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requires a chapel, 1D



Swimmers
lauded, 1C

Elementary attendance
options unveiled, 6A

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AFTER perusing Farmington's new employee personnel manual last Monday, JoAnne McShane joked to fellow city council members, "I think I'll apply for a job with the city of Farmington. It has very good benefits."
To which city manager Bob Deadman responded in jest, "Well, we do have an anti-nepotism clause!"

DOWN the street. The Downtown Development Authority has moved into the new Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce office at 3411 Grand River, just west of Farmington Road, across from the Masonic Temple, in downtown Farmington.
Call DDA executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer at 473-7276.

Memory lane

25 years ago:
At least 400 pupils could be put on half-day sessions next fall if the new Lakeshore Elementary School is not completed on time, said G.V. Harrison, Farmington school superintendent.
More heated debate erupted at the Farmington City Council meeting over construction of a small parking lot off Mayfield, just south of Grand River, by the Bill Root Chevrolet car dealership.
— Farmington Enterprise, Dec. 10, 1964

This week

SATURDAY morning is a basket of joy delivery time for the Farmington Area Goodfellows, who provide food, clothing, toys and everyday items for needy families and senior citizens each holiday season.

what's inside

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Quick, Easy
Winner Dinner Recipes
Every Monday
Inside TASTE!



Hills cops plan holiday liquor sting

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Owners, managers and employees of liquor-licensed restaurants and bars in Farmington Hills can consider themselves forewarned.

In what will be the sixth undercover crackdown since 1986, Farmington Hills police will check licensed establishments sometime before Christmas for sales to youths younger than 21, Police Chief William Dwyer said.

"One of the reasons we're doing this is that as the holiday season approaches, many activities take place where individuals feel alcohol must be used," Dwyer said. "During the holiday season, we find an increase in alcohol-related accidents."
Any stores that sell hard liquor or beer and

wine over-the-counter that have been cited by police two or more times in the last two years also will be targeted, Dwyer said.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission is required to suspend or revoke liquor licenses for licensees who have chafed up three violations in 24 months.

The planned undercover sweep is part of the department's continuing efforts to curtail teen drinking and sales to minors.

DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS plan to offer training sessions for licensees and employees sometime in February to explain what can be done to follow state and local liquor laws. The sessions are part of the city's Operation/Cooperation, a joint effort — involving liquor licensees, police, the city and schools — to step up

the fight against underage drinking.
"The only way we are going to accomplish the goal in eliminating the sale of alcohol to minors is through a cooperative effort," Mayor Terry Sever said in November. "We all need to believe that it is a problem we should be concerned about in order to do something cooperatively."

The planned undercover sweep will again involve the use of an underage cadet who will attempt to buy liquor or beer and wine from establishments. "There will be no attempt to make the cadet look older than he or she really is," Dwyer said.

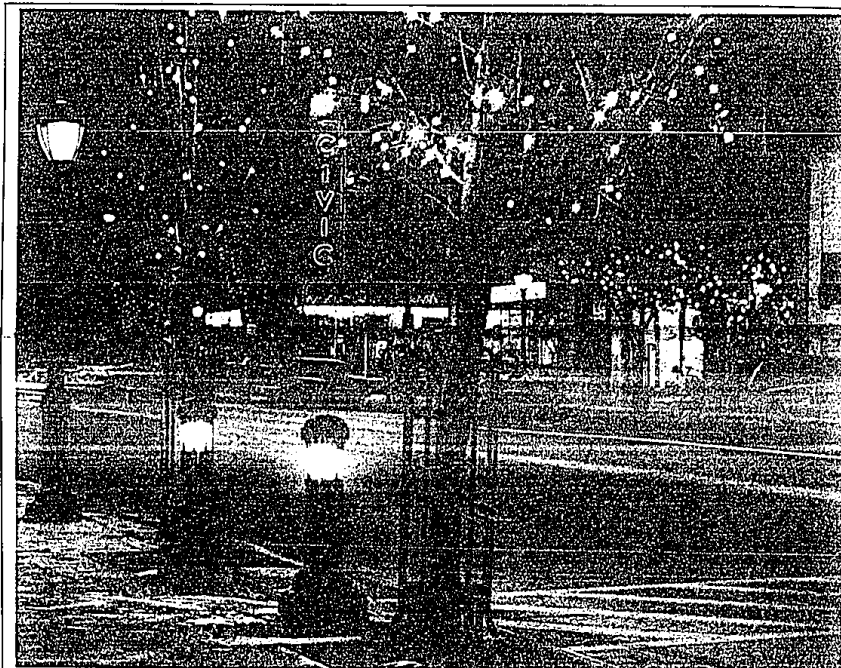
Two major 1986 crackdowns irked many bar and restaurant owners, who took exception to the use of underage cadets, whom many thought looked much older than they were.

