

He sings the blues  
without Howlin' 3B



Basketball  
Wrap 1B

Food Bank struggles  
to feed the needy 3A



# Farmington Observer

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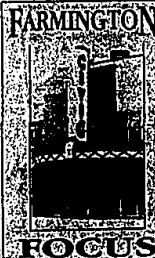
Monday, December 23, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

28 Pages

Fifty Cents

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**S**OLID WASTE collection days will change in Farmington and Farmington Hills for the holidays. Solid waste and recyclables in both cities will not be picked up on Christmas Day (Wednesday, Dec. 23) and New Year's Day (Wednesday, Jan. 1). Because both holidays fall on Wednesday, collection will take place on Thursday. Thursday's collection will take place on Friday and Friday's refuse and recyclables will be picked up on Saturday. After the holidays, collection days will return to the normal schedule.

**F**ARMINGTON HILLS native Mike Gilmore makes his final tournament appearance at 22. The senior defenseman has his fifth season with MSU after redshirting his freshman year as a walk-on. Gilmore boasted a 10-1 record with a 2.84 goals against average in his sophomore season. Last year, he finished as the No. 2 ranked goaltender in the nation. Gilmore's success brought him to the attention of the U.S. Olympic hockey officials who invited him to participate in the Olympic trials last summer. Gilmore has already earned an undergraduate degree in engineering arts and is now enrolled in masters of business administration courses with an emphasis in materials and logistics management.

Tickets for the two-day tournament are available at the Joe Louis and Cobo Arena Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets, including Hudson's and Harmony House. Tickets also will be available on college campuses at athletic department ticket offices. Tickets are priced at \$18, \$12.50 and \$10 per day.

The game schedule is as follows:  
• 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27 — Michigan versus Harvard.  
• 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27 — MSU versus Michigan Technological University.  
• 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 28 — Consolation game.  
• 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 28 — Championship game.

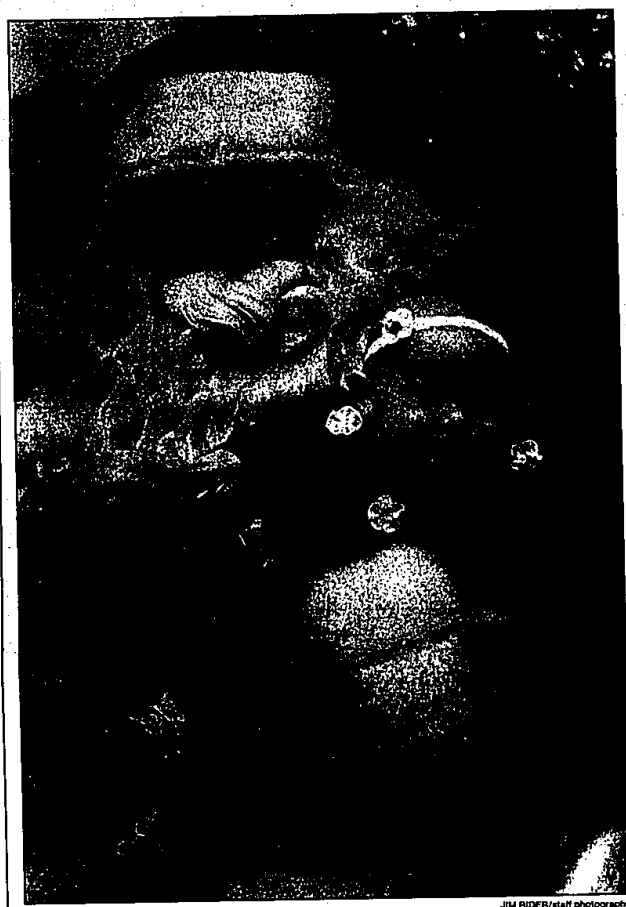
**M**EMORY LANE — From the Dec. 27, 1991 Farmington Enterprise:

Two photographs show signs of the record snowfall that blanketed the Farmington area. One of the photos shows cars creeping along Grand River as Christmas shoppers wade through the mounds of fresh snow.

A second photo shows the peacefulness of a new snowfall on North Farmington Road where the snow was clinging to trees, rooftops and cars.

Farmington Township Clerk Harry McCracken announced that official codification had been received from Washington listing rent controls in the area as of Dec. 11, 1991.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



JIM RIDER/staff photographer

With a smile for all, Santa (Claude Wyer, 82) enjoys hearing the Christmas wishes of children at Troy's Saks store. Enjoying her first

## Santa grew into the job

By Jay M. Grossman  
staff writer

Santa admits he doesn't get around like he used to. The jolly old fellow turned 82 this year. For the last 17 years he's been busy taking orders at Saks in the Somerset Collection in Troy.

"Only three more years and I'll get my diamond pin," joked St. Nick. This is a tale of Santa Claus and the two families who adopted him. It's a story about Christmas cheer, good memories, and the warmth of holiday sharing.

For most of the year, he goes by the name Claude Wyer. He lives in Farmington Hills and spends his days with family and friends.

But come December, he's Santa Claus. "Saks called the Salvation Army one day and was looking for someone who didn't drink or smoke," he said.

"I guess the last fellow had a bad back."

