

'Bear Necessities' of the season, 1D



State final football, 1C

December dilemma confronts schools, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 16 Monday, November 30, 1987 Farmington, Michigan 46 Pages Twenty-Five Cents

Farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 35203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 501-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

WATCH your speed. Because subdivisions now sprout on what once was farm land, the Farmington Hills City Council has lowered the speed limit along 14 Mile, from Haggerty to Clubhouse Lane, from 50 to 45 mph. The council also reduced the speed limit along Gill, between Lytle and Nine Mile, and along Lytle, between Drake and Gill, from 40 to 35 mph. The action follows installation of a new traffic light at Gill and Nine Mile.

SHE'S honored. Beatrice Kalisch, nursing consultation services director for Arthur Young & Co., Detroit, has earned the Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Maryland School of Nursing. The Farmington resident was appointed to the Shirley Titus Distinguished Professor Chair at the University of Michigan in 1977, a position she held until 1986 when she joined Arthur Young. Kalisch has received the Book of the Year Award three times since 1978 from the American Journal of Nursing.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — It has been eight months since residents poured out their hearts about the water woes that plague their Farmington Hills homes. Since that time, four of the 26 documented drainage problems have been corrected, four are being worked on and three might be corrected if residents decide to pave their streets.

what's inside

- Business briefs . . . 3A
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E, F
- Index . . . 8E
- Auto . . . Secs. C, F
- Real estate . . . 1E
- Employment . . . 8E
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 8E
- Entertainment . . . 8E
- On the agenda . . . 2A
- Police/fire calls . . . 2A
- Sports . . . Sec. C
- Street Scene . . . Sec. D
- Taste . . . Sec. B

EXPECT to be impressed.

CREATIVE LIVING

REAL ESTATE GUIDE

NOW IN EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY ISSUE

Traffic grabs public's attention

'We want to keep traffic on the main streets and in a more controllable environment.'

— Kenneth Chiara resident

By Casey Hana staff writer

Traffic is the talk of the town. Many Farmington residents, including a downtown homeowners group representing more than 150 homeowners, are telling city officials there's too much traffic, people are driving too fast, and something needs to be done. Farmington shares the same traffic concerns as neighboring cities, as

residential movement continues westward and traffic increases. "It isn't an isolated issue," said Frank LaHoff, director of Farmington's Department of Public Safety. "Speed is a question. Noise is a question, too, and volume is a question. But they all go hand-in-hand." The Farmington Old Village Association, representing residents of the city's historic district, banded together to present their ideas for better traffic control in the city. They

are scheduled to appear before the city council at its Monday, Dec. 7, meeting.

THE ASSOCIATION proposed eight possible changes at a neighborhood meeting in early November. That meeting was attended by 60 residents and both LaHoff and city manager Robert Deadman. The suggested changes include lower speed limits along Grand River, additional traffic signals, "no parking" areas, a

variety of other traffic signs, and additional entrance and exit ramps on M-102, the city's bypass road.

"We are going to stress to the council that they respond to us immediately," said Kenneth Chiara, chairman of the association's traffic committee. The traffic committee has gathered information about traffic and met during the past several months.

Please turn to Page 4

Hawks runner-up for crown



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Harrison High School cheerleader Tracey LaHuillier (left) consoles Stacey Kool as they watch the Hawks go down to defeat in the closing minutes of Saturday night's state championship football game. Grand Rapids Catholic Central defeated Harrison 19-7 in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Appointment ideas adopted as a guideline

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Newly elected Farmington Hills City Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi isn't wasting time. But his first attempt to lobby support for an idea didn't draw overwhelming support.

Vagnozzi would have liked his suggestions for increasing participation in the city's boards and commissions to be in the form of a council policy. Yet his colleagues stopped short of that and adopted the suggestion as a guideline future mayors may rely on when making appointments.

"We're getting to the point where we're going to be telling the mayor what to do and how to do it. Our charter, I think, is sufficient. The mayor appoints, council approves," councilman Joe Alkateeb said. "I have no problem with it as suggestions for future mayors. As a policy, I would certainly oppose it."

Vagnozzi urged the council not "to brush this under a rug. I'm suggesting we have had a problem in recommending people."

The freshman councilman said he based his suggestions on the apparent lack of applicants for appointed positions. During his election campaign, Vagnozzi said he met residents interested in participating though most don't understand or know of the appointment process or functions of the various boards and commissions.

VAGNOZZI ALSO drew on his concern that current board and commission members are given ample time to determine whether they wish reappointment. Though Vagnozzi has publicly opposed the council's policy of restricting board and commission members to serving one board at a time, he refrained from including his

Please turn to Page 7

Rallying Hills reinforcing pitch for state census funds

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Gov. James Blanchard has promised to give the ax to continuing legislative attempts to provide more state aid to the "boom" communities, such as Farmington Hills.

But his promise isn't deterring the state Legislature or representatives from the 38 communities armed with a mid-decade census that proves their communities have grown in population by more than 15 percent since the official 1980 head count.

"We are still pressuring the governor and are getting ready to launch an all-out media campaign. Hopefully, he'll respond to it," Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said.

Following a mid-decade census that showed Farmington Hills' population has grown more than 17 percent since 1980, city officials expected to receive at least \$1.3 million in increased state revenues through the end of the decade.

But Blanchard has already vetoed

Please turn to Page 7

She's eager to promote center

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Dorothy Pfaff is raring to go. The new executive director of the Farmington Community Center will step into her role Tuesday armed with the spirit and desire to put the 19-year-old center on the community and cultural map.

"The community center is entering new horizons," said the Bloomfield Township resident. "The population is growing and the community center will attempt to meet the changing needs of the Farmington area."

It's the changing nature of the Farmington area that intrigues Pfaff, who is closing out her desk as the director of volunteer services at the Birmingham Community House. "The changing around here is important to be aware of. Keeping good

people

track of the past is important," Pfaff said. "I hope the Farmington area can keep its sense of the past. The new chrome and glass needs to be aware of the brick and mortar."

Pfaff's experience comes from work in public health and in volunteer services and from continuing education courses in the management of non-profit organizations.

"ALL THE efforts in community organizations and community not-working, and the administration of that, is very transferable," Pfaff said.

Please turn to Page 4



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

New executive director Dorothy Pfaff, on the staircase in the Farmington Community Center.

Goal is to spur voters

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills resident David Haron is still annoyed by the small number of voters who cast ballots in the Farmington Hills city council election Nov. 3.

Take, for example, Haron's home precinct, No. 19 at Forest Elementary. Of the more than 1,600 registered voters in that precinct, fewer than 200 voted.

"That's very disturbing. It's consistent (with past elections), but it's terrible. Forest has a lot of professional people and young families," said the chairman of the reactivated Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

Please turn to Page 4