

Where students learn to pay attention, 1B



Top soccer players, 6D

District looks at school boundaries, 3A

Farmington Observer

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Jean Fox elected Hills' next mayor

Shirley Richardson heads Farmington, 2A

By Joanne Malliszowski staff writer

As she had hoped, a 16-year Farmington Hills City Council tradition was followed without confrontation, allowing mayor pro tem Jean Fox to be mayor in 1990 and Aldo Vagnozzi to be mayor pro tem.

"It was a wonderful success," said Maggie Loridas, senior adult specialist. "Everyone said they had a very, very good time."

Entertainment included Franklin belly dancer Jo Melikian, 1989 Miss Senior Citizen First Runnerup; Southfield vocalist Morand Zimmer, Lil Mae Cloggers of Northville; and two senior groups, the Farmington Steppers and the Farmington Choral.

Bingo followed with cornish hens as prizes.

"We try to make it as fun a day as possible," Loridas said. "We try to make it something to look forward to, to remember."

REACHING out. Farmington Area Goodfellows will sell special-edition newspapers Friday to raise money to help needy families and seniors this holiday season.

election and the longest-serving council member who has not served as an officer, was unanimously elected mayor pro tem. Fox is completing the second year of a four-year term. Vagnozzi has served a two-year term and was elected to a four-year term.

"I appreciate the election. But I see the mayor pro tem being another council member, one of seven," Vagnozzi said. "My hope would be we would work as a team, serving residents' concerns, among them slowing down the density and growth."

MANY IN the council chambers Monday expected a confrontation in the annual council reorganization after Mayor Terry Sever made it clear last week he wouldn't mind serving another term as mayor.

Sever acknowledged his desire

'A mayor sets the tone and presents a viewpoint.'

— Mayor-elect Jean Fox



Jean Fox mayor-elect

Monday to be mayor again, though he said he felt the best example of good ethics was practiced when the new council members — Nancy Bates, Jonathan Grant and Lawrence Lichtman, whom he supported in the Nov. 7 election — voted their conscience.

"Not one of them felt they owed anyone anything," Sever said. "I think we have to become a united group and stand behind ourselves and our mayor."

Traditionally, the positions of

mayor and mayor pro tem are annually rotated among council members, with both officers serving only one year. With a couple of exceptions in the past, the mayor pro tem has followed as mayor. The city charter does not specify the length of the mayor's term.

"I think we, especially the new council members, felt that in the interest of continuing and trying to get off to a good start, we could not have a fractious fight over a tradition that

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farmington FOCUS

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TRADITION at its best. The Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division hosted a Thanksgiving dinner — complete with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie — for 340 seniors Thursday at Mercy Center.

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QUOTE of the week

I don't think this was white collar by nature, it just happens that a number of people are professional people.

— Eric Kalsner, prosecutor, about the defendants in a drug trafficking ring. Story: 1A.

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Robert Mitchell (second from right with glasses), court official for District Judge Fred Harris, explains court procedures to Joseph Duff (left) of Dearborn, Gary Matyich, address unknown; James Anderson, address unknown; James Gow of Redford Township; and Joseph Duff's wife, Debra. All face conspiracy charges.

Investigation snares 21 on drug charges

By Susan Buck staff writer

Twenty-one people were arraigned in 47th District Court in Farmington Monday in connection with a \$16-million cocaine distribution ring.

Charges range from conspiracy to intent to deliver. Penalties upon conviction range up to 20 years in prison.

Defendants received letters from the Michigan Attorney General's office more than a week ago informing them to appear on criminal charges. Six failed to respond; five were arrested Monday.

Observer & Eccentric area resi-

dents charged with conspiracy to possess less than 25 grams, a maximum 4-year felony, include: Dennis Chaiken, Farmington Hills; Elaine Noring, Farmington Hills; Donald German, Livonia; Jody Astrein, Birmingham; James Gow, a former Farmington Hills resident who now lives in Redford Township; Charles Schatz, Redford; Richard Hein, Rochester; Resa Jannett, Southfield; and Alan Margolin, West Bloomfield.

Gow was also charged with a second count of conspiracy with intent to deliver 50-224 grams, a mandatory 5-20 year felony.