With a smile and a twinkle in his eye, Santa took the

Christmas trip to Santa is Elaine Smith, 4 months.

job. The rest is holiday history. "I was scared skinny at first, but then I kind of grew into it," Santa said. "The thing I remember most about the first year is the store manager coming up to me and giving me a little pep talk before he sent me out there."

"He told me to just be myself . . . and that's what I did." Enter the Abela family of Rochester Hills, and the Mulhern family of Troy. The two families first visited Santa in 1974, and have been seeing him every year since.

"It's a tradition," said Mary Ellen Abela. "He's very special," added Chris Mulhern, "he's adorable."

**SANTA GROUPIES?** Perhaps. Not only do the two families visit him every year, but they bring him family portraits and presents.

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## Schools map building plan for the future

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A 10-year master plan for capital projects is being developed to give Farmington school officials a map for the future.

Farmington school board members have agreed to work with district architects and planners to map out major renovations, maintenance projects and needed expansions, projecting as far as possible into the future.

"A lot of districts have changed boundaries and used portables. Those are merely Band-Aids," explained Paul DeMang, vice president of McCarthy & Smith/E & V. "They do not constitute good future planning."

To kick off the master plan process, the board approved immediate plans for renovations at Eagle Elementary School and Power Middle School, adding new cabinets in seven elementary schools, and updating electrical service at North Farmington High School. The projects would begin this year.

For these projects, the district will use \$3.1 million from the 1991-92 Building and Site Fund and \$1 million from the Capital Fund. Project suggestions came from a district-wide facilities task force study report completed in September of 1990.

Similar projects would be mapped out in the 10-year plan, but officials don't yet know how such projects would be funded. Options include earmarking funds from regular operation millage, as they were this year, or approaching the voters for bond issues, they said.

At least one parent, Joe Svoke, agreed with the master plan concept.

"The master plan to me, is just that," he said. "It can be reviewed and revised."

**PROJECTS APPROVED** for this year carry the estimated budgets of:

• Eagle Elementary — \$950,000. The project at the north side school would include new lighting and electric, new fire alarm and emergency lighting, cabinets, barrier-free renovations, a mechanical upgrade, flooring, new windows and asbestos abatement.

• Elementary school cabinets — \$875,500. This would add cabinets at Beechview, Forest, Highmeadow, Kenbrook, Longacre, William Grace and Wooddale elementary schools.

• North Farmington — \$1.4 million. The project would include updating electrical services, fire alarms, and emergency lighting. Integrated technology and an elevator would also be added. The federal government required the elevator following a district audit of handicapped accessibility.

• Power Middle School — remaining balance would be used to start renovations and expansion at the south side middle school. Budget estimates for an entire project range from \$1.93 million to \$3.6 million.

**THE SCHOOL** board also considered renovations to Flanders and Larkshire elementary schools, Alameda, Early Childhood Center, and the Farmington Training Center; an expansion of the High-

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## Sales to minors down in latest liquor sting

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Three restaurants were ticketed Dec. 13 when Farmington Hills police executed their 18th undercover liquor sting since 1985 in an attempt to discourage the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors.

The Clarion Hotel, 31525 12 Mile; Sageo's of Farmington, 25938 Middlebelt; and Hunan Palace, 38259 10 Mile, were ticketed.

The three locations ticketed were among 44 different establishments that were visited by a 19-year-old male Hills police cadet between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 13.

The cadet was accompanied by two plainclothes Hills police officers.

"Obviously, there's been some improvement in the restaurant and bars," said police Chief William Dwyer. "This is the least amount of violations."

Last year, seven on-premise sites were ticketed, including the Clarion Hotel. This is the third violation for

*'Obviously, there's been some improvement in the restaurant and bars. This is the least amount of violations.'*

— William Dwyer  
Hills police chief

both the Clarion and Hunan Palace, according to information supplied by Dwyer's office.

In December of 1989, the Clarion received its first ticket for selling liquor to a minor and was fined \$200. Disposition of the 1990 ticket is still pending.

The Hunan Palace received its first ticket in November of 1988 and was fined \$200. In December of 1989, the owner was ticketed again and fined \$500.

Hills police issued two tickets at

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### what's inside

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## 'Million dollar' booze licenses open new avenues to dineries

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

When the new Chili's Bar & Grill opens later next year on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, diners may order a tangy margarita to accompany their spicy Mexican-style fare.

The drink will be made possible by a liquor license known as the million-dollar resort license, extended by the Michigan Liquor License Commission to developments costing \$1 million or more. The license costs Chili's \$600, plus an additional \$90 that permits serving drinks on Sunday.

Had Chili's elected to locate some five miles west, in the small, settled community of Birmingham where city fathers have banned resort licenses, that margarita would cost substantially more.

The only liquor license recently for sale in Birmingham was priced at a whopping \$30,000 by Bill Roberts, owner of Richard and Reiss on Pierce Street and the Beverly Hills Grill.

Roberts' Birmingham license is a "quota" liquor license, issued since 1945 by the state licensing commission on the basis of population within an individual community. Birmingham, which has only one liquor by the glass since 1972, has few vacant lots and has not had the population increase of its neighboring communities.

Unlike million-dollar resort licenses which can not be transferred to new locations, quota licenses may be sold to new owners for use elsewhere within a municipality, a "valued commodity."

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