

1980s activists keep a low profile, 1D

Gymnastics outlook, 7A

Comfort foods that recall the '50s, 1B

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HELPING hand. Donations are needed for the Soviet Armenians who survived the Dec. 7 earthquake to build hospitals, shelter schools, etc. About 100,000 lives were lost and dozens of villages were destroyed.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Armenia Earthquake Fund, St. John's Armenian Church, 2201 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48075.

BIG turnout. The December organizational meeting for the Farmington Hills "Year 2000" project was a success, according to Mayor-elect Terry Sever. It drew some 60 residents, of which 40 signed up to serve on various task forces. Nearly 100 are expected to become involved in the project overall. A special meeting has been called for Jan. 4 at 7:30 p.m. to make task force selections.

CORRECT date. Farmington students go back to school Tuesday, Jan. 3, not Jan. 5 as published in last week's Observer.

Memory lane

25 years ago:

The use of audiovisual equipment in classrooms in the Farmington public school system and the ways in which this equipment can be used to better instruct children was discussed at length at the board of education meeting this week.

Brenner's Farmington Hills Market advertised six quart bottles of Faygo pop for 99 cents plus deposit.

— Farmington Enterprise, Jan. 2, 1964

what's inside

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1988: A look back

Rapist, city hall unrest are top news



Sanders' employee Robin White poses against a counter in the final days before the fountain closed its doors in the downtown Farmington Center in February.

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part review of the news and personalities that shaped 1988. The second part will run Thursday, Jan. 5.

By Casey Hana and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

The year 1988 was full of news and change. The continuing battle against drug and alcohol abuse, serial rapes, city hall unrest, racial concern and the November general election marked the year.

Twice a week the Observer staff has brought the community, its news and the personalities that shaped the year into readers' homes. Following is a selection from our files of the top issues and personalities that marked 1988.

● JANUARY

The year began with continuing concern over the potential for racial problems in the Farmington area. The Farmington Hills City Council issued a pledge of equality in reaction to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's comments that the community must overcome a hostile image.

Speculation over who the new

Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson assigned an assistant prosecutor to work with police investigating a serial rapist. Scientific tests and a polygraph later cleared one prime suspect in the assaults. Another suspect was later apprehended.

state House representative would be began with state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton's (R-Farmington) retirement announcement.

In the Farmington Public Schools, the focus was on curriculum revision plans for all subjects and all grades and parents' ire with the district's plans for new elementary boundaries. Superintendent Graham Lewis responded by recommending no changes in boundaries for any grades and that a new elementary school be built.

● FEBRUARY

Problems with ambulance

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How-to-parent classes are very popular

By Casey Hana staff writer

Who said no one can learn to be a good parent by going to school?

In Farmington Public Schools, the idea is spreading like wildfire.

From a special seminar for the parents of gifted students, to one for the parents of preschoolers and kindergartners, to another one based in the Community Education Department for parents of secondary school children — people are showing an interest in learning to be better parents.

'Most of us end up parenting like our parents did.'

— Nancy Serlin seminar co-leader

"I probably learned as much, if not more than they did," said parent Nancy Serlin, who was a co-leader in a fall seminar for the parents of highly able, gifted youngsters who attend Farmington schools. She will continue to lead a similar group as

the program begins again the week of Jan. 9.

"It's such a new, innovative idea. We serve a very important role," Serlin added. "Parenting is so important. Most of us end up parenting like our parents do.

The ultimate goal is to make our kids feel good about themselves."

AT FAIRVIEW Early Childhood Center, a parenting program based on the already established "Children the Challenge" concept, has been running mornings all fall. A new session will begin Tuesday mornings at Alameda Early Childhood Center this winter. The classes are run by school psychologist Suzanne Unger and social worker Susan Anker.

In the district's Community Education Department, a program designed for middle school and high

school parents will get under way this month, according to information from the district.

Serlin sees possibilities of expanding the parenting programs to create support groups for children, single parents or other specialized areas. "There's a lot of possibilities," she added.

Ruth Platt, a parent who participated in the fall parenting sessions, said such a class can help parents and a variety of children. "I think all children can be considered 'special

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A lover of toy trains and automobiles since he was a boy, Richard Kughn has gone further than most to stay young at heart. The owner of Lionel Trains has also collected more than 150 classic cars dating back to the turn of the century.

Lionel!

His hobby saved a company

By Tim Smith staff writer

Toys and Richard Kughn have always found each other. Especially model trains with "Lionel" stamped on them.

When he was 7, as the story goes, Kughn fished a Lionel set out of the garbage, hooking him into a hobby that has flourished since. At 69, and a grandfather to boot, he still makes tracks to various train collectors swap meets.

"I've been a toy collector all my

people

life," said Kughn, chairman and president of the Southfield-based business conglomerate, Kughn Enterprises, and a noted antique car buff. He owns Farmington-based Carrll, where work is done on his classic car collection.

But the Detroit native took his boyhood hobby one giant step fur-

ther. He bought then-struggling Lionel Trains Inc. in April 1986, and today runs the recharged company, which is headquartered in Mount Clemens.

And his love for trains and classic cars of the real kind — he has about 180 of them, dating back to 1895 — led to his private museum, Carrll, where they are displayed.

PRESUMABLY, HE wants other youngsters to discover Lionel — though not out of a trash can like he did.

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Camp teaches how the animals survive winter

By C. L. Rugenstein staff writer

Winter Survival Camp — it's a matter of survival not only for kids, but mothers as well during the holiday break.

"This is exactly what kids need — to touch it, to make it!" said Ann Harraf of the three-day day camp sponsored by the Farmington and Farmington Hills Community Center.

Harraf's sons Dave and Mike were two of the 18 children ages five to 11 who experienced the hands-on camp run by the Living Science Founda-

More pictures on 2A

tion at the Community Center last week.

AND DIRECTOR Bonnie Neff gave them plenty to put their hands on. On hand to demonstrate how animals, and people, survive winter were several of Neff's teaching aides, furred, feathered and funky.

"Some animals stay, some leave" when winter rolls around," Neff told the giggling, giggling group. Common sense and teacher-survival dic-

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Nicholas Ward, 7, of Farmington, rubs noses with Cheech the Chinchilla.