

Year-end round-up

Farmington digs out from blizzard

(Continued from page 1A)

The group vowed to raise \$200,000 to build a 40,000-square-foot recreational facility. Those funds were to be matched by a grant from the United Foundation as well as the Metro Y and the Greater Farmington Area Family Y.

WHILE FARMINGTON HILLS was debating the fate of senior citizen housing, the City of Farmington was gearing up for a six-story senior citizen housing complex in downtown Farmington. The board was contemplating the sale of the 3.24 acres of school district property on the old Farmington Junior High site on Thomas Street to Forest Dillon, Inc., a private developer.

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY parents learned that their children's building would be closed in June. Students of the 12-year-old school were to be bused to Eagle Elementary.

FEBRUARY

THE LONGEST running controversy in Farmington Hills history saw another chapter written as the city council debated the merits of rezoning a 10-acre land parcel to RCE-1, which

would allow the building of a senior citizen housing project 60 feet high. The rezoning request was made by Rod Clime of Multi-rise Associates and landowner Mel Rausenhaus, a local developer. The parcel, the first to be designated for RCE-1 was located at Orchard Lake, south of Fourteen Mile. The first phase called for construction of a six-story, 218-unit building which would cost \$2.5 million. The meeting, conducted on Feb. 20, lasted until 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 21. Many residents attended the marathon session to protest the approval. Opponents of the senior complex feared construction would open the doors to other developers to build high-rise units. Also at issue were the rents to be charged—\$50 a month, with an additional \$20 a month charged to each resident for food and medical care.

ALTHOUGH MILLAGE was approved by Farmington School District residents, officials were mystified by the low turnout. Only 2,728 voters turned out to approve four mills for 10 years. While 2,108 voted yes, 610 voted no.

LONG-TIME Farmington Hills politician Fred Lichtman, in a rare per-

sonal interview, reviewed his political career after 10 years of service. The former councilman and mayor, who stepped down in January, said his goal had been to "civilize suburbia." Also retiring was Mayor Joan Dudley, who had served since the charter commission was formed in 1972.

SMOKE ALARMS were the center of controversy in Farmington. Residents opposing a mandatory smoke detector ordinance won their battle by making it an option to have one installed in the home. As adopted, the ordinance requires that all multiple units be fitted with smoke detectors within six months. Compliance for single-family homes would be required only when the house was sold or extensively remodeled.

MARCH

AN EDUCATION task force recommended that Farmington schools be restructured to house grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 beginning in the 1980-81 school year. The wide-sweeping change ushered in the middle school concept. The program would be phased in during

the 1980-81 school year.

MARCH WAS THE DAWN of Richard Headlee as a household name in Michigan. The Farmington Hills insurance executive launched his campaign for a constitutional amendment linking taxes directly to personal income of Michigan residents. The immediate goal of the group, said Headlee, was to get 266,000 voter signatures for a constitutional amendment. The Headlee proposal became one of the most controversial issues in the state-wide November election. It narrowly passed.

FARMINGTON HILLS won the first round of a sex discrimination battle in March. U.S. District Judge John Feikens denied a motion to stop the testing and hiring of police officers in the city made by attorney Judith Doran on behalf of her client, Bonnie Swadlow, a Hills community service officer. Judge Feikens set April 21 as the date of a pre-trial examination for the case filed by Ms. Swadlow, 24, who charged that she was denied the opportunity to become a police officer because she was a woman.

Obituaries

THEODORE PEARSE

Pearse, 17, died on Dec. 14 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington. He was a Farmington resident for several years. Surviving are mother, Mary; father, Dennis; sisters, Jackie, Dawn and Holly; grandfather, Charles T. Larzelere.

Services were conducted Dec. 16 at Thayer-Rock Funeral by Rev. Jeff Harry, of Incarnation Church of Farmington. Burial was at Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

MABLE H. FLEURY

Mrs. Fleury, 82, of Farmington died Dec. 15 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Surviving are daughters, Mrs. Majorie Szapkowski, Mrs. Joan Nagle, Mrs. Dorothy Katz; sons, Donald, Edmund; sister, Mrs. Marge White, 11 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

Services were conducted on Dec. 19 at Thayer Rock Funeral Home and St.

Clare Catholic Church by Fr. Joseph Drogowski. Burial was at Oakridge Cemetery, Flat Rock.

LEO H. NOUHAN

Mr. Nouhan, 74, of Farmington, died Dec. 17 in Westland.

He was a resident of the area for three years. He was born in Damascus, Syria. He was a grocer.

Surviving are his wife, Lilly; daughters Margaret Dove; son, LeRoy; sisters, Mrs. Nyla Simon, Mrs. Marie Elias, Mrs. Alice Fahmie, Mrs. Camilla Tahan; brother Alfred; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

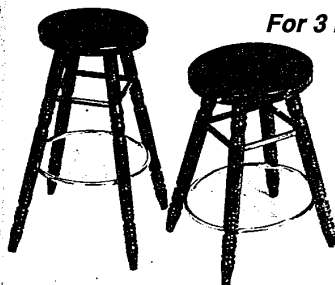
Services were conducted on Dec. 20 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home and Our Lady of Redemption Catholic Church, Detroit. Fr. Agabus Nischi conducted the services. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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Campers in winter like private parks

Winter campers are expected to give state-run campgrounds the cold shoulder and use private parks in record numbers again this season, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

"Luxuries such as heated shower and toilet buildings, plus open park stores and game rooms were the attractions that lured winter campers away from state parks and to private campgrounds," said Joseph Ratke, auto club touring manager.

"Most private parks responding to an auto club survey reported an average 16 per cent more business last winter compared to the previous season," Ratke said, "while state park campgrounds open last winter registered a 24 per cent drop in campers over the same period."

This season, winter campers can select from 109 private and 56 state parks.

State park campgrounds offer only at-site electricity and water from central wells. Only a limited number of campsites and park roads are kept plowed.

"Most of the new business at private campgrounds last winter was cross-country skiers and snowmobilers," Ratke said. "This fall, many private park owners are making an effort to coax those customers back."

Thirty-three of the winterized private facilities on the auto club's 1978-79 guide list are adjacent to groomed snowmobile or cross-country ski trails in state and national forests and two sell and service snowmobiles.

"Six parks have instituted guided snowmobile safaris on weekends and one near Copper Harbor in the Upper Peninsula sponsors snowmobile obstacle course races with cash prizes for best times," Ratke noted.

Register now

Registration for the winter semester at Oakland Community College will be held on Jan. 3, 4, and 5 according to alphabetical schedule. Classes will begin on Monday, Jan. 8.

Those interested should call the campus they wish to attend for more information about admissions. In Farmington Hills, call the Orchard Ridge campus at 476-9400.

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etc., were \$120 to \$260, now **\$90-\$195**

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Somerset Mall

Fairlane Center (inside Hughes & Hatcher)

Sale ends January 27