

North Farmington's John Cotter(right) was one of the Farmington area matmen who added a luster of victory to the wrestling scene.



One of the first dramatic fires of the year in the Farmington area was the one which struck the Farmington Four Theater which was destroyed completely.

Farmington area 1977 recalled: Part I

1977 in Farmington and Farmington Hills was marked with a number of significant events revolving around education, city government, and sports, with all three governments conducting elections to their governing boards and with many of the school districts' young athletes distinguishing themselves. This is the first in a series of articles highlighting significant events of the past year month by month.

JANUARY

After two years of on-and-off debate, members of the Farmington school board voted unanimously to close Ten Mile Elementary School. Throughout the last five years, the district has been studying the need to close down various school buildings in the district because of declining enrollments.

Farmington Hills resident Robert Amori was appointed to the city council to replace Robert McConnell, who resigned that post for a seat on the Oakland County Board of

Commissioners. Amori was defeated later in the year in his bid for a full term on the council.

Winter fires hit in January as the Farmington Hills department fought two homes blazes in the city's south end.

Also in January, school district officials geared up for a campaign to persuade the voters to renew \$2 million in millage on April 5. Voters did approve the additional tax dollars.

Farmington school officials contemplated posting a for-sale sign on some of the district properties. Plagued by budget problems and declining enrollments, the board assigned the duty of looking over the district's holdings to a new task force.

Farmington Hills' application for \$330,000 in federal aid was initially rejected in Washington. The funds were to have been used for completion of the Waldron Drain. It was later learned that federal officials confused the cities of

Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Fire officials found themselves investigating the fire which destroyed the Farmington Four Theater on Ten Mile. The theater never was rebuilt for that use and is now being contemplated for use as a medical clinic.

Despite tax proposal defeats in many other communities, Clarenceville district voters approved a five mill renewal for 10 years and increased the maximum rate by three mills for five years.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Ronald Holko resigned after months of political battling with various political factions in the city. His resignation spurred the hiring of former Michigan State Police Director George Halverson who later resigned in the year to be replaced by former Detroit Police Commissioner John Nichols. Halverson presently is considering the post of police chief in Warren.

FEBRUARY

Farmington Hills mourned the death of City Atty. Terry Brennan, who served in that post since 1958. Brennan was lauded by many community leaders for his honesty and forthright opinions.

Farmington City Council approved a feasibility study in conjunction with Farmington Hills to determine if Ten Mile Elementary School could be converted into a court facility. Details on implementing that plan are still being worked out. The district court is presently housed in both of the cities' administrative headquarters.

The seed which eventually led to the formation of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division was sown in February. Its formation led to the eventual demise of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission, which was a cooperative effort between the two cities and the Farmington and Clarenceville school districts.

The long debate over mid-rise

senior citizen housing was in its infancy in February with the Farmington Hills Housing Commission investigating the alternatives to housing for the elderly. The long debate ended later in the year with the city council adopting the RCE-1 zoning designation which would allow for the building of 60-foot buildings in the city. Presently a move is on by the zoning opponents to have the question put on the ballot.

Michigan's Agricultural Secretary Dale Ball came under attack by U.S. Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit), whose district includes Farmington and Farmington Hills. Brodhead called for Ball's resignation because of the way he handled the PBB controversy. The attack on Ball was made after a study indicated that many Michigan residents exhibited symptoms of physical deterioration caused by PBB, a chemical which had been mixed with feed for cows.

Former Farmington Mayor Ken Loomis died on Feb. 12. He was

mayor in 1961 and, for a time, served as city manager.

MARCH

Farmington Harrison's Damian Crudele won the 155-pound championship at the Class A state finals for wrestlers.

A theological split in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod came to the focus in Farmington Hills as the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church split its ranks over the national issue. The interpretation of the Bible from a theological viewpoint was the basis of the controversy after Dr. J.A.O. Pruess, president of the Missouri Synod, fired various professors at Concordia Seminary.

Declining enrollment and the resulting loss in the state aid has led to the investigation of middle schools for Farmington students by the Task Force on School Organizational Structure.



A special zoning designation for senior citizen housing was an issue which continued to draw public attention throughout the year. Instrumental in pushing through the mid-rise zoning designation were Housing Commissioners (from left) Ben Marks and Tom Czubiak.

Legislators contemplate energy plan

(Continued from Page 1A)

developing solar energy, wind energy, oil shale and geothermal energy have improved. The budget for research and development has increased from a little more than \$1 billion to \$6 billion in four years.

Brodhead also thought the U.S. market should be developing alternative sources of energy as well as oil. "The sooner we can reduce the strain, the better off we can be," he said referring to U.S. dependence on foreign oil sources.

"We'll probably always have to import some oil," contended Brodhead.

But Blanchard stressed the need for alternative sources of energy to be developed in a strong manner. "Most of the positive efforts that have been made in developing alternative energy research and development have been made more recently by the Energy Research and Development Agency (ERDA).

"ERDA was only formed in 1975—it's an infant agency. One of my assignments is on the alternative energy subcommittee, and ERDA was initially reluctant to want to move with a new program. Frankly, I was disappointed with the way things were going there, at first."

THERE WAS also much friction between the committee Blanchard is on and ERDA for the first two years of the agency's existence, according to the Oakland County Congressman.

He said, "I look to Carter, who will be proposing his first annual budget by Jan. 20, for more expenditures for research and development (R&D) of alternative energy sources. Believe me, if Carter's budget commitment is not there, the subcommittee will insist on it."

"There could be," said Blanchard, "a lot more friction, but I don't expect it."

The federal budget in 1978 will be the first one of Carter's making, as 1977's federal budget was developed by former President Gerald Ford and his advisors, with a few new wrinkles allowed Carter immediately after his inauguration.

Blanchard cited some key elements that he thought typified federal energy policy growth in 1977:

- Carter proposed an "umbrella," cabinet-level Department of Energy, and Congress granted that wish.
- A lack of Senate leadership on energy policy legislation.
- Increased expenditures by the federal government on its new R&D role, though those efforts came gone largely unnoticed by the public, according to Blanchard.

Ripaldi finishes training

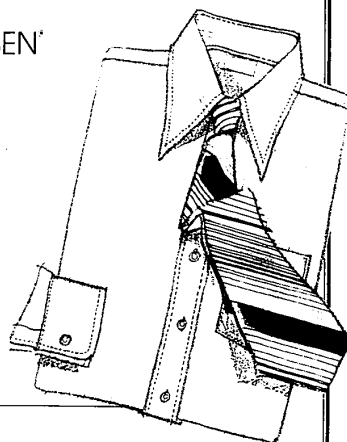
Navy Seaman Recruit David Ripaldi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ripaldi, 22485 Tulane, Farmington Hills, recently completed the basic enlisted course at the Naval Submarine School, Groton, Conn.

During the six-week course, he was introduced to the basic theory, construction and operation of nuclear-powered and diesel submarines. In preparation for his first assignment, he studied shipboard organization, damage control and submarine safety and escape procedures.

A 1977 graduate of Farmington High School, he joined the Navy in June 1977.

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