Loneliness echoes throughout Farmington Junior High School as it became a casualty to declining enrollments in the Farmington School District.

Which way to turn?

Turn on red made its debut in the Farmington area this year, but drivers found that many corners were posted to prohibit the turn.

1976 reviewed in Farmington

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the events of 1976 in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area.

APRIL

•Area residents found themselves getting used to a new quirk in driving when the right turn on red law was put into effect. Most drivers and pedestrians found the transition easy, safe and convenient.

•The biggest robbery in Farmington's history was recorded when gunmen netted $189,000 in jewelry from Kramer's Jewelry Store on Grand River. But the enjoyment of the stolen treasures was shortlived as the culprits soon were named by police officials.

•Farmington School district administrators were jubilant when district voters cast the majority of their ballots in favor of a four-mill renewal request. The mills would provide the district with $1.9 million in revenues each year.

•City of Farmington residents learned that their water rates would be increased when the city council voted to boost the rates as a result of the 39 per cent increase by the Detroit Metropolitan Water Board.

•Farmington School District residents learned that they were living in one of the fastest growing expansion areas in southeastern Michigan. The news was released through Robinson Peports, a firm which had done a demographic study of the area. The report also revealed that the Oakland County area was one of the wealthiest in the United States.

•The field for a new school superintendent was narrowed to 12 applicants as trustees sought a replacement for retiring Supt. Marinus Van Ameyde. Van Ameyde was slated to retire in June 1976.

•Students and parents from Farmington Junior High School jammed the school board offices in a final plea to keep the facility open. But trustees voted to close the school because of declining enrollments.

•A tax increase was in the making at the end of April for City of Farmington residents as City Mgr. Robert Deadman recommended that a 1.2-mill increase be levied to offset the uncertainty of federal and state revenue sharing funds.

MAY

•May started out with a bang as three masked gunmen escaped with an estimated $30,000 in cash from the Manufacturers Bank on Grand River. The robbers escaped by switching vehicles three times with the FBI in hot pursuit. They never were caught.

•Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns celebrated his 20th year of city service. He was the township's first full-time clerk.

•The school district announced it was looking at other school facilities to close because of declining enrollments. Ten Mile School primarily was the school mentioned as being closed.

•District officials also announced they would be seeking a 2.4-mill increase during the June 14 election. Trustees Gary Lichtman, William Gravius and Michael Shpiece opposed the five-year stipulation.

•Residents of Farmington Hills learned it would cost them an additional $500,000 in taxes if the police union won its fight for the city to honor a cost-of-living clause in the contract. City and union officials disagreed on the contract language. If they won, a patrolofficer's pay would increase from $17,000 to $21,000 a year.

•A bill was introduced in the state legislature requiring safer classroom standards for students. It was a result of the electrocution death of East Junior High School student Robert Kourtjian.

•The Rev. Meredith Moshauer of the Nardin Park Methodist Church launched his crusade for senior citizen housing on the church grounds. He met stiff opposition from area homeowners who feared building the multiple-family dwelling would set a precedent for future builders to construct multiple dwelling structures.

•In the presidential primary, Farmington and Farmington Hills voters supported President Gerald Ford and Democratic hopeful Morris Udall.

•Two incumbents were pitted against three newcomers for two seats on the Farmington School Board for the June 14 election. Meeting the filing deadline in May were Trustees Mervyn Ross and William Corliss. Also filing were Helen Prutow, Larry Lichtman and Bud Pickett.

•Assistant Supt. Lewis Schulman was named as the new school superintendent. He had served as Harrison High School principal and assistant superintendent for secondary education.

•The West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters joined the fray over senior citizen housing by recommending that a special zoning designation be established for that type of housing.

JUNE

•Farmington Hills City Councilman Robert McConnell announced he would be seeking election to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for the 25th district. Incumbent Pat Nowak announced that he wouldn't be seeking another term.

•Elementary school closings were forestalled for another year as the Farmington School Board voted to keep all the elementary facilities open. Trustees Emma Makinen and William Corliss opposed the motion.

•The old Medallion Pool building in downtown Farmington was given a facelift when it was remodeled into a mini-mall.

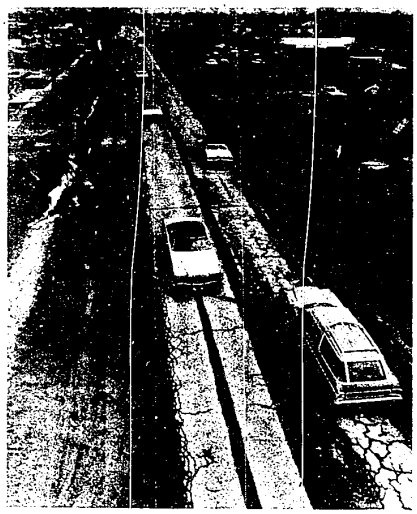
•Oakland County Road commissioners announced that Eight Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads would be paved in 1977. The Farmington Chamber of Commerce and the Farmington Observer had been campaigning to have the road paved and widened because of the traffic congestion.

•Helen Prutow and Mervyn Ross were the big winners in the school board election as William Corliss, board president, was defeated.

•The 2.4-mill request was defeated by school district voters.

•The Farmington Hills City Council voted to drop a private firm for its human rescue service and use volun-

(Continued on page 13A)



Eight Mile Road was the center of attention as the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce wrestled with the Oakland County Road Commission to have the stretch between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road paved and widened.

FBI agents were on the prowl in Farmington Hills after three armed bandits hit the Manufacturers Bank on Grand River.

JA fair planned

The first Southeast Michigan Junior Achievement Fair of the year will be held Saturday and Sunday at Orchard Mall, Maple at Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

The fair will feature the wares of more than 100 area teenage Junior Achievement members.

Items for sale will range from plants, terrariums, hanging planters and glass rooters to coat hangers, lamps, toys and household gadgets.

Fair hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Other events at the mall include a snow show beginning Monday.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department snowmobile school will highlight the show which runs through Sunday, Jan. 16. Completion of the six-hour snowmobile course leads to a certificate required for all snowmobile drivers age 16 and under in Michigan.

To register for the free course, call the mall office. Classes will be held from 4-6:30 p.m. in the community room Thursday-Saturday. Instructing will be Stanley Clarke of the sheriff's marine division.

The snow show will also feature cross-country and slope ski equipment, winter camping equipment and weekend trips.

Also scheduled in the near future, with dates unconfirmed, are a one-man photo show by Brian Hoffman and a flower and garden show.

Degree awarded

David Patten, 31877 Kingswood Square, Farmington Hills, recently received his doctor of science degree in materials science and engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Hudson's welcomes a cold new year with warm-hearted stormcoat savings

sale 49.99
reg. $66

Baby, it's cold outside. But not when you're wrapped up comfy and cozy in our acrylic plush lined storm coat. It's a coat of crisp polyester and cotton in misses' sizes and wintry colors. Two styles to choose. The one shown is a trench. So pull up the collar and pocket the savings in Rainwear, available at all Hudson's stores.

hudson's
JANUARY SALES AND CLEARANCES