

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Click on caution: *The Internet offers an exhilarating and educational ride on the information super highway. But any where there is traffic, there must also be caution.* /4A

Hills goals: *When it comes to goals for 1996, Farmington Hills has a plateful.* /7A

OPINION

A good show: *Diversity can be a hard sell in the Farmington area these days, but a local committee has made the concept look good.* /8A

Write on! *Once again, Farmington Observer readers have opinions they don't mind sharing.* /8A

COMMUNITY LIFE

The big 102: *Beatrice Pringle says she's "just lucky" to have celebrated her 102nd birthday. She doesn't know the secret to longevity, but wishes she knew.* /11A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Curtain up! *Nancy Gurwin's production of "Peter Pan" is just enormous good fun.* /1B

One of a kind: *Kathy Wolfe and her husband Doug produce one-of-a-kind collectibles in their West Bloomfield studio.* /1B

SPORTS

Big match for Mercy: *The Marlins hope to stay unbeaten in league volleyball play tonight against rival Birmingham Marian.* /1C

AT HOME

Dramatic entrance: *Your front door is one of the first things visitors see when they come to your home. An attractive door can make a favorable first impression.* /Section D

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Era ends: Costick resigns



By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick's announcement that he'll leave the city for a job in the private sector shocked many, including city council members still reeling from the announcement.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi who, along with the rest of the city council, was told Saturday after an all-day goals session. "It's a good thing you did (wait until after the session)," Vagnozzi told Costick at Monday's regular meeting. "We probably would have cried all day."

That was probably not much of an exaggeration for many who've followed the city's growth since Costick became manager in 1984. And Costick, who avoided becoming emotional, thanked the council and public. "What a pleasure it has been for me," he said. "Last week marked my 16th year in Farmington Hills. I've had 30 years in city management." With city department heads attending, Costick was given a standing ovation by the audience for his years of service. His last day will be Feb. 20.



Bill Costick headed north

See COSTICK, 2A

Diversity celebrated in Farmington Hills



STAFF PHOTO BY BILLYJOHN LESTER

Many are honored: Michael Gruber, a Mercy High teacher, is a Rainbow recipient along with (behind, from right) Kristi Krupar, Barbara Johnson, Helene Habib, Patricia Jean-Louis and Jaclyn Lossia.

Celebration Diversity

Event brightens the hues of tranquility

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in a few weeks, the only color that mattered was dazzling ones on balloons and streamers. The beck drop of brilliant red, blues, yellows and greens fit in with what has become a perpetual positive message, which was delivered again at the first ever Rainbow Recognition Awards breakfast Tuesday morning: Celebrate diversity.

Some 25 people were honored for promoting multiculturalism in Farmington and Farmington Hills. More than 250 people attended the inaugural program sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council in Hills Activity Center's Shannon Hall.

The community council formed in 1993, partly in response to conflicts between high school students. Ironically, the event came on the heels of the incident at North Farmington High where death threats were left in lockers of African-American students. The suspect is believed to be a black student, Hills police have said. "Even though the students pulled

together during this incident, we as a community need to talk about it," said James Hall, who is co-chair of the Multicultural Council's steering committee.

Keynote speaker, Detroit Councilman Nicholas Hood III, compared the handling of the North Farmington situation to a racial incident at Olivet College three years ago.

Hood went to speak to Olivet officials since Plymouth United Church of Christ — where he is a minister — is affiliated with the college.

"Their solution was different than yours," Hood said. "Their solution was to pretend it didn't happen."

"In fact, I'm really going to applaud you in what you're doing in a wonderful way. You had your multicultural and multiracial council in place before you had any unfortunate incidents."

People must continue to look beyond the prism of race and ethnic differences, Hood said. He cited the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, which addressed economic inequity as well.

If King were alive today, he'd likely be against doing away with measures to deal with disparities be-

See CELEBRATION, 3A



'Pouring out their hearts': Ron Baker and Donald Phillips of the Farmington High School Concert Choir end the breakfast event on a light note with a performance of "Java Jive."

Accused molester showed 'Net porn, boy says

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Gregory Allen Gilbert was the slave — and an 11-year-old boy was the master — in a game the two played at his Farmington Hills apartment whereby he would do anything the child wanted.

At night, the game was over. Gilbert, 30, insisted the boy sleep with him in his bed instead of on the couch, according to testimony in a preliminary exam Wednesday in Farmington's 47th District Court.

"He said, that's my decision," testified the boy, now 12. "I was scared." The boy testified occasionally during testimony and was asked to speak up. At the request of the prosecution, Parker cleared the courtroom with the exception of media and Gilbert's father.

Gilbert sat with hands clasped and watched intently. His father sat behind him, shielding his face from television cameras with a baseball cap.

second-degree criminal sexual conduct charges. He stood mute Wednesday while being arraigned on a second CSC II charge involving the same boy. Judge Maria Parker set cash bond at \$350,000 for both charges, which Gilbert's attorney said he likely will not be able to post.

"He'll probably be in jail the whole time," Howard Arnkoff said.

If convicted, Gilbert could face up to 15 years in prison on each count of CSC II.

The boy fidgeted occasionally during testimony and was asked to speak up. At the request of the prosecution, Parker cleared the courtroom with the exception of media and Gilbert's father.

Gilbert sat with hands clasped and watched intently. His father sat behind him, shielding his face from television cameras with a baseball cap.

The child described, in detail, visits to Gilbert's apartment where the two would watch videos and play on the computer.

Then Gilbert began showing him pictures of nude women downloaded from the Internet and put adult videos on his VCR, the boy testified.

Gilbert started to ask the boy to share his bed, instead of sleeping on the couch as in previous visits. When he refused, the boy said the accused became angry.

He was fondled nine or 10 times on four occasions during overnight stays at Gilbert's apartment, the testimony continued.

After the first incident in September, Gilbert swore him to secrecy.

See TESTIMONY