Employees should be aware they are subject to penalty as is a licensee if liquor is sold to a minor. Anyone selling liquor must be 18 years of age, according to state law.

AS IN prior crackdowns, violators will be reported to the MLCC for violation of state liquor laws. The MLCC has authority to levy stiff penalties as well as suspend or revoke liquor licenses.

Violators also will be cited under city ordinance, which prohibits the sale of liquor to minors. City ordinance violation is a simple misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine upon conviction.

Since the department's first 1986 crackdown, 201 licensees have been checked and 197 violations have been issued.



RANDY BOPST/staff photographer

Awash with color

Downtown Farmington's aglow with color after nightfall, thanks to the pedestrian lights, tree lights and colorfully lighted storefronts in the central business district. This view looks west from the south side of Grand River, east of Farmington

Road. The array of color is a cooperative effort of the Downtown Development Authority, downtown merchants and the city.

Traffic seen choking roads in '90s

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Growing traffic will continue to choke off roads in Oakland County and the state unless a better job is done responding to transportation needs, said Michigan Department of Transportation director James Pitz on Friday.

But that primarily means maintaining already-built roads first, Pitz stressed.

"We need to take the dollars we have and make sure we stay current, that we don't fall behind. We cannot let our existing roads and bridges deter-

iorate further," Pitz said.

"Once that's in hand, we believe the priority for the '90s — that was not the priority for the '80s — is that we have got to respond to the traffic growth," said Pitz, who was in Southfield to honor 22 local business who participated this year in MDOT's "Adopt-a-Freeway" pilot beautification program.

According to Pitz, there was a 30 percent growth in traffic on Michigan's roads during the '80s, but only a 1 percent increase in new roads.

PITZ ALSO said that municipalities in heavily traveled Oakland County need to step up and

more actively pursue ways to generate revenue for roads; new federal dollars are forecast for roads; and the projected Haggerty Road connector project will not be antiquated by the time it is completed.

To make sure that the state's roads can adequately handle traffic in the '90s, Pitz said there are "all kinds of system improvements" possible, such as expanding or widening existing freeways or building new interchanges.

With Thursday's anticipated opening of the fi-

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Looking ahead

Funds sought for
Year 2000 reports

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

The future looks great. But the present is watching its dollars.

That's why the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation will be asked to pay for the estimated \$45,000 publication of the Year 2000 reports.

A specific distribution plan has not yet been devised for the futuristic reports. "This seems like a very appropriate thing for the EDC to fund," councilman Jonathan Grant said.

City Manager William Costick agreed to go back to the EDC and request total financing for the reports' publication.

The council also requested that a distribution plan be developed and presented to both the city council and the EDC. The EDC has already agreed to finance \$10,000 of the total estimated publication costs.

Surprised by the publishing price tag, the city council refused to allocate \$38,000 for 20,000 copies of a 28-page "user friendly," color-illustrated summary for city residents and about \$3,000 for 300-500 copies of a larger, narrative "working" document useful for city administrators and planners.

"THIS IS a document to what the public's appetite," said Year 2000 consultant Doris Swedel, about the 28-page "expanded newsletter," designed for the public.

The reports are the result of the yearlong effort of about 150 volunteers who have been studying, researching and dreaming about what the future holds for Farmington Hills. The 28-page brochure gives an easy-reading summary of the recommendations made by six task forces studying specific areas, such as financial and economic vitality and leisure and culture.

The city council criticized the lack of a distribution plan for the 28-page report. The Year 2000 steering committee considered a mass mailing of the report to about 28,000 households. But the EDC opposed the idea. EDC members preferred that residents request a copy by using a coupon.

"I'm a little hesitant to approve publication expenses until there's a definitive distribution plan. I think you're putting the cart before the horse," councilman Lawrence Lichtman said.

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Travel doesn't lessen her fondness for home

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Even though travel plays an important role in her life, Wendy Strip Sittsamer there's no place like home.

"I'm staying here forever," said the Ohio native, now a divorced Farmington Hills resident. "But on certain football Saturdays, my blood still flows scarlet and gray."

A chief promoter of downtown Farmington, she is executive director of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority. In that

people

post since 1986, she has earned the respect of merchants, government and community leaders and the contractors with whom she coordinates construction work.

Strip Sittsamer carries an air of calm au-

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DDA executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer in front of Farmington City

Walk and Open House Dec. 2.