



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX



Driveway doings: Shawn Simmons (white shirt) plays a spirited game of Hacky Sack with some friends from the subdivision.

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They're out back: Amber Lineberger, 7, and her brother Andrew, 4, relax on the patio in back of their house on Brady.

A cuddly friend: Sarah Miller (left) and her younger sister Laura play with a pet rabbit.

Farmington Square from page 1A

Stanaj, who built his own house on River Bend, moved to Farmington Hills with his wife and seven daughters in 1979.

Although on an August day you'll see plenty of parked pickup trucks and trailers carrying lawn equipment, there are some residents happy to do their own landscaping and yardwork in front of houses that for the most part are in the 3,000-square-foot range.



"We came from Redford," said Maria Ferri, a native of Italy who lives here with her husband, Francesco. "It's a lot of work, but I like to keep up the garden."

Farmington Square residents live in an area where rolling hills and flood plains add to the beauty of a neighborhood, which has its share of hardwoods and rock gardens.

It borders Nine Mile to the south and Halsted to the east. Looking around, you see few of the \$200,000-\$250,000 houses for sale. The tranquility gives the neighborhood a settled, comfortable look. But many residents remember a different time.

"When we came here (13 years ago), Halsted was a dirt road and

there was a stop sign at Haggerty and Nine Mile," said Tom Miller, who works out of his Baywood Drive house for an Ohio company. "We thought it would be five (years) and out."

But like so many of his neighbors, Miller, his wife, Donna, who teaches in Garden City; and their daughters Sarah, 11, and Laura, 4, plan to stay another 13 years.

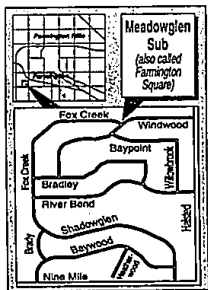
"Everybody knows each other," he said. "And like the Millers, many find the safe streets and good schools a natural place for raising a family."

"When we first moved here, there were no kids," Miller said. "All of a sudden, they started arriving." Shawn Simmons, who will start his sophomore year at Michigan State University this fall, called the neighborhood "hip," while playing a game of Hacky Sack with two friends from Livonia.

"Nothing much goes on," said Simmons with a shrug, something a lot of residents like about the area.

"It's fairly easygoing," said Reggie Lineberger, a computer sales representative who lives on Brady with his wife Margot and their three children. "A good number of kids live here."

"That, and the good schools, are important," said Margot while giving oldest daughter Ashley, 10, a permanent in the kitchen. "I love the schools," she said. "The principal (Frank Dweleky)



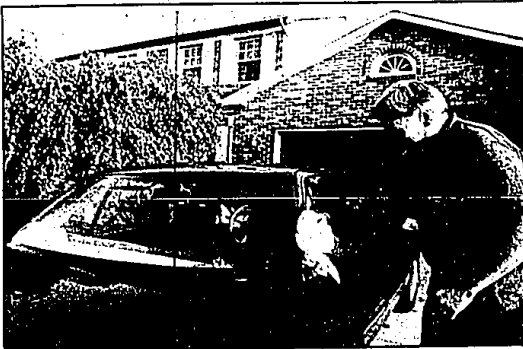
who retired from Flanders (Elementary) really made us feel welcome when we came here (1987)."

Reggie Lineberger said he loves living close to work (Eight Mile and Haggerty). And the Linebergers said they feel at home in the neighborhood.

Margot Lineberger said that, although her mother's car stereo was stolen and their mailbox was vandalized, she and her family feel safe.

Miller said despite the proximity to major highways, commercial and business areas, the neighborhood has retained its plush, quiet atmosphere.

Car cleaning chore: Tom Miller washes his car in the driveway of his Baywood house.



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