



This storm victim showed how shocked Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield residents were when the March tornado struck the



North Farmington's Tom Tomkow established a state record on the still rings for his contributions to 1976. (Staff photo)

Farmington area 1976 recalled: Part I

1976 was a year of celebration and change for residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills. The city's citizens honored the nation's bicentennial and as city and school governments were forced to tighten their belts because of increasing costs.

Following is a compendium of the year's events.

JANUARY

Farmington area residents were shocked when Farmington's Mercy High School student Judy Lynn Ferro was found murdered near her home in Royal Oak Township. Shortly after her body was found, police issued an arrest warrant for Gary Pervinkin, Miss Ferro's neighbor.

In an attempt to balance the budget, the Farmington school board voted

to reduce the district's expenditures by \$295,000. Among the items the cuts affected were books and supplies, and salaries.

Meanwhile, the City of Farmington was bracing for a 39 per cent increase in water rates which was scheduled to begin on May 1. City Mr. Robert Deadman estimated that the increase would cost users an additional \$55,000.

Still another shock came school district's residents way when East Junior High School student Robert Kourjian was electrocuted while unplugging a machine in his shop class.

On Jan. 13, Larry Gale Lower of

Farmington Hills was killed by an Oakland County deputy sheriff after failing to stop at the scene of a reported break-in in Commerce Township.

The Holiday Inn of Farmington fell prey to three masked men who robbed the establishment and made a get-away with more than \$10,000 in tow.

City of Farmington Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes called for the establishment of a police service to replace the alarm systems which link into the safety department's switchboard. He feared interferer 2 with phone lines so that actual emergency calls would be prevented from getting through.

FEBRUARY

The City of Farmington unveiled a plan to attract major fashion apparel shops to the central business district.

The firm of Howard Green and Associates was hired to study the feasibility of revamping the area. The report advised the city to adopt a strategy that would draw "the type, quality and breadth of fashion apparel stores that trade area residents have the ability to support." Also in the plan was a design for a pedestrian walkway.

The single business tax was the topic of discussion among businessmen and school administrators. Farmington Chamber of Commerce executive secretary Ed Lane summed up

local businessmen's feelings by saying "The same businessman certainly won't like it. They'll have to pay more taxes. They'll net somewhat of a shock the first time around."

The Farmington-West Bloomfield League of Women Voters launched a study of human rescue service after a controversy broke out over whether or not Farmington Hills should use a private company or their own reserves for the service.

Dr. Allen Ziegler of Botwood Hospital made a hit by donating a nude statue "Humoresque to the Farmington Twelve Mile branch library.

Chuck Schukins, Farmington

area's "Apple Man," was named Man of the Year by the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce. Schukins was instrumental in the Goodfellow's drive for a number of years.

Farmington Hills tossed its hat into the ring to battle the proposed water rate increase by the Detroit Water Board.

The Farmington Hills Police Department arrested seven persons in a narcotics raid which garnered 100 pounds of marijuana. Street value of the marijuana was estimated at \$25,000.

Farmington Harrison's Brian

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Farmington Hills detectives took over contraband which was confiscated in one of the

city's major drug raids of the year. (Staff photo)



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Farmington Hills volunteers, known as the "Apple Men," were honored in 1976 as the Man of the Year by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. (Staff photo)

Chuck Schukins, Farmington's own