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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Bound over: Testimony was graphic in the preliminary exam of two teen-age boys who will stand trial on criminal sexual conduct charges. /5A

OPINION

He managed nicely: Farmington Hills is better for Bill Costick's efforts over the last 15 years. /8A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Strike up the band: Six local community bands — including one from Farmington — will head to Twelve Oaks Mall Saturday for the 16th annual Festival of Bands. /1B

SPORTS

Hawks flying high: Harrison High stayed undefeated in league volleyball play Monday with a victory over North Farmington. /1C

Boys basketball: Farmington and Harrison battled for bragging rights on the basketball court Tuesday. /1C

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Farmington looks ahead to busy year

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

City of Farmington officials prefer to look at the coming year through a magnifying glass rather than a wide angle lens.

Ordinances, equipment replacement, and petty crime are not to be overlooked, City Manager Frank Leuhoff said.

"We take small things very seriously," said Leuhoff, who is entering his fourth year as city manager. "If you address those things right away, the community will remain a more attractive place to live."

The charge to maintain city services sounds redundant, but it's getting results in Farmington.

Crime is as low as it was 20 years ago, Leuhoff said. Roads are being kept up and redevelopment is on the upswing, he added.

State equalized value is predicted to increase 2.5 percent this year. "That's yet to be seen," Leuhoff said.

The city is still grappling with the affects of Proposal A, which limits assessment growth and, thus, revenues. Cost-saving measures are always being considered.

One concern is replacing the city's telephone system, which is 20 years old. The current system cannot handle the volume of calls to city hall, Leuhoff said.

By switching over to an automated system, Leuhoff said the city could save one-half to one full-time person.

"There's that much time involved in answering the phones," Leuhoff said.

The city is also looking at major capital improvements, including replacing some sewer equipment, Leuhoff said.

Underground fuel tanks at the Department of Public Service yard on Nine Mile Road are reach-

See GOALS, 4A

Costick reflects on Hills career



The last 15 years have gone by "like the snap of the finger," says Bill Costick, Farmington Hills' popular city manager who is leaving for a job in northern Michigan.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

You could feel the blue mood at city hall the day after Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick announced he was leaving for a job in the private sector.

As one employee put it, "He made

a point of talking with you. He knew you personally."

City council members seemed to be in a blue funk, as if a member of the family were going off to war, possibly never to return. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who saw Costick's career from the outside before becoming a

city council member, said he was completely surprised.

And even Costick, who will be leaving after 15 years with the city, said being city manager here was "the pinnacle" of his career in the public sector.

"I've seen this city go through some rapid progress and change," he said while looking back over his career. "These 15 years have gone by like a snap of the finger."

Costick, 52, graduated from Michigan State University in 1966 and earned his master's in community development in 1976. He worked as

an assistant city manager in East Lansing and then as city manager of Flushing, near Flint, for eight years.

"It was a small town," he said. "But you do everything in that kind of job and really learn how to be a city manager."

From building inspections to verifying the tax roll, Costick learned hands-on about running a city.

On to Troy

But it was his two-year stint as assistant to Troy City Manager

See COSTICK, 4A



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detail man: "You have to pay attention to details," says Bill Costick, outgoing city manager. "If you see a problem, fix it."

Court date delayed in double murder case

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

There was little said at a scheduled preliminary examination Monday morning for two men accused of the arson murder of two Farmington Hills women on Dec. 19.

As George Tyrone Davis, 23, of Westland was brought into the 47th District Court room, his mother wept and was comforted by friends. She later had to be helped from the court room after Davis, and Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce, 23, of Farmington Hills, agreed to waive their right to a preliminary exam within 14 days.

They are charged with the murder of Louise Helen Bovalt, 52, and her daughter Melissa Ann, 21, at their home in the Kendallwood subdivision. The two women died in a fire that was ruled arson.

Judge Fred Harris rescheduled the preliminary exam for 1:30 p.m. Feb. 7. The purpose of the exam is to determine if there is enough evidence to try the men on the charges. They are

being held without bond in the Oakland County Jail.

The delay will give attorneys Jose Fanego, who represents Davis, and Gregory Wilkins, who represents Cayce, additional time to go over discovery evidence and prepare their defense. Cayce also faces charges that he abducted, assaulted and raped his former girl friend. He will be arraigned on those charges in Oakland County Circuit Court Friday morning before Judge Rudy Nichols.

Cayce, dressed in a white shirt and jeans, and Davis, dressed in a sweater and slacks, were in and out of the court room in minutes. Davis' mother could be overheard throughout the brief proceeding trying to muffle her sobs. She reached out to her son as he was taken out of court. He waved his hand reassuringly.

But the two men face several life sentences if convicted.

Cayce's former girlfriend, who he is

See DELAY, 7A



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Facing exam: George Davis (left) and Arthur Cayce, charged with murder, sit in 47th District Court.

About proficiency

An informational meeting will take place 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, in the Harrison High cafeteria to discuss the state's new High School Proficiency Test.

High school juniors take the test for the first time this year. Parents can find out about how the test is used and what is required. For information, call 489-3402.

Saturday at the Civic

The Downtown Development Authority's Winter Fun Series continues Saturday, Jan. 27, with magician Doug Sheer presenting "Sheer Magic & Comedy" at 1 p.m. at the Civic Theatre on Grand River. Cost is \$2 per person with children 1 and under admitted for free.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The Winter Fun Series closes the following Saturday, Feb. 3, with The Pippin Puppets at the Civic.

Market research center

Quality Controlled Services, supplier of data collection for marketing research, has opened a new telephone research center in Farmington Hills, creating 100 part-time jobs.

"We do market research surveys and studies,

not telemarketing," said Cathy Sharp, assistant manager of the facility on 12 Mile Road between Drake and Farmington roads. "Telemarketing is selling."

In addition to telephone interviewing capabilities, the new center has two client conference rooms, monitoring capabilities, a private client lounge and a focus group suite.

Business networking

Pitch your goods and/or services at a Business Networking Night 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn on Grand River west of Haledell.

There is no admission to the event, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees, and free appetizers are provided. Call 478-3368 for more information.