Year in review from page A1

brought to justice for vandalizing a city golf course but were left wondering whether a Hills couple really did know their som was having a beer-keg party in thouse while they were home.

And residents were heartened by the progress a high school musician made in recovering from severe head injuries suffered in a freak accident.

Following is a chronology of 1997 news highlights:

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January: Six are charged with selling alcohol to minors in Farmington, Hills police atings. Hills drauken driving arrests increase in 1996 from 1995.

Freshman State Rep. Andrew 'Rocky' Rackweski, R-Farmington Hills, 28, succeeds Jan Dolan while Observer receptionist Rose Butler retires after 17 years at the Farmington paper and 22 years with the paper's publisher.

February: The Hills city council, in a consent agreement reached under judicial pressure, OKE 27 new homes on Power Road in an area designated as a Natural Beauty Road. Rumblings from discontented area residents will continue throughout the year.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils approve the Farmington Road Improvement Project for Eight Mile Road between Farmington Road and Slocum, while Farmington and Slocum, while Farmington as 6 percent hours for door-to-door solicitation as 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Also, burglaries in the city increase 36 percent in 1996 compared to 95, when they were the lowest in 10 years.

The Observer switches from Monday to Sunday publication—actually, a return to an old practice.

March: The school district's \$110 million bond issue loses by less than 200 votes. Among the reasons: Residents didn't know the state mandates a seven-year repay of bonds for computers and technology and they thought the annual \$114 million operating budget should cover the \$92 million in building improvements.

Hillside Elementary School fourth grade teacher Dodie Harris is the district's second consecutive Oakland County teacher of the year and Sister Regina Doelker of Mercy High School is named principal of the year by Catholic secondary school administrators.

April: Area youths who allegedly participated in a beer party are suspected of causing \$50,000 in damages to buildings, vehicles and the grounds at San Marino Golf Course in Farmington Hills. Nine are charged.

Farmington City Public Safety Commander Charles Lee, who oversaw the Neighborhood Watch since its inception and was Farmington Hills council approves the site plan for a cellular tower in the Orchard Lakel-595 area and Gale Research, a Detroit- based reference publishing company, announces it will move its 600 employees to the Hills in 1998.

Meanwhile, residents try to adjust to a new area code - 248 – which replaces 810 in most of Oakland County.

May: Conspiracy charges are dropped against the first five teenagers arrested in the San Marino golf course destruction, but malicious destruction and illegal entry for vandalism charges remain.

The school board, looking to a September vote, trims its request to \$95 million and gives the voters two proposals to vate on: one for \$74 million in renovations, the other for \$251 million. It looks to its budget for funding new computers and software.

budget for funding new computers and software. The Hills council awards a \$1.3 million contract for a citywid computer system to an Okemos firm after a review shows the selection process has been fair. A developer unveils plans for a 24-hour Super Kmart and 172-unit single-family condominium development on 14 Mile between Orchard Lake and Northwestern Highway.

Orchard Lake and Northwestern Highway.

June: Rain, wind and chill fail to dampen the enthusiasm of hun-dreds of patrons and volunteers who raise more \$200,000 for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Cen-

ter.

As merchandise jumps off sporting goods shelves, City and Hills residents alike decorate their cars, houses and themselves to celebrate the Detroit Red Wings' winning hockey's Stanley Cup after 42 years.

years.

Incumbent Bobbic Feldman and Hills resident Frank Reid win election to the school board. The district is thrilled to hear the state Supreme Court uphold the Headlec Amendment, meaning Michigan owes districts money after years of not funding special education and special education transportation, which the law mandated.



Heads up: Farmington met Harrison in the district soccer tourney in Novem-ber where Randy Sage, left, and Chris Koziara battled for the ball. The Falcons won the game 4-1.

battled for the ball. The Falcons won the game 4-1. Hills city council makes the Commission on Children, Youth and Families a joint venture with City of Farmington.

Businesses along Eight Mile between Farmington and Halsted watch as business falls off due to Oakland County's widening of Eight Mile Road to five lanes.

July: The first five teens in the guilty in June, are sentenced to three years probation and ordered to pay court costs and restitution.

The Hills city council approves a Planned Unit Development (PUD), opening further discussion between itself and the developer of the proposed Super Knmich and the proposal is further cut from \$95 million to \$93.1 million due to money being made available in the district's operating budget, and the Downtown Farmington Center's \$100,000 facelit is under way.

Caach Larry Baker resigns after 22 years as the Mercy High School basketball coach to spend more time with his family.

