

Women add to luster and power in 1977

This is the second in a series reviewing the major events in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past year. This installment includes happenings from May through July.

MAY
Farmington Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes announced that crime in the city was down 33 per cent for the first quarter of the year. Two factors given for the decrease were the cold weather and an increase in jobs throughout the metropolitan area. Crime was down 14 per cent overall in Oakland County.

Farmington Hills saw George Halverson, former Michigan State Police director, sworn in as its top cop. But not for long.
A study made by the Public Administration Service indicated that Farmington and Farmington Hills were receiving less than adequate fire protection service.

Farmington Hills residents living in the city's south end benefited from a \$438,000 community development grant which was approved by the federal government. The money was used to pay for completion of a storm sewer and provided grants for loans for improving the housing stock as well as Waldron Park.

Lou Gordon, well-known local television muckraker, died. He came to Farmington Hills Orchard Ridge campus for two years running to discuss with the Michigan Public Service Commission rate increases which he believed were unfair to the consumer. He packed in standing room audiences both times.

Farmington High School saw five trackmen qualify for the Class A state finals. They were Harold Rutla, Rick McKibbin, Kevin Hansen, Stuart Glatfelter and Chris Titus.

JUNE
Emma Makinen won a second term to the Farmington Board of Education and Richard Wallace won his first term on that same body to replace outgoing board member Gary Lichtman.

The quest for senior citizen opinion and housing needs continued as Farmington Hills mailed out a questionnaire to the city's elderly to determine what their needs and wants were.

Farmington's Nancy Leonard was awarded the Farmington Historical Society's Heritage Award for 1977. Betty Rath, of Farmington Hills, was named to the presidency of the 1500 member Greater Detroit Council of Pioneer Women.

Our Lady of Mercy High School softball team stayed alive in the Class A tournament by winning the Southfield High district tournament.
Farmington School District voters

opted for the lesser of two millage propositions approving a 1.75 mill increase for two years. The increase garnered an additional \$1 million to the school coffers. But voters did turn down a request for a 2.5 mill increase.

Barry Sherman, 25, was the youngest person ever elected to the Clarenceville Board of Education.
Two weeks after resigning from the Farmington Area Commission on the Aging, senior citizen advocate Rev. Meredith Moshauer moved to Warren and withdrew as an active member of senior citizen rights in the Farmington area. Moshauer was instrumental in bringing the senior citizen housing issue to the forefront after having led the Nardineers, a local senior church related corporation, request a zoning variance to build a senior citizen housing complex on property owned by the Nardin Park Methodist Church.

In a surprise development, Councilwoman Joan Dudley withdrew as a candidate for reelection to the Farmington Hills City Council. Also, long-time council member and previous mayor, Fred Lichtman announced he

would retire at the end of his term.
City of Farmington residents got an average 10-12 per cent reduction in their homeowners' and fire insurance premiums because of an upgrading in the city's insurance classification.

Ten Mile School was finally closed because of the district's declining enrollment. The school had opened its doors 28 years earlier.

JULY
North Farmington's Baseball Coach, Jerry Maxwell, was named as the Observer & Eccentric Coach of the Year. He turned the team around from a 7-16 record in 1976 to a 19-7 record in 1977. He was in his second year of coaching.

Heat was a topic on many persons' minds in July with temperatures loom-

ing in the 90s for days on end.
Farmington Hills got the one-two political punch of women in power as Joan Dudley was elected as mayor and Jan Dolan was elected as mayor pro-tem.

Our Lady of Mercy's Linda Barber was named as coach of the year for her baseball duties.
Farmington Hills residents learned they would be facing a learning experience at the voting booth when the city announced it would be trading in the traditional voting machine for the punch card voting system.

The City of Farmington's proposed prevention plan aimed at stemming downtown deterioration hit a few snags when 45 businessmen and residents turned out for a public hearing on a proposed downtown development

authority. Receiving the greatest protest was the proposal which would enable the authority to tax downtown residents to pay for its operation.

Dorissa Ann LaMarra was crowned Miss Farmington 1977-78 during the Farmington Founders Festival.

A study by Bills and Child Associates concluded that the Farmington Hills parks system was inadequate in serving the needs of the city's residents. The study launched a debate which has led to a plan to adopt a major parks redevelopment in the city.

Dr. Philip Adler, D.O., Botsford Hospital Medical Director, was named as president of the American Osteopathic Association.



Joan Dudley made Farmington Hills history by becoming the city's first woman mayor. Jan Dolan was elected as mayor pro-tem.



Miss Farmington 1977 was Dorissa Ann La Marra, who was crowned at the annual Farmington Founders Festival.



Holly Ann Schmidt won honors for the Farmington area by being crowned as Miss Michigan.



Nancy Leonard was honored by the Farmington Historical Society in 1977 with the Heritage Award. She follows such historical notables as Lee Peel, who wrote a history of the Farmington area and Louis Gilson who compiled a taped history.



Sister Ignatius at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills does an impressive job of teaching art to young students, who carry on her tradition.

City records sole fatality

The death of a pedestrian on Dec. 20 was the sole traffic fatality recorded in the City of Farmington in 1977.
Alfred Grifford, 27, of 24352 Buchanan, Farmington Hills, was fatally injured while walking on Grand River east of Drake, said Public Safety Officer Joe Schornack.
The accident occurred at 7:30 p.m., when a car driven by James Alfano, 30, a resident of the nearby Muirwood Apartments, hit Grifford, who was walking in the street, according to police.
"Road were slick, and the traffic on Grand River was limited to one lane,"

Schornack said. When Alfano pulled into the right lane to avoid traffic in front of him, he tried to stop to avoid Grifford but was unable to maintain control of the car of the icy pavement, Schornack related.
Both men were returning from work. Grifford was walking to the Independence Green complex after getting off a bus. There are no sidewalks paralleling Grand River where the accident occurred.
Grifford was walking against traffic, Schornack said.
No charges have been made, and the case remains under investigation.

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