE control eyed.
The Farmington City Council supports a request for legislation to give home-rule cities more control over issuance of liquor licenses.
At Birmingham's request, Farmington council members voted unanimously Dec. 15 to support efforts to give cities joint authority with the state Liquor Control Commission over issuance of State Designated Merchant and State Designated Dealer liquor licenses.
Currently, the state has full control over their issuance.
"Each new legislative session, the city of Birmingham and others have attempted to amend the licensing law to give home-rule communities more authority," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said.

THANKS to the Farmington Hills Reserve Police Unit, Christmas was brighter for many needy Farmington-area families.
The 23-member unit raised nearly \$800 this holiday season.
"Some of the money raised represented contributions from private donations. But it also included contributions from police employees. It worked out real well," said Police Officer Don Fradette, department liaison to the reserve police unit.
The reserves contributed more than \$500 themselves, Fradette added.

About \$350 was donated to K mart's Angel Tree program. About \$50 worth of toys were given to St. Alexander's Church.
Another \$300 was earmarked for the Salvation Army's food program. The Salvation Army also was given 50 toys, 50 loaves of bread, 24 children's wristwatches and various canned goods. An account for \$90 was set up at the Tastyce Bread store on Nine Mile in the Salvation Army's name.

ORIGINALLY slated to open in May, the new Farmington Hills Police facility is now on course for a February opening.
"We're hoping to be in our offices by Feb. 10," Police Chief William Dwyer said.
The 36,000-square-foot facility is next to the city hall on 11 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road.
An early spring ribbon-cutting and open house is planned.

IT'S easy to forget. When writing the date beginning Thursday, remember: It'll be 1987, not 1986.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: 477-5459; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — As a state educational panel discusses medical, social and human implications of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, local school officials are taking a low-key approach.
"It's premature to come out with a point of view," said Lewis Schulman, Farmington Public Schools superintendent.

Child care activist mounts crusade

By Casey Hane staff writer

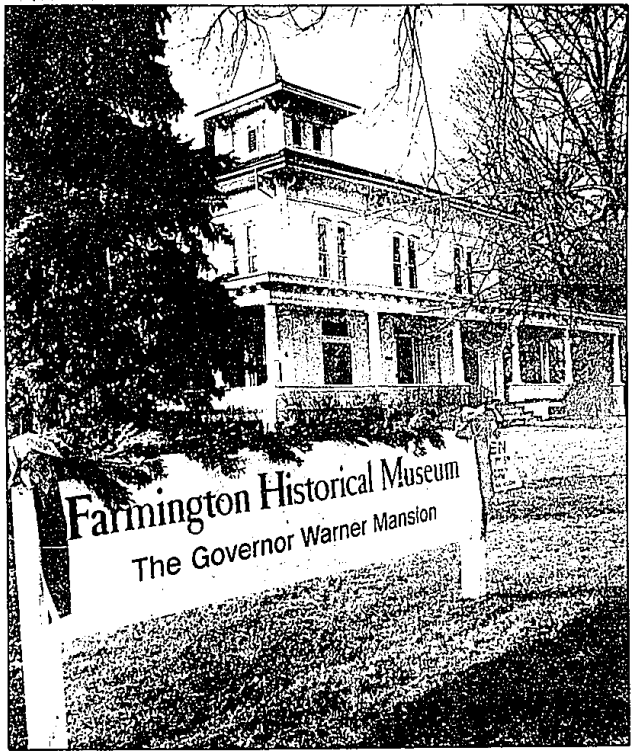
Darlene Feldman's crusade has moved beyond the boundaries of Farmington Hills. The Hills resident, who is trying to change local laws to make her state-licensed babysitting service legal, plans to go all the way to the governor's office with her pleas for an overhaul of the state's child care system.
"My frustration isn't what's going on in Farmington Hills — it's what's going on in Lansing," she said. Feldman said she is confident the city will "do the right thing" when the issue is addressed by planning commissioners and council members.
Current city zoning laws do not allow Feldman to operate at her present residential location on Minglewood in the Holly Hills Farms subdivision.
Neighbors complained several months ago about traffic congestion in the area, prompting the city to issue the zoning warning. Some also contend she is running a business from her home and should be subject to the same commercial zoning laws as other businesses.
Because the zoning board of appeals denied her variance requests in December, she is attempting to change the ordinance to allow services such as hers to operate in the city.
Feldman is licensed by the state to care for up to 12 children in her home, which the state considers a "group day care home." She presently cares for five to seven children each day. By state law, anyone caring for up to six children in their home must be licensed as a "family day care home" by the state; those caring for six to 12 children fall into Feldman's category.
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'We're crawling right now. We're trying to make people realize how extreme it (the problem) is.'
— Darlene Feldman
Hills child care provider



Farmington Historical Museum
The Governor Warner Mansion

C.D. STOUFFER/staff photographer

A grant will be used to help pay for needed repairs and upgrading projects at the historic Governor Warner Mansion, Farmington Historical Museum.

