

Homecoming — North Farmington style

The sights and sounds of Homecoming '85 filled the streets around North Farmington High School Saturday.

And despite the rain, the parade went on. Below, the parade moves up Farmington Road, south of 13 Mile. At

right: Flag Corps member Andrea Polk dons her rain jacket before the parade.



photos by KANDY BORSY/staff photographer

School growth tied to Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

As Farmington Hills continues to grow, so does the Farmington Public Schools.

"There is a correlation between an increase in housing (in Farmington Hills) and an increase in elementary enrollment," said Superintendent Lewis Schulman.

For the first time in 14 years, the student population in the Farmington Public Schools has increased. A census taken Sept. 27 (Fourth Friday count) showed 10,322 students — 57 more than at the start of the 1984-85 school year — are enrolled in district schools, Schulman said.

The increase in building permits issued in Farmington Hills appears to be one factor in the enrollment increase. Another factor is the overall improvement in the state's economy, which has helped reduce the migration of families from the state, Schulman said.

In 1984, Farmington Hills issued 979 building permits — residential, commercial and industrial. As of September 1985, the city issued 536 permits for single-family homes.

"Our district happens to be the one with the largest number of housing permits," Schulman said. "I like to think that what we have here is a building boom."

BASED ON the Fourth Friday count, neighboring school districts with increased enrollments include Huron Valley, with an increase of 142 students for a total 9,475; Rochester, with 160 students for a total 9,841; West Bloomfield, with 35 for a total

4,528; Southfield, with 27 for a total 8,892, and Walled Lake, with 22 for a total 8,597.

In 1984, Rochester Hills, which comprises the largest portion of the Rochester Community Schools, issued 976 building permits. West Bloomfield issued 674 permits in 1984.

Farmington's increase in student population this year is due to increases in the elementary schools and in the kindergarten program, Schulman said.

In the district's 11 elementary schools, enrollment increased by 194 students over last year, putting the total at 4,055.

In 1984, 564 students were enrolled in kindergarten. This year, the enrollment is up to 734. The total does not include the 84 students enrolled in the district's early childhood developmental programs.

BECAUSE THERE has not been any dramatic increase in births, increased enrollment in the lower grades "means that people with younger children are moving in," Schulman said.

Despite the increase in total student population, enrollment in the district's three high schools dropped this year to 5,876 — a decrease of 121 students. But that doesn't greatly upset Schulman, who says he expected even more of a reduction in student population at the high schools.

Districts that did not fare as well as Farmington include Birmingham with a drop of 50 students; Bloomfield Hills with 152; Royal Oak with 149 students; and Waterford with a loss of 515 students. Birmingham now has a total student enrollment of 7,405; Bloomfield Hills, 6,025; Royal Oak, 5,181; and Waterford, 12,374.

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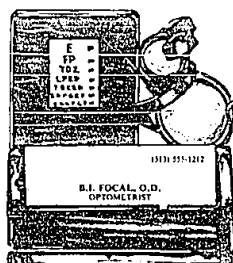
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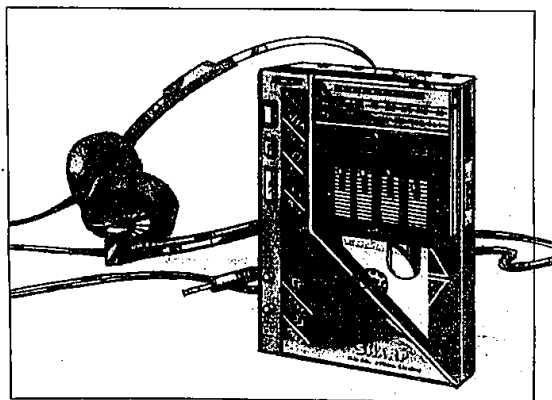


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