

The year in review

Here's some of what happened during 1984



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Robert Anzlover (right) was sworn in by Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns to fill a city council vacancy in early February.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of several articles listing the newsworthy events of 1984.

By Tom Saar
staff writer

It was the best of times and the worst of times. Overall, the year 1984 was probably somewhere in the middle for most Farmington-area residents.

Here are some of the things to which we turned our attention during the last 366 days.

JANUARY

- Farmington and Farmington Hills officials reported few problems keeping up with the weather despite record cold and more than 20 inches of snow so far.

- Farmington Hills Mayor Fred Hughes sent shock waves through city hall when he announced that he would resign to accept a management position with a telephone company in New Jersey. The city council elected Charles Williams mayor for 1984.

- Astronaut-turned-politician Jack

Louma announced in an interview at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills that he intended to run for the United States Senate.

- Businessman Terry Sever and Democratic activist Aldo Vagnoni said they wanted to be appointed to the Farmington Hills City Council to fill the vacancy created by Hughes' resignation.

- Two well-known area restaurants — the Wishing Well in downtown Farmington and Show Biz Pizza Place on Orchard Lake Road — closed.

- A three-year contract with Farmington Hills' 11 full-time firefighters costs city taxpayers an additional \$24,000 for increased wages.

- David B. McDowell, outgoing superintendent of the Clarenceville School District, will have the district's athletic field named in his honor. District officials said they would hold six public forums so that the public could comment on the choosing of the new superintendent.

FEBRUARY

- "I believe the best advertising is walking, not written," said pizza king and Detroit Tiger owner Tom Monaghan to a business class at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

- Robert Anzlover was picked to fill Fred Hughes' seat on the Farmington Hills City Council. Anzlover, a 42-year-old planning commissioner, would have to run for the seat in the November primary.

- After 100 police-related incidents in one year, Farmington's Bootlegger Restaurant faced a threat of liquor license revocation.

- Farmington Hills officials said they wanted to use half the city's expected \$360,000 Community Development Block Grant money to help pay for extensive drain improvements to combat flooding in the Tarabul Roseland Gardens subdivision.

- The Farmington Hills City Council discussed plans for a new \$2.5-million police building. Most city officials said the facility was needed to ease overcrowding in the old quarters.

- Farmington city officials said they planned to spend \$200,000 to improve the city's park system. The city will pay half the cost of the improvements and apply for a matching grant from the state Department of Natural Resources' Water Conservation Funding Program.

- Officials of Automatrix Inc., a high-tech company that produced robots in Massachusetts, were considering expanding their business to Farmington Hills.

MARCH

- Farmington Hills' City Council voted 5-1 to reject a \$9 million, HUD-financed proposal to sponsor 201 senior citizen apartments on land owned by Roger Peck Chevrolet.

- Three men were charged with the theft of three cars in Farmington Hills after a high-speed chase Feb. 25. The case involved police stake-outs and a chase lasting more than 1½ hours.

- Winter made a comeback with howling winds and a blanket of snow, which snarled traffic and closed Farmington schools for one day.

- A proposal to build another motel in Farmington Hills was blocked after the planning commission recommended denying a request to rezone property for a proposed 112-unit motel behind Bill Cook Buick.

- Officials of CBS/Fox Video said they planned to move the company from Farmington Hills to an 83-acre site in Livonia. "They couldn't get a big enough piece of acreage here," Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns said.

- After a long battle, some Farmington Hills residents will get free installation of cable television from MetroVision, the company that provides programming to the area.

- Farmington Hills property assessments for 1984 increased 1 to 2 percent on average.

- James E. McGilincy, a member of the Farmington Board of Education for almost six years, announced a board meeting that he would not run for reelection when his term expires in June.

- Former astronaut James Irwin talked about the glory and excitement of walking on the moon at an assembly at North Farmington High School.

- Talk of increasing the height of buildings in certain areas of Farmington Hills was silenced as the city council



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Police and firefighters investigate the field where a teen-age Farmington Hills boy was electrocuted by a downed Detroit Edison line in March.

city voted 5-2 against paying for a study that would have shown how much more taxes could be collected if the city allowed high-rise buildings.

- Farmington's city council voted to recommend to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that the renewal of a Class C liquor license for the operation of Bootlegger's Bar should be denied.

APRIL

- A 15-year-old Farmington Hills boy was electrocuted by a 4,800-volt downed wire while he was walking in a wooded area north of Rocky Crest and east of Orchard Lake roads.

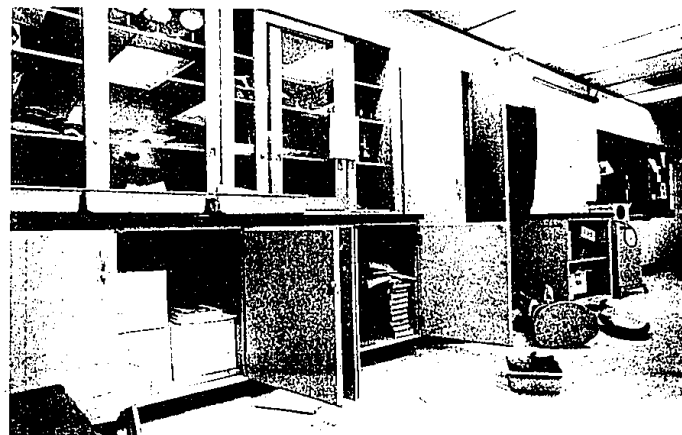
- Farmington Harrison High School was closed for a day so police and school officials could investigate a break-in that caused the loss of \$31,114 worth of property.

- The annual Farmington Founders' Festival, traditionally held the last weekend of July, was to be pushed up to July 17, Festival chairman Jon Grant said.

- Officials of the Oak Hill Nursing Home dropped expansion plans. Residents who lived near the Farmington facility had opposed the expansion.

- The five candidates for two seats on the Farmington board of Education were incumbent Helen D. Prutow and challengers James J. Abernethy, J. Thomas Buck, Roxanne M. Fitzpatrick and Edmund V. Starrett. The top two vote getters in the June election would serve four-year terms.

- A 24-year-old Farmington Hills employee stood mute at her arraignment at 47th District Court on felony charges in connection with misappropriation of \$1,500 from the city finance department.



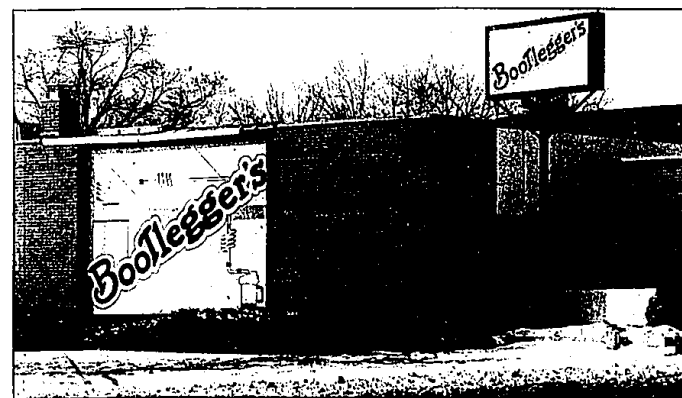
RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A Farmington Harrison science lab was the scene of the crime after a break-in in early April.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Working in cramped quarters, Farmington Hills employees (left) answered 24,092 police-related calls during 1983. Bootlegger's Bar (below) on Grand River in Farmington was the subject of numerous resident complaints and police runs during the first part of 1984.



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