Longtime local institution Maple Drugs, located in Drakeshire Plaza, becomes part of the Rite Aid chain.



Drugs, located in Drakeshire
Plaza, becomes part of the Rile Aid
chain.

Five more male teen-agers are
charged in the San Marino Golf
Course vandalism. Three are from
Farmington Hills, one from Farmington Itilis, one from Farmington Hills, one from Farmington one from Brighton.

August: The Farmington Public
Schools' share will be almost \$9.5
million in the Durant case involving it and 83 other districts
against the state over unpaid special education funding.

West Bay Exploration Co. of Traverse City gets state permits for
angle-drilling under Internate 275
for fossil fuels.

September: Fire Chief Richard
Marinucci is elected president of
the International Association of
Fire Chiefs.

Dr. Jack
Kevorkian is
linked to three
suicides in
Farmington
gets the second Borders Books
Outtes Store in the nation. It's
located on Grand River cast of
Farmington Road.

School district voters pass both
proposals in the \$93.1 million bond
insue by a margin of 1,951 votes.
The voter turnout of 9,404 in 15
percent of those registered.

The Hills city council and
Phoenix Land Development enter
a consent judgment after Phoenix
Association reach agreement on
the developer's proposed 32-lot
Hills, regement on
the developer's proposed 32-lot
Hills, regement on
the developer's proposed 32-lot and the Woodcreek Homeowners Association reach agreement on the developer's proposed 32-lot Hickory Oaks project. The develop-er agrees to build on larger lots, incorporating more open space so the new development mirrors the character of adjoining subdivi-

character of adjoining subdivisions.

Meliasa Garr, a Farmington High School student and band member injured July 23 when a tree limb fell on her head at the Farmington Glen Aquatic Center, is beginning to come out of the coma she's been in, communicating by sign language and writing. The voter-approved school bond tax increase of 1.64 mills is reduced to 1.26 mills due to a Proposal A rollback.

October: The second group of five teens charged in the San Marinov and aliam are given either probation or bost camp and are also expected to make restitution to the course.

course.
Melissa Garr is now talking

A consent-decree vote by Farmington Hills ends two years of

court wrangling between Power Road residents and the developer of the proposed 27-homes Oakwood Hills development.

Malan Realty, the developer of the proposed Super Kmart and condominiums project, says it will need financing either from a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) or a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) plan to buy land for the housing development.

Novembers All three Hills city

Finneling (TIF) plan to buy land for the housing development.

November: All three Hills city council incumbents – Cheryl Oliverio, Jerry Ellis and Jon Grant – are elected to four-year terms, as are Jim Mitchell, Mary Bush and Arnold Campbell, their counterparts on the Farmington city council. And Aldo Vagnozzi, the first Hills mayor elected by popular vote, becomes the first to be relected the same way. It will be his final two-year term.

Hills voters also choose, by a huge 4,130-vate margin, to extend the 0.5-mill levy for parks and recreation to the year 2009.

Luigis Trattoria, a downtown Farmington restaurant, gets the first of four new Class C liquor licenses. Three other Farmington restaurants are in the running for the remainder of the 50 licenses offered statewide.

The Farmington Hills Police Department is named No. 1 in the

nation in community policing for cities 25,000-75,00 by the Nation-la League of Cities.

FAST-TRAC, the computerized traffic-control system installed along Orchard Lake Road, is said to have cut travel time by anywhere from 6.5 percent to 31.8 percent.

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The Farmington Harrison High School football team goes undefeated and wins the state Class A football championahip, the eighth in the school's history and all of them coming under coach John Herrington. He's named coach of the year by a Detroit newspaper and the Detroit Lions and is inducted into the Michigan high school football coaches' hall of fame.

December: Cattlemen's Mon

December: Cattleman's Mar-ket in Farmington closes one year after it is cited as the source of a fatal outbreak of Legionnaires

The Hills police department ends the year as it began it: with a sting on 54 bars and restaurants that nabs nine for selling alcohol

that has line for sening account to minors.

The Hills city council denies a drilling permit to West Bay Exploration for two oil and gas wells in the Haggerty-Nine Mile area, citing fears the drilling would release the toxin hydrogen sulfide.



Stanley Everyone was cup crazy after the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup Cham pionship Fortunately for some YMCA sum

campers, Wings assis-tant coach, Dave Lewis, a Farmington resi-dent,

dent, brought the cup by one day for the kids to see and touch.

after Christmas now in progress

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