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IN THE PAPER TODAY

New attitude: Local barkeeps are saying that customers are more cautious about driving after drinking. With New Year's Eve almost at hand, MADD plans to help revelers get home safely. /4A

Holiday trim: A local beauty salon sent people to provide "dos" for residents of the Sarah Fisher Center. /3A

COUNTRY NEWS

Political impasse: The state director of mental health contends the Lafayette Clinic hasn't produced any significant research in years. The clinic's last executive director says, "Haveman doesn't know what research is." /5A

First Night/Birmingham: New attractions this year include an emphasis on food and refreshments and the addition of a skating show at the Birmingham Ice Arena. /7A

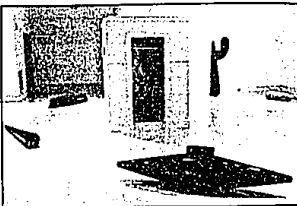
SPORTS

Year in review: A look back at the top 10 sports stories in Observerland, the triumphs and tragedies, top performances and turnarounds. /1B

BUSINESS

Customer focus: When a company designs a 22,000-square-foot display set for the auto show, it has to walk a fine line between highlighting the set and highlighting the cars. /7B

CREATIVE LIVING



Room with viewpoint: An installation at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum represents an arrangement of large objects surrounding a small room. The work, by the head of Cranbrook's sculpture department, comments on exploitation. /1D

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Deadman wraps up city service

Robert Deadman, Farmington's respected city manager, retires Monday after 20 years at that job and 35 with the city. Deadman draws rave reviews from those who've known him over his long career.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

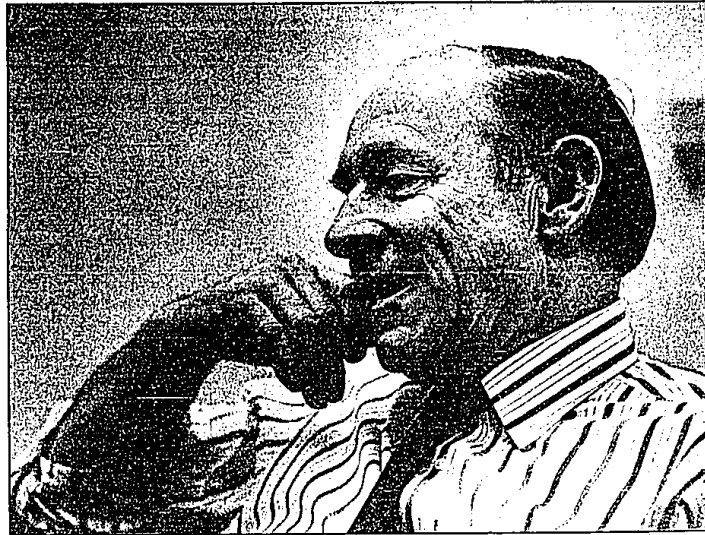


Less than perfect eyesight brought Robert Deadman to Farmington, but he has a crystal-clear vision of how a city manager does his job.

On Jan. 4, the longtime city manager retires from public service in a community that accepted him in 1957 as a public safety officer — a job Deadman couldn't get with the Detroit Police Department at the time because he didn't have the required 20/20 vision.

Deadman exits as city manager with 20 years worth of accomplishments. Working harmoniously with elected officials, roads paved and widened, sewer system improvements and a cooperative relationship forged with Farmington Hills are the most notable.

"I always felt very comfortable here," said Deadman, 57. "I wanted to live in Farmington. I didn't feel the necessity to move on."



BILL IHESLUS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Deadman: "I always felt very comfortable here. I wanted to live in Farmington. I didn't feel the necessity to move on."

See RETIRING, 2A

MetroVision to bump cable rates

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington and Farmington Hills will share the fate of other area communities when cable TV subscribers see their monthly rates increase.

MetroVision, which serves Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Redford and Novi, announced that it will increase its basic cable rate by \$1.50 Feb. 1. The company is sending out letters to subscribers explaining the increase.

Tom Bjorklund, MetroVision's vice president and regional manager, said the rate hike is due to increased costs from the company's program suppliers.

"They are raising their rates," he said. "Just like most businesses, we have to operate within a budget."

Bjorklund defended the increase as

one that leaves MetroVision customers paying lower rates than most in the Detroit area. William Costick, Farmington Hills city manager and a member of the city's cable commission, agreed that the rate increase was probably reasonable. But Costick said the company's announcement to the cable commission came as an embarrassing surprise.

"As a member of the cable commission, I was upset about the timing of their announcement," Costick said. "We sat through a two-hour meeting with them on the 15th (of December) and nothing was said about an increase. They never mentioned an increase so I thought there wouldn't be one. Then I receive a letter dated Dec. 22 about it."

