

# History

## Let's take a look back at what the community was up to in '99

BY RICHARD PEARL  
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Now that 2000 has arrived, here's a final month-by-month review of good ol' No. 99 - 1999, that is - which brought us the New Year and now has chugged off into history:

### January

As 1999 began, Farmington and Farmington Hills residents joined the rest of metro Detroit in digging out of the biggest snowstorm in 20 years.

The 14 inches curtailed travel, gave Farmington Public Schools students an extra day of winter break, kept city, county and state snowplows busy clearing streets and parking lots and caused widespread roof damage from resulting ice dams. The snow kept falling into February.

Farmington Public Safety Officer Jim Madigan responded to an emergency call and saved the life of a 28-day-old girl. Madigan saved Courtney Pagnello, after performing mouth-to-mouth breathing on the baby.

Door-to-door salespeople sought customers for new natural-gas companies borne of statewide utility deregulation, while angry cable subscribers called for an end to the Time



**Investigation:** Hills police officers investigate the death of Julie Yasa from Paris, who was found dead in a field on Nine Mile. Yasa arrived in the United States after she developed a relationship with a Farmington Hills man over the Internet.

Warner monopoly.  
Hills Councilwoman Nancy

Bates became the first to declare  
as mayoral candidate while the

current mayor, Aldo Vagnozzi,  
and wife Luis celebrated 50

years of marriage.

Former Hills councilman Terry Sever joined veteran David Moffitt on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Michael Bouchard succeeded the late John F. Nichols as sheriff.

February  
The Hills City Council gave City Manager Steve Brock, who succeeded Dan Hobbs in 1998, a three-year contract.

Crowley's Department Store, the Hills' Kendallwood Shopping Center anchor for 30 years, began liquidation sales. Business and residential neighbors bemoaned losing it.

The Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce incorporated the nonprofit Farmington Founders Festival Board to oversee administration of the midsummer gala. The board hired Watts-Up Inc. as organizer/promoter.

The Farmington Observer won two national first-place awards in the Suburban Newspapers of America 1998 Editorial Contest: Best Coverage of Aging Issues/ Senior Citizen Lifestyles (Community Life Editor Mary Rodriguez) and Best Coverage of Local School District Issues (reporter Tim Smith).

In sports, the North Farming-

**We will continue our review of 1999 in Sunday's Observer**

ton Raiders boys basketball team defeated Farmington, 45-35, for a 10-1 record and a share of the Western Lakes Activities Association championship with Walled Lake Western. Farmington High's pom-pom squad won the Mid-American State championship.

March  
The Hills got unwanted international attention when a 28-year-old French woman with a broken heart was found dead March 3 in the woods near Nine Mile Road. Hills police blamed over-the-counter sleeping pills and hypothermia for the death of Julie Yasa, who they said had left her Paris home after a six-month Internet romance with a 24-year-old Hills man, only to be

spurned by him after a night of sex.



Mary Rodriguez



Tim Smith

## POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire reports made during the past week in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

**Loose dog/Warrant arrest**

**In Farmington Hills:** Officers investigating the report of a loose dog in the 21000 block of Tulane on Dec. 30 learned two of the men involved had outstanding warrants from another jurisdiction. Each posted \$220 bond and were released at the scene.

**Larceny by Trick**

**In Farmington Hills:** A cashier at an Amoco station at Grandview and Halsted reported a man in his mid-20s tricked her out of \$15 on Dec. 30, by saying he'd given her a larger bill for his purchases.

According to the clerk, the man paid for cigarettes and a bottle of juice with a \$5 bill. After she'd gotten him the juice from a cooler behind the counter, he insisted he gave her \$20 and she had shorted him the change. After a brief discussion, the clerk gave the man another \$15, but when she closed her register that night, it was short by that amount.

The suspect is described as 6 feet tall, with green eyes, red hair drawn back in a pony tail

and a bushy goatee. He was wearing glasses. Assault and battery

**In Farmington Hills:**

A 12-year-old Farmington Hills boy told police he was knocked to the ground and beaten by two 17-year-olds on Thursday evening while walking home with a friend. The older boys chased him after he responded to their harassment by telling them they were drunk or high and should leave him alone.

**Breaking and entering**

**In Farmington Hills:** Owners of a home in the 28000 block of Greenmeadow returned from a shopping trip late Thursday to discover their home had been invaded by thieves. Entry was gained by prying open a garage door window then entering the house through an unlocked door inside the garage. Jewelry, personal papers, several bottles of liquor and \$6,500 in cash were taken.

Neighbors reported seeing a large, maroon vehicle pulling into the driveway while the owners were away. The couple had just moved into the house and were still unpacking, so the extent of their losses wasn't immediately known. While the house was wired with an alarm

system, it hadn't been activated. Driving Under the Influence

**In Farmington Hills:**

A 38-year-old Farmington Hills woman was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 30, after she was involved in a hit-and-run accident.

Officers responding to the hit and run at 12 Mile and Middlebelt got an identification on the car she'd been kidnapped by her boyfriend and held against her will, until he dropped her off in the area of Farmington Road and 1-696. The woman said she had been taken in the area of Six Mile and Southfield Freeway in Detroit. The 42-year-old man took her first to his home, then

drove her around town, she said. When she asked him to let her go, he assaulted her, according to police reports.

**Road rage**

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According to the report, the man was driving his 1998 Dodge pickup truck north on Orchard Lake Road when a 1998 Cadillac driven by a 61-year-old West Bloomfield man merged into the center lane as the right lane ended. The Farmington Hills

driver began tailgating. When the Cadillac slowed and stopped south of 11 Mile, it was hit by a

plow blade attached to the front of the truck.

New Year's Eve revelry

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The first New Year's Eve party complaint came into the Hills Police Department at 4:45 p.m., from the 28000 block of Wintergreen. Officers responded to more than a dozen reports of shots fired, fireworks and loud music throughout the evening.

At 6:11 a.m. Jan. 1, they stopped a drunk driver at M-5 and Farmington Road. The driver had a gun he said he was going to use to celebrate the New Year. He just never got around to it.

denied selling cigarettes and said the girls hadn't even been in the store. The girls later said the clerk had a reputation among high school students for not checking identification. He was ticketed for selling cigarettes to minors.

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