

Hills student starts day on television, 2A



Gymnastics preview, 1C

Twelfth Night party marks season, 1B

# Farmington Observer

Volume 99 Number 26

Monday, January 4, 1988

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

© 1988 Eberhard Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Farmington FOCUS

To write the Farmington Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0900; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

**W**HAT a way to spend Christmas! Mercy High Juniors Maribeth Galasso was selected by the National Cheerleaders Association and the Superstar Drill Team and Pom Pom Camps in Dallas to perform in the Aloha Bowl pregame and halftime shows in Honolulu Christmas Day.

The Farmington Hills resident was one of 350 girls from around the country who performed in the college football game between the University of Florida and UCLA.

**COUNCIL** queries. The format of Farmington Hills City Council minutes, which apparently goes into much detail, may be discussed by council members in the months ahead.

"With this extensive reporting, we could get into trouble," said Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi as the council voted to amend errors in the minutes at a recent meeting.

City Clerk Joan Reynolds suggested the council put the item on a future study session agenda. "There's a lot we need to address," she said.

**FOOTNOTES:** One year ago this week — Farmington Hills was cleared of any allegations of bias in city hiring practices, despite news reports to the contrary.

Officials from the Justice Department told the Observer the investigation of the Hills was closed the previous September.

## what's inside

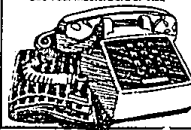
- Around Farmington . . . 3B
- Business . . . . . C
- Cable connection . . . 6A
- Club circuit . . . . . 2B
- Classifieds . . . Secs. B,D,E
- Auto . . . . . 12B
- Real estate . . . . . 2D
- Employment . . . . . C
- Entertainment . . . . . 13D
- Obituaries . . . . . C
- Opinion . . . . . 6B
- Points of view . . . . . 8A
- Police/fire calls . . . 4A
- Sports . . . . . 1C

## The CLASSIFIEDS

Classified makes good dollars and sense. Get the most for your money—buy or sell classified.

591-0900

Use Your MasterCard or Visa



LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

## Snowy trails

Daniel Lorenz, 7, and Eric Carmichael, 8, lead the string of young cross-country skiers into one of Heritage Park's snow-covered nature trails Wednesday. A week-long day camp, sponsored by Farmington Hills Special Services Department's recreation division, kept kids busy while school was out for winter holidays.

## '80s-style racism called more subtle

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

When Jim Agnew speaks of change, he's got a pretty good idea what it's all about.

The new chairman of the Farmington area's Cultural Awareness Committee has a history of participation in promoting change for the better. As a college student in North Carolina in the heated '60s, Agnew was heavily involved in the civil rights movement.

"It was wild and dangerous and all those things," said the Farmington Hills resident.

One of Agnew's fond personal moments was meeting the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

"He had a charisma that was evident without a spoken word. There was just something about him . . .," said Agnew, a manufacturing manager for the Ford Motor Corp.'s Woodhaven Stamping Plant.

There's no doubt, Agnew said, that the civil rights movement and subsequent laws brought about change for the better. Times have changed yet again in the 1980s. And it's the present that Agnew and the 15-member cultural committee are preparing to face and challenge.

AGNEW BEST explains his perspective on change by describing the



Jim Agnew

turbulence of the 1960s. During the decade, people knew where the battle lines were drawn — whether it was race relations, the Vietnam war or student protests.

"In the '60s, people went to all extremes. Today, people aren't like that. People just want to do their own thing," Agnew said. Agnew, his wife and two small children moved

## people

*'Before you can attempt to change you have to understand what your feelings, good and bad, are.'*

— Jim Agnew

to Farmington Hills about a year ago.

Agnew believes change has reached a plateau. "Nothing ever stays still. But if you're not moving with everything going forward, you must be going backward."

Some gains made in the civil rights movement are still intact, he said, but some other gains have taken on different faces. Still others have been weakened, Agnew said.

