

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMELIX

Principal fete: Al Lanigan, longtime principal of Larkshire Elementary, stepped down in June as the school's one and only principal. At his going-away celebration, school district officials renamed the Farmington Hills school Lanigan Elementary in his honor.

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however, was the Legionnaires' disease outbreak, which caused 4 deaths and infected 30 people. The scare went on for nearly one month when the source of bacteria causing the deadly disease was pinpointed to Cattleman's Market in Farmington. By the time the disease was diagnosed in patients, health officials said the risk of contraction was over and a push to make people aware that the disease was not contagious was underway.

Listed below is a highlight of some of the most noteworthy news items in 1996:

January: A December 1995 fire that resulted in the deaths of a Farmington Hills mother and daughter was labeled an arson. Arthur Hollingsworth Cayce, a 23-year-old Farmington Hills resident, and George Davis, a 23-year-old Westland resident, were later charged with the murders of Helen Louise Bovair, 52, and her daughter Melissa Ann Bovair, 21. The women died of smoke inhalation after being forced to inhale carbon monoxide before their Quail Hollow Court home was lit ablaze.

Cayce was convicted of the murders and sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment in December. Also charged with abducting and raping his former Farmington Hills girlfriend, a friend of the two murder victims, Cayce is scheduled to stand trial on the rape and abduction charges Jan. 10, 1997.

Farmington Hills City Manager Bill Costick resigned to take a job in the private sector after working 16 years for the city.

Gregory Allen Gilbert, a 30-year-old Farmington Hills man, was charged with second degree criminal sexual conduct after playing sexually explicit games with the child at Gilbert's apartment in September 1995. Gilbert was later convicted of molesting an 11-year-old Bloomfield Hills boy and sentenced to 3-15 years in prison in December.

A suspect was located in a case involving threats made against African American students in January at North Farmington High School. Death threat letters were left in student lockers and included profanities and racial invectives. In March, the 16-year-old African American girl, who admitted to writing the notes, was ordered by Oakland County Probate Court to apologize and perform 40 hours of service at the school.

February: The former Farmington Hills Activities Center was renamed the William M. Costick Activities Center after being bought by the City of Farmington Hills. Costick, outgoing Farmington Hills city manager at the time, played an instrumental part in acquiring the structure.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department announced a decision to hire 14 new firefighters during the next five years, add a fifth fire station to be manned 24-hours a day, and add other

equipment and training following the passage of a public safety tax in November 1995. Ground breaking for the new fire station took place in August.

March: State Sen. David Honigman announced his resignation effective in March and controversy swirled over conducting two special elections to fill the 15th Senate District seat.

Itsami Koga, the Japanese woman accused of drowning her one-month old son in a pond in November 1995, was ordered to wear a tether pending her first-degree murder trial in May. She pleaded guilty, but mentally ill to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to a minimum of seven months of psychiatric care in an undisclosed Oakland County facility and their to be returned to Japan for further treatment along with five years probation.

April: Detroit gang members Robert Waucaush, 22, and Dominic Garcia, 18, were arraigned on first-degree murder charges, assault with intent to commit murder and felony firearms for allegedly shooting to death a Luvic Lucaj, a Clarenceville High School graduate.

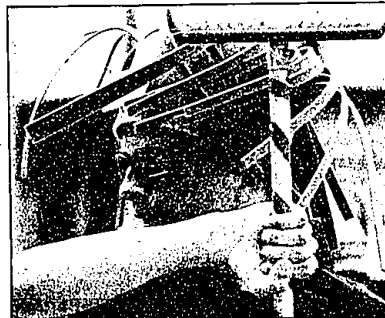
May: Dr. Jack Kevorkian attended his 28th assisted suicide in northwest Farmington Hills at the Steele Street residence of Janet Good, a right-to-die activist. The victim was 53-year-old Windsor, Ont. resident Austin Bastable, who suffered from multiple sclerosis.

June: The 1st Nationwide Bank on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington was robbed of \$16,000 by two masked bandits. No one was injured during the armed robbery which was the first of its kind in the city in 10 years. Coincidentally, the last bank job took place at the same spot, but the 1995 robbery occurred at Bloomfield Savings & Loan.

After their first pick filled them, Farmington Hills City Council unanimously voted to offer the \$100,000 city manager position to Dan Hobbs, who accepted and started work in August.

July: Nine new police officers were sworn in during a ceremony which represented "the largest single new hiring in the department's history," according to Police Chief Bill Dwyer, of the 111-member department. The new hires were a result of a public safety tax passed in November 1995.

August: Farmington Hills City Council gave unanimous approval to the introduction of an ordinance amendment that would allow animals and fowl to be within the currently-enforced 175-foot setback. The measure



Fire and water: Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci presides over a training burn in 1996 while Colonial Car Wash's legion highlighted the annual Founders Parade.

was later adopted following objection from Farmington Hills resident Doris Kangas, who kept farm animals on her property, and her neighbors. Kangas lives in the Pasadena Park subdivision, north of 11 Mile and west of Orchard Lake.

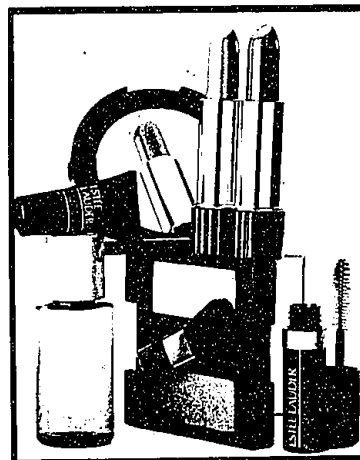
September: A remark on WJR's "The Dr. Laura Schlessinger Show" put Farmington Hills school officials on the defense when a parent called in complaining about kindergartners being taught about AIDS. Farmington Hills school officials clarified that kindergartners through 12th graders are taught about the dangers of coming into contact with someone else's blood, not about sex.

October: The Legionnaires outbreak was detected and 30 cases of contraction reported. In total, four people died after contracting the disease whose roots were traced to an air unit atop Cattleman's Market in the Uptown Plaza on Grand River Ave. in Farmington.

November: The man accused of going on a shooting rampage at the Ford Wixom Plant, killing one employee, and wounding others was identified as Gerald Atkins, a 29-year-old Farmington Hills resident, and former North Farmington High School student.

December: A federal grand jury is considering the indictment of Perry Daniel Hollie, a 23-year-old Farmington Hills man, on charges of first degree murder. Hollie, who is being held in Wayne County Jail without bond, is accused of murdering Matthew Girardin, 29, of Garden City on Nov. 13 at a Michigan National Bank in Dearborn. The men were both employed as armed guards at the bank at the time. Hollie's cousin, Commit Rowson III of Detroit, who was the other suspect in the murder/robbery, was killed after being surrounded by FBI agents and police at a Warren Red Roof Inn Nov. 20.

Farmington school board members discussed plans to ask voters to approve a \$110 million bond issue for building and technology improvements along with a millage renewal in March 1997.



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