



When Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns (left) swore in freshman Councilman Terry Sever several weeks ago, it was probably the last time he would

swear in a new council member. He retires Dec. 31 after 29 years on the job.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

City clerk to retire

Continued from Page 1

When he first ran for the position in 1955, he was defeated. A 90-year-old candidate defeated him by 60 votes that year. But his opponent soon resigned, and the Farmington Township Board appointed Cairns.

When the township incorporated in 1973, Cairns served as a charter commissioner. Commissioners changed the city clerk's post from elected by the people to appointed by the council.

The first city council appointed Cairns as clerk, a position he has held since.

Cairns has witnessed the community change from a rural farming area to a bustling suburb.

"Farmington Hills has been very good to me, and, in some small way, I hope I have been good for it," Cairns said in his letter.

Police chase leads to arrest

Continued from Page 1

The approximately 11-mile chase led police up and down 14 Mile, into West Bloomfield, and back to Drake and Howard roads in Farmington Hills. At one point, police said, the Chevy was clocked in excess of 100 mph.

As the Chevy approached Halsted in Farmington Hills, it went through a pasture, off eastbound Howard, and jumped a four-foot stream, a quarter-mile south of Howard, police said.

The Chevy then turned into the San Marino Golf Course where police told the suspect for a short time. When police again found the driver of the Chevy, he was in the middle of the golf course. Police continued the chase on foot until the suspect was apprehended.

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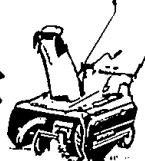
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