Schools' secretary 'warm, 'caring'

Earleen Kisner's chaffel and warm cheffel and warm holo was a telephane greeting that made visitors feel wilcomed and friends smile at Farmington Public Schools

Farmington Public Schools.

Her voice of reason and understanding could also southe the most frazzled administrator or school board trustee with whom she worked in the superintendent's office.

Mrs. Kinner died as a result of blood clots in her lungs March 24 at Botsford Hospital. She was 53.

She had been ill for two weeks ith a bladder infection, but her condition was not believed to be life-threatening. She was rushed to the hospital after she had dif-ficulty breathing and died short-



Mrs. Earleen Kisner

ly after.
School officials and friends were expressing disbolief and shock over her death Tuesday — the same day of the district's \$110 million bond and millago renewal election.
I referred to her as the Earth Mother," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield, who worked with Kisner.

worked with Kisner during the past two years. "There were so many people she reached out to and so many people she had touched."

ple she had touched."
Mrs. Kisner started working
with the district as an office ser-retury at Power Middle School.
She transferred to the superin-tendent's office in 1989 and
served as board of education sec-retury until two years ago when
she became executive assistant
to the superintendent.
She always managed to handle

the hectic pace of a school dis-trict office gracefully, school offi-

tract office gracefully, school offi-cials said.

She was the ultimate profes-sional and, at the same time, the most caring, wonderful person you could drew work with," said Cathy Webb, trustee on the Farmington Board of Education. "We were never lacking for any-thing. She was always there for us.

thing. She was always there for us.

"She was a great hug giver. Everyone in the building depended on her hugs."

Mrs. Kisner took the position of executive assistant beyond the realm of 9 to 5.

She served as vice-president of Farmington Youth Assistance and volunteered as a staff mentor for Harrison High's SAIL program. She also appeared in three community and school productions: "Oklahoma," "Music Man' and "Danna Yankees."
"She was really into the musi-

"She was really into the musi-cals," said daughter Nikki Hynes, who describes her moth-READER

er as an excellent cook, avid antique and craft collector and, above of all, a wonderful parent.

"She would forget about her-self and take care of everyone else," Nikki said.

Mrs. Kisner grew up in and was a resident of Redford. She was a graduate of Thurston High.

Sho is survived by sons, Chris (and Kim) of Detroit and Scott (and daughter-in-law Tina) Kisner of Jacksonville, Fla.; daughter Nikki (and son-in-law Rich) Hynes of Redford; parents Earl and Corinner Partin of Redford; brother and sister in-law Kerry and Cheryl Partin of Garden City. She is also survived by one granddaughter, Ashley.

Visitation is 5-9 p.m. Thursday and noon to 9 p.m. Friday with a memorial service at 11 a.m. Sat-urday at Neely-Turowski Funer-al Home, 30200 Five Mile, Livo-

SERVICE



Doing it all: Legacy owner Hector Puente, center, chats with Jeannine and Don Gundle of Farm-ington Hills and friends Gerry and Tom Payne of Northville.

Legacy from page A1

become a restaurant, the building itself was unique for a bank, with two levels and a spacious, two-story open interior lobby (now dining) area. Not all banks have 20-foot tall windows, requiring custom 24-foot drapes. When I saw this place, it all came together for me, said Puente, 37, who has studied interior design as well as art history and culinary arts. I knew exactly what it could be. Puente and Frederick had lots of family help in the genesis of The Legacy. His family has owned the Mexican Garden restaurant in Southgate for 17 years. His father, Hector Sr., is involved in The Legacy, His brother-in-law did the plumbing. Cousins did the drywall and painting. Meanwhile, Puente and Fred-

Cousins did the drywall and painting.
Meanwhile, Puente and Frederick were designing the interior and, along with chef Paul Schmidt, the menu.
We tried to design something away from the franchise concept, Puente says. And we're moderately priced, because I didn't want to create a place just for special events. I want people to come back and enjoy dinner, not just come once a year.
The result was unveiled when The Legacy opened Jan 17. Just

ONE YEAR OLD

over two months later, "We have a lot of great regular customers already, which I really enjoy," says Peunte, who lives in Farmington Hills.
Live jazz is featured at The Legacy on Fridays and Saturdays. Some opera and big band performances may be on tap in the future. "I like jazz," says Puente. "I like jazz," says Puente. "I like jazz," says Puente. "I like alz," says Tuente. "I like alz," says Tuente was like that anymore." The cornerstone of a restau-

make music like that anymore."
The corneratone of a restaurant is its food. The Legacy's credentials include two chefs formerly of the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn, Schmidt and Mira

menty of the ALECARTON in Dearborn, Schmidt and Mira Weeks.

The food, says Puente, is "continental presented elegantly Traditional items of seafood, meat and pasta are on the menu. Lunch enteres run \$7:516, with five of the 11 entrees under \$10.

The Legacy Dinnor Club is open for lunch on Monday, lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday and dinner enly on Saturday. At any of those times, one is likely to see Puente moving about, making sury details are tended to, asking customers if they're enjoying their meals, or just about anything else.

"I bus, I wash dishes," Puente says. "I de everything."

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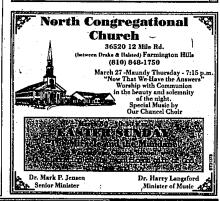


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CLARIFICATION A voting precinct map published on March 23 was incorrect. See Page A12.

Farmington Observer

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