Racism acts still persist, as was demonstrated by the recent spray-painting and vandalism of the Farmington Hills home of a bi-racial couple. But Agnew says an equally great

Please turn to Page 2

## Schools fight drug abuse

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Harrison and Mercy high schools are leaders among Oakland County schools participating in a campaign aimed at fighting the demand for drugs.

Students from 203 schools throughout a four-county area — including 22 schools from Oakland

County — are extending drug awareness to their peers by participating in "A Big League Challenge: Crack-down on Drugs," a competition running from October through February.

"We are not trying to replace the educational efforts, but encourage the kinds of programs we should have," said Richard Thompson, chief assistant prosecutor for Oakland

County, whose office is co-sponsoring the program which he called "unique in Michigan."

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan gave \$10,000 in seed money to start the project, the brainchild of Wayne County prosecutor John O'Hare.

Please turn to Page 3

## Goals for new year have '87 flavor

### Marks: Roads a top priority

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Some obstacles that faced the city of Farmington Hills in 1987 will continue to offer more of the same in 1988.

"Our biggest problem was traffic," said outgoing Mayor Ben Marks. "The lack of help from the county and the state has really strangled us."

Roads and congestion were the very topics Marks spoke about when he took the mayor's job in January 1987. Improved roads, he said at the time, were one of the major facets of improving the quality of life in Farmington Hills.

While a lot has yet to be done, there's no doubt the \$7 million bond issue approved by voters

last year has helped.

In 1987, more than 11 miles of roads were improved at a cost of more than \$8 million. The \$7 million in bonds were used in conjunction with money from other sources. Two more years remain in the city's three-year road improvement program.

As the local roads are being improved, city officials are still waiting on the major headaches — Haggerty Road, I-696 and hoped-for additional interchanges, Northwestern Highway and I-210.

"THE NEW interchanges have been talked about. But we haven't seen them on paper. We would like to see something more concrete," Marks said.

The mayor also reaffirmed city

officials' demands for noise barriers to protect the residential areas along I-696, which is scheduled for widening to eight lanes.

"We are not going to let the state or the feds get by without a tremendous battle for sound barriers," Marks said. "It (the lack of state planning for barriers) is unconscionable. It's terrible."

1987 also marked the opening of the new police building, allowing for expanded room in city hall because some city offices were moved into the old police facility. The year also was highlighted by the opening of the 215-acre Heritage Park and near completion of the city's first youth athletic facility, Pioneer Park at Farmington and I-210.

Please turn to Page 4



LAURA CASTLE/staff photographer

Year's end closes the curtain on Ben Marks' term as mayor.

## Deadman: Downtown gains

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Included on Farmington city manager Robert Deadman's wish-list for 1988 is a vibrant downtown district, plans for a wider Orchard Lake Road and an answer to the city's garbage dilemma.

"A lot of things were completed in 1987, but a lot were started that we won't see the end of for years," Deadman said.

Repairing and rebuilding major streets, improvements to the water system, and a variety of public service projects topped the list of 1987 achievements.

Making the downtown more ap-

pealing for businesses, the city's 11,000 residents and visitors is one project that began in 1987 and will affect the city's future.

Bids for the first phase of a \$1.4 million rejuvenation project are expected to be awarded early in 1988. "I'm really excited as to what the DDA has accomplished in its first year," said Deadman about the city's Downtown Development Authority board. Support from residents is crucial to the project, he said. "This is kind of an exciting one (project) for downtown."

DEADMAN HAS hopes that the DDA and those in the residential downtown historic district work

together toward common goals for the area.

"They're wedded to each other, whether they like it or not. The demise of one would affect the other."

He also encourages the newly formed Downtown Farmington Business Association to continue in its efforts to market Farmington's image.

Increased traffic will affect business and residential neighbors downtown in 1988. The city has commissioned a traffic study at the request of a committee of historic district residents. Results of the study and city action are

Please turn to Page 4



the photo

Robert Deadman is ready to embark on 1988 tasks.