

Hills dedicates new police building



Joe Cialo sports sunglasses as he and fellow trombonists fight the sunshine during a Harrison High School Jazz Band selection directed by Mark Phillips.

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

IT TOOK nearly five years from start to finish.

But the new Farmington Hills Police Facility was finally dedicated Friday under a broiling sun.

"What you see before you today is another jewel in the crown of Farmington Hills," said Mayor Ben Marks from under the dedication tent that marked the way to the 36,000-square-foot, \$3.3-million building.

"When people truly want to accomplish a goal, they can do it by pulling together," he said, referring to the city council, the building authority, police officials, city administrators and the taxpayers.

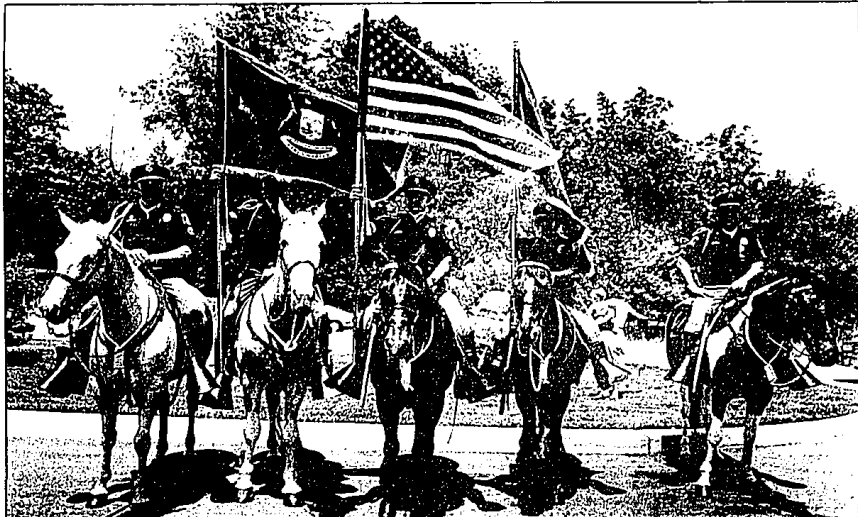
Discussion that led to hiring an architect, Luckenbach-Ziegelman of Birmingham, began in November 1982. Construction started in July 1985, but delays quickly became commonplace.

'This building is a focal point of our community. It is in the center of our community. I want it to be something the community can be proud of.'

— William Costick
city manager

No matter, City manager William Costick was beside himself with joy that the long wait had ended.

"This building is a focal point of our community," he said. "It is in the center of our community. I want it to be something the community can be proud of."



Oakland County Public Safety Mounted Division members (from left) Calvin Lawrence, Bruce Depew, George Hoppe, Debra Stormer and Lt. Tony Amico help direct attention away from the heat.

THEN TURNING to Police Chief William Dwyer and his commanders and officers, Costick added, "I know as we entrust this building to them, we'll be in good hands."

Representing the Farmington Hills Building Authority, chairman Jerome Neyer called the three-level building a "first-class facility for a first-class police department for a first-class city."

The afternoon dedication drew a host of dignitaries, including a man who held a special interest, Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols.

Nichols, a law enforcement officer for 45 years and formerly police chief in Detroit, was Farmington Hills police chief from 1977 to 1985. So he was chief at the time plans for the new facility were formulated.

He called the building "a tribute to the type of people making decisions in the police department for the citizenry of Farmington Hills."

As sheriff, Nichols is involved in expanding the Oakland County Jail. After gazing at Farmington Hills' new police facility, he said he was heartened to know a building will evolve from the dust and grime that marks the county jail expansion site.

FARMINGTON CITY manager Robert Dendman and Detroit Police Chief William Hart led a host of city managers and police chiefs who attended from surrounding communities. Dwyer, a former narcotics investigations commander, worked alongside Hart for 20 years as a member of the Detroit Police Department.

Farmington Hills' new police headquarters includes an indoor shooting range, a nine-cell detention area, a 35-seat training room and a three-bay automotive garage.

The police department has 24 ranking officers and 59 patrol officers. Support personnel include nine full-time dispatchers, five part-time dispatchers, four cadets, 23 clerical workers and three community service officers. The auxiliary has 22 members.



AT LEFT: City Manager William Costick (left), Building Authority chairman Jerome Neyer and Police Chief William Dwyer (right) look on as Mayor Ben Marks cuts the ribbon to officially dedicate the new police facility.

Staff photos
by
Laura Castle



Farmington Hills Police Department Honor Guard officers Pat Monti (left), Gary Mailoux and William Duffey stand at attention outside the new police headquarters.

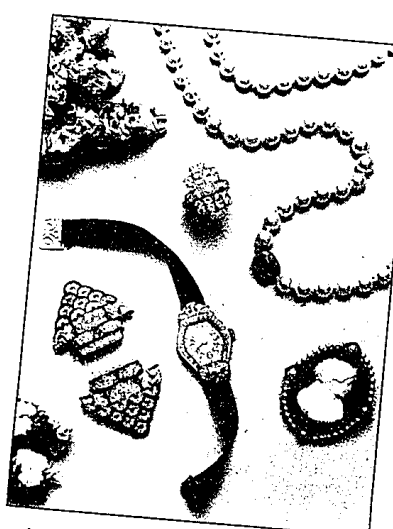


Timothy Monti (center), Detroit Police Department Aviation Section patrol supervisor, chats with Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols, former Farmington Hills police chief. To Monti's left is George Dennison of the aviation section. At left are Hills resident Charlotte Nichol and son Curtis, 3. An aviation section chopper provides the backdrop.

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