

Questions of conflict surround council

Other 1988 events: Tally Hall and Dolan

This is the second of a two-part review of news and personalities that shaped 1988 in the Farmington area.

By Casey Hane and
Joanna Maliszewski
staff writers

1988 was a year full of news and change. Serial rapes, city hall unrest, racial concern, the November general election and the continuing battle against drug and alcohol abuse marked the year.

Twice a week, the Observer staff brought to the community news and the personalities that shaped the year.

Following is a selection from our files of the top issues and personalities that marked the last five months of 1988:

● AUGUST

Politics is the focus of the hottest month of the year. The Aug. 2 primary comes to a close with Farmington Hills Republican Jan Dolan and Bingham Farms Democrat John Dolan prepared to square off in the Nov. 8 general election for the 69th state House seat. In the Republican primary, former Farmington Hills city councilman Donn Wolf beats then-Mayor Jody Soronen for the 27th Oakland County Board of Commissioners district seat. Wolf gears up for his general election battle against Democrat Steven Hill of Farmington Hills.

Sparks fly at Farmington Hills City Hall with the disclosure that councilman Ben Marks has a 19-year-old, overdue sewer tap-in fee of \$17,000. The public and other council members vent their anger at Marks and city manager William Costick, who maintained the debt as an account receivable rather than putting it on the councilman's 1987 tax bill. Later in the week, Marks pays the \$22,528 debt, including principal, penalties and interest. Despite calls for his resignation, Marks refuses.

The Marks incident only diminishes councilman Joe Alkatieb's angry and hurried exit from the council chambers the night the Marks debt was disclosed. By the following

week, Alkatieb rescinds his verbal resignation.

Farmington school officials plan to contact community groups and use newsletters to plead their case for a proposed \$27.25 million bond proposal for a new west side elementary and districtwide safety improvements.

The Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium is looking for more equity for its six-member communities, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, before more thought is given to joining the Oakland County solid waste disposal project.

Former deputy city clerk Kathy Dorman takes over the reins of the Farmington Hills city clerk's office from retiring clerk JoAn Reynolds.

● SEPTEMBER

This month marks the defeat of the school district's \$27.25 million bond issue to build a west side elementary school and early childhood center and to renovate school facilities districtwide. Among the happy is self-proclaimed taxpayers' spokesperson Richard Headlee, who urges the district to use its capital fund and cash reserves rather than bonding.

School district officials promise to attempt another school bond election in the winter.

Mineral rights leasing for oil and natural gas exploration in southwest Farmington Hills moves along to the continued surprise and anger of residents and city officials.

Detroit Edison officials promise to improve service to Farmington Hills following a scorching August with a significant number of outages.

Many Farmington and Farmington Hills officials are keeping their fingers crossed for the proposed \$25 Oakland County vehicle registration fee that will go before voters in November. The tax is designed to provide money to help fix local and county roads.

● OCTOBER

Three students who live in the Clarenceville school district, but attend school in Farmington, will get a



The photos/RANDY DORST

At left, Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jan Dolan chats with campaign supporter Walter Sundquist of Farmington in her downtown headquarters. She won the 69th District House seat in November. Above, U.S. Sen. Dan Quayle, now vice president-elect, made a short visit to the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills last October.

reprieve from at least one semester's tuition.

Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Weldon resigns by letter in the wake of a city council request for his resignation because of his poor attendance at the commission's weekly meetings.

With less than a couple of weeks to the November general election, it is discovered that Republican 69th state House candidate Jan Dolan has falsified her age to the news media and the League of Women Voters. The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills prepares for a grand yearlong celebration as it turns 60. The center, which was moved from Detroit to Farmington Hills 60 years ago by the Daughters of Charity, will celebrate the theme, "60 years of Celebrating the Child."

Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. Dan Quayle makes a short visit to the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus gymnasium.

After complaints about deteriorating appearance and safety problems, Kendallwood Shopping Center, on the corner of Farmington Road and 12 Mile, will get a new, \$3 million lease on life.

● NOVEMBER

The month is the newspaper's 100th anniversary. The Enterprise and the Observer merged in 1986. A greeting from a former mayor of Farmington written for the Enterprise's 40th anniversary edition in 1929 is reprinted.

The month begins with the election of Farmington Hills city councilwoman Jan Dolan to the 69th state House seat, replacing retiring veteran legislator Sandy Brotherton. Former Farmington Hills councilman Donn Wolf also is successful in his defeat of Democratic opponent Steven Hill for the 27th District Oakland County Board of Commissioners seat.

The proposed Oakland County \$25 vehicle registration fee is defeated.

Arrest warrants are issued against former West Bloomfield Township resident Steven Szeman, 25, as the prime suspect in the so-called Oakland County serial rapes. The connection to the string of 12 sexual attacks is made after Szeman is arrested in connection with the rape of a suburban Cleveland woman. All but cash stolen from the three Farmington Hills victims of Oakland County's serial rapist is recovered following Szeman's arrest in Ohio.

The Farmington Hills City Council elects its new leaders with Terry Sever as mayor, replacing Jody Soronen, and councilwoman Jean Fox as mayor pro tempore.

Farmington Hills officials are

ready to begin what is expected to be the yearlong development of the Farmington Hills Year 2000 plan with a cross section of business, neighborhood, community group and government representatives.

November also marks the start of the long-planned enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone dialing system for Oakland County communities, including Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Community activist Kay Briggs is named the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce 1988 Citizen of the Year.

The Farmington Community Center receives a new name: the Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills.

Oak, and later discharged. Free on bond at the time of the shooting. Klueger was awaiting sentencing on three felony counts in Farmington Hills. He now faces four more felony charges.

Tally Hall is scheduled to close by Dec. 31. Tenants are stunned by the announcement the festival food court will be converted to a retail store anchored by a F&M health and beauty store.

A city attorney's report confirms Farmington Hills planning commissioner Vincent Valenza's contention it was not a conflict of interest when he voted on rezoning issues for the new Carrington Place Apartments for Seniors, in which he recently became a financial partner.



The photo/RANDY DORST

Farmington Department of Public Safety dispatcher Colleen Lane handles emergency calls over the enhanced 9-1-1 telephone system, which came to Oakland County last November.



The photo/BOB SKLAR

Farmington Hills city councilman Ben Marks (left) explains his long-past-due sewer tap-in fee to the city council and the public last August. Despite some public demands, Marks refused to resign.

JANUARY FUR CLEARANCE

NOW IN PROGRESS

Begin the new year with the fur coat or jacket you have been promising yourself for so long. A necessity now, a splendid fur is naturally warm and beautiful.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA® and American Express®
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.