

Trip to Grand Rapids is grand, thank you, 1D



Hawks win 'B' title, 1C

School parade begins a bit too early, 5A

Farmington Observer

Volume 101 Number 16 Monday, November 27, 1989 Farmington, Michigan 46 Pages Fifty Cents

farmington FOCUS

To write the Observer: 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. To call: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300; fax line, 477-9722.

MUSICAL chairs. When councilwoman Nancy Bates' microphone didn't work as she was about to make a nomination for mayor-elect last Monday, Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever offered Bates his chair.

"I've got to get used to sitting in a new chair anyway," he quipped, moments before Bates nominated councilwoman Jean Fox, who was unanimously chosen mayor for 1990.

FRIENDLY jab. In nominating councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democratic Party activist, for the nonpartisan post of mayor pro tem in Farmington Hills, councilman Larry Lichtman quipped, "As a Democrat in Farmington Hills, he has become very adept at making concession speeches."

Memory lane

• Village Green, a \$25-million housing development planned by Farmington builder Thomas Duke at Hatfield and Grand River, passed its final hurdle when the Farmington Township board approved the rezoning of 160 acres.

• Dec. 6 will mark a milestone for Methodism in Farmington with a 125th anniversary celebration at the Farmington First Methodist Church.

— Farmington Enterprise, Dec. 3, 1964

This week

DOWNTOWN Farmington's annual Christmas Walk festivities will take place Saturday. A slate of activities is planned around the central business district throughout the day.

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 5C
- Building Scene . . . Sec. F
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E, F
- Index 8E
- Auto Secs. C, F
- Real estate Sec. E
- Employment Secs. E, F
- Creative living Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle 3F
- Entertainment 2, 3, 5D
- Police/tiro calls 8A
- Sports Sec. C
- Street Scene Sec. D
- Taste Sec. B



Burned out Owner vows he'll rebuild

By Noreen Fleck
staff writer

The owner of a Farmington Hills home improvement business destroyed by fire Wednesday stood amid the charred remains Friday and vowed to rebuild, even though an insurance policy change in March left him with no fire coverage.

Damage was estimated at \$200,000. The cause is still being investigated, Farmington Hills fire

Chief Richard Marinucci said. Towne Square Pub next door sustained an estimated \$30,000 in damage. Flame damage was limited to the roof and area just below, Marinucci said.

"I can't say the damage has destroyed my life, but it has destroyed some part of me," said Antonios Chrysogellos, 56, of Livonia, owner of Suburban Aluminum & Glass, 27400 Eight Mile at Inkster Road.

"I have many good friends and

good customers who have given me help and support. I hope they will be with me to the finish."

THREE WORKERS in addition to Chrysogellos were in the two-story, wood-frame building when the fire broke out shortly past noon. Only one minor hand burn was reported.

Chrysogellos, a Greek immigrant, opened the home improve-

Please turn to Page 3

Board is urged to pick Flanagan as school chief

By Noreen Fleck
staff writer

Farmington school board president Helen Prutow intends to ask trustees to end their nationwide search Dec. 5 and name acting superintendent Michael Flanagan to the job, despite his lack of classroom experience.

"Board members are continually being contacted by members of the staff and community, stressing how pleased they are with Mike's leadership as acting superintendent," Prutow wrote in a Nov. 21 board memo.

In September, the school board hired Dr. Karl Plath, of Plath, Nielsen, Rogers Associates, a Northbrook, Ill., consulting firm, at a fee of \$12,000 to \$16,000 to conduct a national superintendent search.

Flanagan, 40, deputy superintendent and budget overseer, was named acting superintendent June 20 when Graham Lewis abruptly resigned amid questions about his perceived inability to communicate effectively.

Trustee Helen Ditzhazy said even though Flanagan has done an outstanding job, naming him superintendent will deviate from minimum preparation standards set by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools because he has no classroom teaching experience.

Ann Arbor-based North Central is a regional accreditation agency that sets policies and standards for sec-



Michael Flanagan acting superintendent

ondary schools. Schools must follow its rules to get its "seal of approval," said Connie Stoelton, assistant to the director.

AS OF Sept. 1, 1986, two years of classroom teaching experience is a North Central standard for a superintendent. Dr. William Bushaw, North Central's state director, told Ditzhazy.

"We have a dilemma if we abort the search for a person who meets the criteria," Ditzhazy said. The North Central standard of two years

Please turn to Page 7

Library studying sale of branch

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Community Library officials believe it's best to sell the existing 12 Mile branch to offset the cost of building a main library.

Library officials believe the lack of a definite use for the library, 32727 12 Mile, that was to be decided by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, played a role in the Nov. 7 defeat of two library financing proposals.

"The public use (of the existing library) wasn't identified prior to the election," said Charlotte Yaverski, library board president. "Many people thought we were giving the building away."

TRUSTEES ARE hoping to ask voters in a special April election to approve a bond proposal to build a main library.

A decision is pending whether to ask voters at the same time for operating tax for both the new facility

and the downtown Farmington branch.

Library officials are certain the proposals put before voters will be different from the two defeated by voters Nov. 7.

The \$14.5 million bond proposal lost by a slim, 215-vote margin. The maximum 1.5 mills for 20 years lost by an almost 5,000-vote margin.

The library tax would have allowed the two-branch library system to operate independently of its two financing units, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

IF THE building was sold, the \$14.5 million bond proposal could have been reduced, trustee Al Langan said.

Originally, library officials estimated a new library at \$12 million, which was increased when city officials requested that the library be decided to the two cities.

"They could not understand why we were giving this (the 12 Mile

Please turn to Page 7



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Richard Headlee (center) is shown with his secretary of 14 years, Mary Sawyer, and Jeff Kulesus, Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. public relations director. Headlee is chairman of the Farmington Hills company.

Headlee heroes CEO looks past material things

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Dick Headlee will always remember Lenny Scutnick.

"I watched that on TV and I got goose pimples," said Headlee, recalling Scutnick's daring rescue of a passenger from the icy Potomac River in early 1987 when an Air Florida jet crashed into Washington's 14th Street bridge.

There's another man Headlee will always remember, though he knows very little about him. He was a 21-year-old unidentified man who took the time to fill out a donor card.

"We never knew this young man. He was never a big shot in the press. But he enhanced the life of Dick

people

Headlee. He affected a minimum of eight job "lives," said Headlee, president and CEO of Farmington Hills-based Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America.

To Headlee, both men are among the unsung heroes of our time. Neither was rich nor famous. But to Headlee, their valor and service to others is what life is all about.

Thanks to the unidentified man with a donor card, the 59-year-old Headlee has a 24-year-old heart. In

the summer of 1987, Headlee underwent a heart transplant, necessary because of progressive cardiomyopathy, possibly the result of a childhood virus that weakened the muscle.

"I REALLY feel better about myself, not when I win in business or a political situation — though that brings a temporary thrill — but when I know I'm needed by others," the Farmington Hills resident said.

His heart surgery and subsequent recovery period — including an unexpected gallbladder operation — didn't take the wind out of Headlee's sails. His second chance at life, and

Please turn to Page 4

Quick, Easy
Winner Dinner Recipes
Every Monday
Inside TASTE!