Bjorklund said the increase from

the rate of \$18.45 for basic cable service to \$19.95 was not a sure thing at the time MetroVision met with Farmington Hills' cable commission on Dec. 15.

"If we'd have known what the increase was, we'd have told them," Bjorklund said.

MetroVision has increased its rates annually since 1985 when the industry was deregulated. But the increases have drawn criticism recently. With federal regulations looming, critics have charged cable companies with trying to jack up rates before those regulations can be enacted.

"This increase is a response to increased costs, not to the proposed law," Bjorklund said. "We've had this type of increase for the past several years."

Most area cable companies will increase their rates effective Jan. 1, 1993. At \$19.95 for basic service, MetroVision remains on the low side of rates in the area.

Costick said MetroVision's increases have been reasonable in the past and the company has usually worked well with the commission.

While MetroVision's increase is not an attempt to beat rate regulations, the law, which is scheduled to go into effect April 1, would charge cable companies for network programming, while non-subscribers would not pay that cost, Bjorklund said.

"We don't know how all this is going to play out," he said. "It's being challenged in court. It's clearly anti-consumer."

See VOTE, 4A

School tax vote registration ends Monday

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Monday is the last day to register to vote in the Feb. 2 Farmington Schools election, a three-for-one tax renewal.

The one-shot ballot proposal asks voters to renew: 4.3155 mills that expired in 1992; 4.3155 mills that expire in 1993 and 4.6254 mills that expire in 1994. The rates reflect the reduction incurred through the Headlee Amendment in past years.

If passed, school officials say the combined proposal will quell some uncertainty amid rumblings out of Lansing about school funding cutbacks.

"What we're really asking the voters for is stability," said Assistant Superintendent for finance Bruce Barrett.

"They say it's a renewal, but it's a tax increase," said Richard DeVries, who is treasurer of Citizens for Quality Schools, "by allowing the schools

to supersede the effects of the Headlee Amendment three years in a row."

The debate over that will ensue in the coming weeks.

One election to cover three successive renewals also saves the district money. An election costs the schools an estimated \$10,000, according to Barrett. Workers hired to operate precincts constitutes a majority of the cost.

At least \$20,000 will be saved by

the consolidation, not to mention the time and effort involved in such an election.

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills also save through the combining of the tax renewal elections.

Hills deputy city clerk Sue Rose said the only added cost to the city for a school election is labor to set up voting machines and tabulate results

Judge candidates spent their own money

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

In the final round of the 47th District Court battle, both candidates waged high personal financial stakes.

Marla Parker, the victor, refinanced her home and borrowed

\$85,666 in loans and from savings accounts.

Defeated attorney John R. (Jack) McDonald spent \$80,000 of his own money as the race became hotly contested following the primary.

Final election totals reveal that Parker spent \$134,980 and McDonald spent \$111,695.

"It's hard on the ego and financially," McDonald said. "I wish I would have won."

Originally, McDonald said he thought a judicial race was based largely on presenting qualifications to the voters. But by mid-campaign, McDonald "realized that this is getting to be big time."

"I had some money, so I said, 'What the heck,'" McDonald said. "Thank God I had it to spend." Traditionally, judicial races didn't require spending a lot of money, he said.

See CANDIDATES, 2A

A 'Hoffa' extra

If you look closely, you can see Farmington Hills actor Louie Nolan in the movie "Hoffa," which opened at area theaters recently.

You'll have to look very closely, because Nolan has a non-speaking part as a member of the senate committee that investigated the late labor leader. But Nolan, a 57-year-old business forms salesman in his "day job," enjoyed his bit part under the direction of Danny DeVito. He also had a chance to chat with the film's star, Jack Nicholson.

"He (DeVito) came up to us in a group and told us how to react, that sort of thing," he said. "It was a good experience to see how these major actors approach their craft."

About 20 friends joined Nolan and his wife for a "premier party" at the United Artist Theater West

FARMINGTON FOCUS

River on Grand River in Farmington Hills Monday.

Nolan, who has also appeared as a judge on an episode of the TV series "Unsolved Mysteries," does work on industrial films, some voice-overs and in the print media. Many extras who work with various agencies in the Detroit area appeared in the film, he said.

"I think that when they sell the video, sales in this area will be pretty good," he quipped.

Helping hands

About 200 needy Farmington-area children en-

joyed Christmas a little more this year thanks to the Farmington Area Community Women.

"We raise money and give it back to the community," said Michele Paul, who chaired the club's Christmas Exchange Program.

Tags bearing names of needy children were placed on six Christmas trees in the community — Metro Bank branches, First Federal of Michigan and the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls — and interested residents picked a name. Gifts were bought and wrapped and placed under the trees.

Club members then collected the gifts and distributed them to Head Start or Social Services.

Anyone needing more information on Farmington-Area Community Women and its activities should call 661-4765.