

Head count

Hills to conduct mid-decade census

By Joanne Malozewski
staff writer

The counters are coming. Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 17, 50 enumerators will be going to door-to-door in Farmington Hills, conducting Farmington Hills' mid-decade census.

"It's okay to answer the door," said Karen Birkholz, assistant to the city manager. The trained enumerators, mostly residents, will be state-certified and armed with photo identification.

Each enumerator — or head counter — will be responsible for a section of the city containing 1,000-1,500 residents. Enumerators will contact each household and ask only two questions, Birkholz said.

"They want to know the names of

people living in the house and to verify the address. We want to know how many heads are here (in Farmington Hills)," she said. "So if they ask any other questions, you know they aren't the real ones (legitimate enumerators)."

The mid-decade census is unlike the federal decade census in which residents are asked ages of household members, income and other similar information, Birkholz said.

RESIDENTS NOT home when enumerators knock will be left a card — seeking census information — that can be left on the door for an enumerator to pick up or can be mailed to city hall. Residents may also provide the city with the information with a telephone call.

Enumerators will then double-check information with a random contact of about 40 households in each district. "So there is a good likelihood you will be contacted twice," Birkholz said.

Actual counting is expected to be completed sometime in April or May with final results compiled and available in June.

Farmington Hills officials asked the Michigan Secretary of State to conduct the special mid-decade census for a cost of \$70,000-\$100,000.

If the city's population has increased at least 15 percent since 1980, Farmington Hills could receive additional state money for the last three years of this decade.

If it turns out that the city's population has not increased as expected, the city will have spent money without a return on that investment.

If the population has grown, the city could receive — depending on the actual certified count — \$100,000-\$500,000 annually in the decade's last three years.

A certified population increase also will increase the city's quota of population-based liquor licenses available through the state for distribution.

Public Act 245 of 1976 allows communities that believe they are experiencing an unusually high rate of growth to conduct a mid-decade census. The act is designed to allow these communities to receive credit — in the form of state-shared revenue — for population increases. State-shared revenues are based on population.

To qualify under this legislation, a city must have had a 15 percent population increase. If population has not increased, the census will not count. For Farmington Hills to qualify, the 1980 census count of 50,056 must have increased to at least 60,764 people.

The census, conducted under the direction of the Michigan Secretary of State, must be in progress by March 31; census figures must be verified by May 1.



Sixth graders Tammy Allen (left), Melissa Prendergast and Gretchen Vanderhill take a breather from jumping rope Friday.



Sixth grader John Rudolph jumps rope to help fight heart disease.

Tired

Jumping so others can live

Power Middle School students topped their 1986 totals by more than \$4,000 in Friday's Jump Rope for Heart, bringing in \$13,416 for the American Heart Association of Michigan, organizers said.

Power students are part of more than 20,000 students in 350 schools across the state participating in the event which runs from January through March. It is sponsored by the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Jump Rope for Heart is a nationwide health and exercise program designed to teach students the importance of caring for their hearts at a young age. Power's event was coordinated by physical education teachers Patricia Messina and Donald Detter.

Each school divides students into six-member teams, with each member alternating jumping rope for a maximum of three hours. Students collect donations prior to the event or ask for per-minute pledges to be collected after the event.

The top six fund-raisers at Power were: Sherri Yitlala, 7th grade, \$267; Latisha Friend, 7th grade, \$230; Teresa Martin, 7th grade, \$227; Michelle Welasing, 6th grade, \$204; Gordy Nelson, 7th grade, \$190; and Shawn Simmons, 7th grade, \$170.

The event is only one of many held to raise money for the American Heart Association of Michigan each year. More than 63 million Americans have one or more forms of heart disease and as many as 1.5 million will have heart attacks this year.

Money raised from the events support the heart association's programs in research, community and professional education and development.

Zeiger Health taps consultant

Shoula Stefos has been named special consultant to Zeiger Health Care Corp. and its subsidiaries, which include the Botsford Hospital Holding Co. and Botsford Health Services Corp.

Gerson Cooper, president of Zeiger Health Care, announced the appointment.

Divisions within the two subsidiaries include Botsford General Hospital, Northwest General Hospital, Botsford Continuing Care Corp., Botsford Medical Services Corp. and Community Emergency Medical Services Inc.

Stefos was formerly Botsford General Hospital's Health Development Network executive director.

She brings 12 years of experience in the health care industry to her new position, which includes supervision and implementation of a variety of new programs for Zeiger Health Care Corp. and its subsidiary companies.



Shoula Stefos moving up

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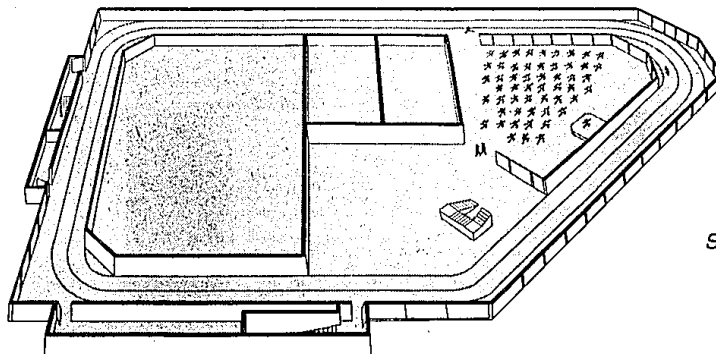
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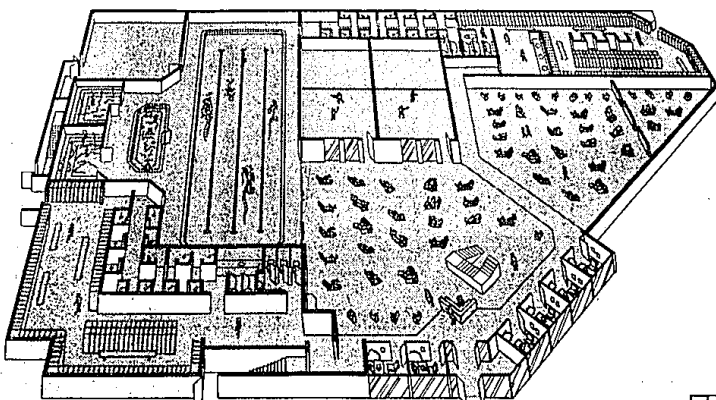
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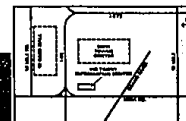
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