Awarded Grant will pay for museum repairs

By Chris Rizk staff writer

The long-awaited repair and upgrading of the Farmington Historical Museum may begin "promptly" now that the city has been awarded a \$20,000 state grant.
News of the grant award came more than a year after Farmington's first application to the Michigan Equity Program for repair of the former home of Michigan's first three-term governor, Frederick Warner.
That first application was rejected by the state Department of Commerce, which administers the equity program, in July 1985.
Undaunted, city officials tried again.
"We didn't change a thing this time around except to break up the amount we asked for into bite-size pieces," said Bob Schultz, Farmington's administrative assistant.
Now in its second year, the program provides funding for cultural and historical activities in municipalities with populations under 40,000.
THE GRANT money will be used

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the sensible thing is done."
As a result of receiving only a portion of the grant money requested, the Farmington Museum Committee — an arm of the historical commission — was forced to "pare down" its repair project, according to committee chairman Charles Carvell.
As originally proposed in the application, the project included completion of paving of the circular driveway, the addition of parking spaces on the grounds and general beautification, Carvell said.
"What we'll have to do now is decide what we've got to do, what would be nice and what is the 'gold trimmings' and will have to wait until we get more money," he said. "After a preliminary study, I'm sure we'll find that we'll have to pare down the project."
THE REMAINING repairs, including eventually updating the heating system in the museum and heating the carriage house, will have to be done on a "piece-meal basis," Carvell said.
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Educator was known for her dedication

By Casey Hane staff writer

She was known as a "stickler for excellence" — one who gave her all to Farmington music students since 1970.
Joan MacKenzie, who taught music at four Farmington schools during her career here, died Dec. 26 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak following an illness of several years.
"Get on with life — that was her attitude," said her daughter Heather MacKenzie. "She did as much with her 49 years as some people do with 70 or 80."
The Farmington Hills resident was named Michigan Vocal Music

Teacher of the year and directed the State Honors Choir for two years — a "great honor" awarded by her peers, according to Paul Barber, music coordinator for Farmington schools. Barber worked with MacKenzie when she first began her career with the local district.
"She had incredible spirit," said Barber. "She was a very excellent and competent music teacher and dedicated to her students."
MacKenzie began her career at Redford Union High School, moving to Farmington schools 16 years ago. She taught at Harrison, then at East North Farmington and Warner before coming back to her most recent position at Harrison. She taught throughout the fall, despite her illness, Barber added.
As a licensed Realtor, she worked even as she battled the cancer, which eventually took her life for more than three years, her daughter said. "She didn't let anything stop her."
"The most important thing to her was her love of music," Heather added. "She passed that love of music on to other kids. She touched a lot of lives."
MacKenzie was a vocal performer before she began her teaching career and was invited to perform with the Metropolitan Opera — an honor she declined so she could raise her family.
During her career she sang with the Kenneth Jewel Choral and also had lead parts in annual musical productions during her four years at Eastern Michigan University — the college from which she graduated. She was also a soloist at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Detroit.
She is survived by her husband, John; daughter, Heather; son, John; and her parents, Walter and Elizabeth Nicholson.
Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian church of Farmington. She was interred at the Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.
Contributions may be made to the Joan MacKenzie Vocal Music Scholarship Fund, Farmington District Music Office, East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48018.
The scholarship will be given to a deserving senior music student, Barber said.



E-911 strategy planned

By Casey Hane staff writer

Local communities can begin selecting computer hardware for Enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone answering stations, as plans continue to have the system in place and working within two years.
All communities in Oakland County have approved participation in the emergency program; some will have their systems working within 12-18 months, according to Farmington Director of Public Safety Frank Lauhoff.
Lauhoff sits on the 10-member Oakland County Product Evaluation Task Force — the group formed in January 1986 and given responsibility for analyzing and selecting a vendor for the project.
Michigan Bell Communications, Inc. was selected as the approved vendor by the task force Dec. 1, Lauhoff said. Four bids were received by the group, which received permission from the county board of commissioners to make the selection.
LOCAL COMMUNITIES can purchase hardware through this vendor selected by the task force or
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Happy New Year

We welcome in a New Year with hopes for your happiness and success to come.