Greg Chappi of Kalamazoo failed

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State endorses Haggerty bypass

Haggerty Road Connector timetable, 6A

By Darrell Clem staff writer

In a major effort aimed at easing traffic congestion, the Michigan Department of Transportation recommended Monday that a new multi-lane boulevard be built west of Haggerty Road from I-96 to Pontiac Trail.

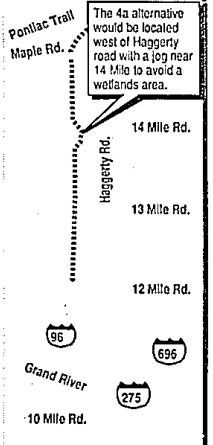
The long-awaited decision, announced by MDT officials during a special session at Commerce Township hall, drew immediate criticism from citizens opposed to urban sprawl and potential environmental damage.

"We oppose it, and we will continue to oppose it," said Lorna McEwen, co-president of Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield. "This will not solve the problem. It will create more traffic congestion because of the new development it will spawn."

MDOT's announcement that it endorses building a six- to eight-lane boulevard west of Haggerty followed three years of studies and meetings between MDT officials, community leaders, business representatives and citizens.

The proposal, one of several that had been considered, won the endorsement of the West Bloomfield Township Board, the Walled Lake Board of Education, the Farmington Hills City Council and numerous other area government boards that formed a united front to support a

Haggerty Road Connector: alternative #4a



new boulevard.

Farmington Hills city manager William Costlek was happy with MDT's recommendation. "We're very much in favor of it," he said. "We're very pleased with the state's decision to move forward."

Costlek sees the proposal "providing badly needed relief to Haggerty Road for traffic that runs north and south." He also sees it relieving congestion at the I-96/Orchard Lake Road and the I-275/Eight Mile Interchanges.

THE NEXT step for the project, estimated to cost \$75 million, will be to prepare a final environmental impact statement that will be submitted.

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Toned down

No amplified music at amphitheatre

Hills planners react, 13A

By Joanne Malliszowski staff writer

Prompted by residents' complaints, a one-year ban on the use of speakers and microphones will hush the sound of music for patrons of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center's popular outdoor concerts.

"Our plans are now incomplete. We aren't prepared to say what we should be doing for our public and to comply with the planning commission," said Dorothy Plaff, executive director.

Despite pleas from center officials, the ban was imposed by the Farmington Hills Planning Commission last Thursday following continued complaints from residents near the 17-year-old center on Farmington Road, between I-20 and I-11 Mile.

The primary complaint of the community center neighbors is the offensive, annoying, unpleasant, ob-

'We aren't prepared to say what we should be doing for our public and to comply with the planning commission.'

— Dorothy Plaff, community center

nnoxious and continuing practice by the community center of producing highly amplified performances in their outdoor theater," according to a complaint given to planning commissioners by four residents living near the community center.

The noise ban and order to remove or make inoperable outdoor electrical outlets was part of a list of restrictions accompanying special approval for the center to offer outdoor concerts in a residential zoning district.

"**TO PULL** outside outlets is to close down that community center,"

said John Donohue, center board member. "With your approval, we spent \$60,000 to build that amphitheater."

Started this summer, outdoor concerts heralded the center's new role as a community cultural arts center. Competition from other community agencies — now offering programming and classes, traditionally offered by the center — forced the center into the new role to stay financially afloat.

Throughout the summer, residents called Farmington Hills police to

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Girl remembered as 'very caring'

By Bob Sklar staff writer

A 9-year-old Farmington Hills girl, whom her school principal called "a beautiful young lady," died soon after climbing from the Farmington Area YMCA pool and collapsing during a sleepover Saturday night.

Monica Findlay's cause of death had not been determined as of Tuesday, the Oakland County Medical Examiner said.

Farmington Hills police called her death accidental, pending an autopsy, Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

Monica was a third grader in Mary Gottschalk's class at Eagle Elementary School in the Farmington school district.

"It's definitely a tragedy. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family," said Kevin Bush, executive director at the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road.



Monica Findlay 'very caring'

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