

2002 highlights include elections, crime, tragedy and triumph

This begins our annual year in review, recapping the top stories of 2002. A second installment will be included in our Thursday, Jan. 2, edition.

JANUARY

Farmington Hills city council members approved plans for a nine-hole golf course expansion at San Marino, despite opposition from residents who didn't want trees felled or additional housing built near their homes. The project includes 80 condominium units.

Farmington Community Library joined others in the area to launch the "Pay It Forward" reading program, which included on-line discussion groups and a drive to get

community members to "pay it forward" as 12-year-old Trevor McKinnon did in the book by author Catherine Ryan Hyde.

Brian Gallison, 27, was named the 2002 Farmington Hills Firefighter of the year. Just weeks after his father passed away, State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski announced he would face off against incumbent U.S. Senator Carl Levin in the November General Election.

Farmington Hills dentist Donald R. Quinn forfeited \$5,000 in bail after failing to appear in court for a preliminary hearing on a stalking charge. Quinn was accused of drugging a patient and holding her against her will in his apartment.

More than 70 people who

have promoted and supported the cause of diversity in Farmington and Farmington Hills were honored by the Multicultural Multiracial Community Council at the 2002 Rainbow Awards Breakfast.

FEBRUARY

Former Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vaguerzi announced his bid for the State House seat that would be vacated by term-limited State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski.

Hills Police boosted patrols in neighborhoods after reports of a man accosting young girls.

Dentist Donald Quinn resurfaced after missing a court appearance in January; police said he'd been on a 20-day trip to Barbados. He was arrested by U.S. Customs officers after exiting an airplane in Philadelphia.

Farmington School officials were pleasantly surprised when Gov. John Engler proposed a \$200 increase in the state's per pupil foundation grant to schools.

Hills city council members put to rest four years of intense scrutiny and public controversy when they finally signed a contract for development of the 11 Pines property at 11 Mile and Haled Roads. The project includes an expansion of San Marino golf course, housing and the capping of an abandoned landfill.

Farmington city officials created a unique commission whose members are charged with citywide beautification as well as environmental issues.

Plans to rebuild Cowley's Old Village Inn were approved by the Farmington City Council, allowing owners to raze the 30-year-old building on Grand River and construct a two-story pub/restaurant. Completing is expected in February 2003.

A car accident in Kentucky claimed the lives of four family members on their way home from a Florida vacation. Richard and Judy McKennett and their children Mike and Megan died in the crash on 1-75; the McKennetts' 17-year-old daughter Lindsey survived.



John Cowley watches crews demolish his Old Village Inn. The totally reconstructed Inn is scheduled to open in late February, just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Residents along Orchard Lake Road found their construction woes weren't over when the post office stopped delivering mail to their homes. Citing safety concerns for carriers, the U.S.P.S. required residents to pick up their mail at the local postal annex.

Hills City Council members denied a rezoning request that would have allowed Farmington Hills Manor banquet hall to expand and serve lunch to the public.

MARCH

An 81-year-old West Bloomfield woman died when she wandered onto a residential street in north Farmington, and was struck and killed by an SUV driven by an 18-year-old Farmington Hills man. The death was ruled an accident.

The first annual Turn Around Achievement Award winners were honored at a ceremony

held at Farmington Hills Manor. The awards, which recognize students who have turned their lives around, are sponsored by Farmington Public Schools, the Farmington Observer, Farmington Hills Police Department, Farmington Public Safety Department, local businesses and individuals.

Farmington School officials approved elementary school boundary plans that paired up "companion" schools to help deal with issues of crowding. Their primary goal was to have all 13 "home" schools filled first, with Alameda and Fairview Early Childhood Centers used as fall back locations.

Farmington Hills resident and Green Party activist Eric Borregard announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate, facing off against incumbent Democrat Carl Levin and Republican challenger Andrew Raczkowski.

The U.S. Postal Service

worked with residents on Orchard Lake Road to develop a plan that will help them get their mail until a sidewalk is finished to allow carriers safe access to mailboxes. They'll pick up their mail at temporary boxes on the Hills city hall campus at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

A Westland man was charged with assault after attacking a local photographer who had paid the man's wife to pose for "sensual" photos. The wife had volunteered to pose for the photos to make some extra money.

Farmington Public Schools honored kindergarten teacher Rita Jean Adams as its Elementary Teacher of the Year and Mary Leyman as its Middle School Teacher of the Year.

After John Akouri elected to run for State Representative and Hills Councilwoman Vicki

PLEASE SEE YEAR, A5



State Rep. Andrew "Rocky" Raczkowski, shown hoisting the flag at Farmington's Memorial Day ceremony and term-limited out of the state legislature, ran for the U.S. Senate, losing the race to incumbent Democrat Carl Levin.

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