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FATAL accidents

increased last year in Farmington Hills, but only slightly.

Seven were logged in 1988, up three from the year before and up four from 1986, but still under the city's 10-year average of eight.

The number of fatalities in 1987 and 1988 "were the lowest two-year totals in the history of the department, and they came back to back," said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Farmington Hills Police Department Traffic Section supervisor.

Drunk-driving arrests also were up last year. Through November, they totaled 368, up 90 over the same period the year before and up 63 from all of 1987. Cranston attributed that to increased road patrol and increased awareness among officers toward alcohol enforcement.

Of the 2,302 accidents on public roads in Farmington Hills last year, 104 involved alcohol — a 1 in 24 average. That compares favorably to the state average of 1 in 6, Cranston said.

Quote of the week

"My mother has Alzheimer's Disease. This is the only reason I'm here. I'm not a street walker or an alcoholic."

— A 63-year-old man taking part in the South Oakland Shelter program in Farmington Hills (see story this page).

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THE NORTH AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL
AUTO SHOW

SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Homeless find solace at church



Within a few minutes of arriving by bus at St. Alexander's Catholic Church on Shilawasse in southeast Farmington Hills, homeless men and women line up for a hot home-cooked meal.

Aid efforts give hope at holidays

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Each has their own story. And each shares the burden of homelessness.

"My mother has Alzheimer's disease. This is the only reason I'm here. I'm not a street walker or an alcoholic," said a tired-looking, 63-year-old man sporting a couple-day beard.

The man is homeless and his dinner mate, a 41-year-old who lived with his nephew until he was killed in an accident, savor their free hot meals at St. Alexander Catholic Church, on Shilawasse, while explaining their fates in hurried tones.

"I'm old enough to take care of myself. I don't turn to others for help. Right now, I appreciate SOS

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Retail stores replacing Tally Hall's food court

By C.L. Rugenstein
staff writer

Today will find many tenants in Tally Hall at Hunters Square bidding the Farmington Hills festival food court a not-so-fond "Tally Ho!"

Today was the date many of the tenants had to move out to make way for a 40,000-square-foot retail center anchored by a 30,000-square-foot F&M health and beauty aids store.

"Some people are going to stay till the judge tells them to go," said Larry Brunetti of Detroit, owner of One Potato, Two Potato.

Brunetti said he sank his life savings into the business last October.

"A few of us have invoked the relocation clause in our lease," Brunetti said, allowing them to relocate to another area of Hunters Square.



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Empty tables became too common a sight at Tally Hall.

home to Loehmann's and 34 other retail stores.

But Brunetti won't decide whether to stay until more details are known.

ROBERT SCHOSTAK, vice president for Southfield-based Schostak Brothers & Co., managing agent for Tally Hall's owner, Hunters Square Limited Partnership, was out of town Tuesday. But in announcing Tally Hall's conversion to a retail center last month, he said, "It's time for a change."

"The festival food court concept is no longer an attraction for the upper-income shoppers who dominate the Hunters Square trade area."

In its heyday, Tally Hall, on the west side of Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile, boasted 45 booths. The number later dwindled to 30.

At Guest Artist Recording Studios, where people can make records using studio background music and recording facilities, Carol Rott of

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Frank and Terry Vianueva left Botsford General Hospital Tuesday afternoon to begin their Happy New Year with their first child, Brian Todd. The infant was the first born in Oakland County in 1989.

12:03

It's a boy for 1989

By Loraine McElish
staff writer

"Happy New Year" has taken on a whole new meaning for Frank and Terry Vianueva, whose son was the first to be born in Oakland County in 1989.

Brian Todd Vianueva is the first child of the Detroit couple, and is also the first of the New Year babies in the metro Detroit area to be born in Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

The 21-inch-long infant weighed in at 9 pounds, 4 ounces at 12:03 a.m. Jan. 1.

In at 9 pounds, 4 ounces at 12:03 a.m. Jan. 1. He was delivered by Dr. Frank Wolf, a resident at the Farmington Hills hospital, and Dr. Francis Darling, who has offices in Livonia.

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County rape suspect pleads guilty in Ohio

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The former West Bloomfield resident accused of being Oakland County's ski-masked, knife-wielding serial rapist pleaded guilty to raping, robbing and assaulting a 24-year-old woman in North Olmsted, Ohio, Nov. 10.

Steven A. Szeman Jr., 25, of Rocky River, Ohio, pleaded guilty to four counts of rape, one count of aggravated robbery and one count of felonious assault while appearing before Judge James J. McMahon of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in the Cleveland Justice Center Wednesday.

In exchange for the guilty pleas, Cuyahoga County chief assistant prosecutor Carmen Marino agreed to drop two lesser charges in connection with the North Olmsted attack by a ski-masked, knife-wielding man: aggravated burglary and possessing criminal tools.

Defense attorney James Burke of Fairview Park, Ohio, accompanied



Steven A. Szeman Jr.

Szeman who was dressed in jail garb but uncuffed, to Wednesday's pre-trial hearing.

SZEMAN is being held in the Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland in lieu of \$150,000 cash bond pending a pre-sentencing investigation report by the county probation department. The report could take 2-3 weeks to prepare.

The Defiance, Ohio, native and Marietta College business management graduate faces up to 25 years in prison on each of the rape charges and the robbery charge. He faces up to 15 years in prison on the assault charge. Sentences could run concurrently or consecutively.

The North Olmsted victim met privately with the judge after the guilty pleas to seek her input into the sentencing process.

In Oakland County, Szeman, who once held hourly jobs in Troy and Southfield, is charged with 49 criminal counts, including 38 counts of criminal sexual conduct and nine counts of armed robbery. He is charged in 10 attacks between April 1987 and March 1988: three rapes each in Farmington Hills and Southfield Township, an Independence Township rape, an attempted rape in Birmingham and an armed robbery in West Bloomfield.

Oakland County authorities will seek to extradite and prosecute Szeman once he is sentenced in Ohio.