21898 Farmington Road/Farmington, Mt 48336

.Tom Baer editor: 477-5450-

ONE Thursday, January 3, 1991

Hills agenda

Several issues for 1991

OMPROMISE is one commodity that is much in demand in Farmington Hills as a new digit rolls up on the decade of the 90s. Citizen involvement in important community issues is yet another. Farmington Hills officials, who face a full agenda of people-related issues, could use liberal doses of both.

From our vantage point as impartial observers, the Hills City Council agenda for the new year should include:

ers, the Hills City Council agenda for the new year should include:

• Parks — Recreation and parks are always hot topics to Farinington Hills these days, whether it's how to develop the beautiful Heritage Park, what to do about the Pettz-MDOT property, or where to put the new ball fields if indeed we need new ball fields. When it comes to the mostly-developed Heritage Park on the former Spicer property on Farmington Road, officials are going to have to strike some sort of balance, or compromise, on what sort of a park it will be. Will it be a prople-oriented park where kids feed the ducks in the pond and yuppies play sand voileyball, or will it be more of a nature preserve wilt few urban trappings to spoil the setting? There's been such a clamor for more ball fields in Farmington Hills (although others tell us that we have enough and that many diamonds go unused each summer) that the city continue to examine the need for them, not automatically giving in to some vocal group. A parks topic content to earlier the best feet the early to early the most to the content of the content of the part of the content of the c

continue to examine the need for them, not automatically giving in to some vocal group. A parks development militage — a half-mill renewal at least — is coming upothis summer, and groundwork should be laid now for its passage by giving as many people as possible reasons to visit the city's parks and use the facilities. Peliz-MDOT property — Farmington Hills-owns 72 acres of undeveloped property in two pieces west of Farmington Road and south of 1-695. So what to do with it? Well, we kind a filke the landscape architect's plan: Keep most of the property intact with a small area set aside for ball fields, if the need for them can be deter-

mined. There's also room for a new library on the northeast side. Open space should be treas-vired in Farmington Hills, which has become ur-banized over the years. To over-develop Peltz-MDOT would be to Aurther destroy our quality of life.

 Ethics — It's unfortunate that we have to mention this topic in connection with the Farmi-ington Hills Gity Council. But we do, especially after that newspaper series showed how some metro Detroit officials have financial ties with developers: Mentioned-prominately in the Series metro Detroit officials have financial ties with developers. Mentioned prominately in the Series was fifths councilman Ben Marks. Farmington Hills has a code of ethics, but we feel it also needs an ethics committee with the power to correct those who violate the code. Elected officials should be made to fife their election expenses with the cuty, as well as with the county-so the reports would be more accessible to the local folks. And council members should speak up—before voting—if they have associations with some developer whose project they're judging. A little integrity, please, city officials.

• Recycling — If a city's officials must act responsibly, then so must its ordinary citizens. Curbside recycling is coming to Farmington Hills this summer, and with it the need for residents to place trash in the proper bins. The city is doing its part to 160° the environment while still coping with the tons and tons of garbage produced. Now it's every property owners' responsibility to see that the program is carried out. Perhaps the city needs an ordinance mandating it.

Public involvement — People love to bitch about the city. But those with toncerns about the way the place is being governed should show uptain 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road on Mondays when the city council meets. Even those with no specific coinplaint should take the time to get to know their city officials. You'd be supprised who good they'll be if they know someone is watching.

Specter of war casts dark cloud on holiday festivities

FOR SUBURBANITES the 1990 holiday season will be remembered for the shadow of war cast over the usually festive days of celebration.

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MARYIN TEELLE

Like Marley's ghost, it lurked at the edges of parties, haunting re-velers with its foreboding messages from the past, present and future.

At a party in Farmington Hills, clusters of revelers gathered to wonder what the president would do, when he would do it and who was the latest person to be called up to serve time in the Persian Guif.

In Redford Township, the specter of war lookned even closer. Recently home from the Saud! Peninsula, a young Marine mingled with friends and relatives. Elanket by two children and a young wife, he vowed to return in hope if destroying what he perceived as the threat of Saddam Hussein.

aam nussem.

For me the unforgettable conversation with my 16-year-old daughter
carried a sad and ominous refrain.
As we sped along the expressway,
the ordinarily cheerful teenager was
quiet and suffen.

Finally: "Dad, what is happening in the Persian Gulf just doesn't make any sense."

"If we were there to really help those people out, we would be all over the world helping out other peo-ple. But we aren't."

More silence.

"You know, it really makes a dif-ference when you know people who are over there. It scares me."

For suburbanites the 1990 holiday season will be remembered for the shadow of war cast over the usually festive days of celebration. Like Marley's ghost, it lurked at the edges of parties, haunting revelers with its foreboding messages from the past, present

Quiet tears in the darkness — hers and mine.

Anger and mourning swept over me at silently recalled those who had died in a futtle war; two decades ago and a president on a quest, the logic of which he was at a loss to coherently explain to the American rently explain to the American

SOME AMERICANS have a diffi-cult time learning from the past.

cult time learning from the past.

In 1952 DW. Brogain, an observer
of the American scene, wrote about
the tilbusion of omnipotence. "The fillu-sion that the world must go the
American way II, the Americans
want it strongly enough and give
firm orders to their agents to see
that it is done."

Many Americans have rid them-selves of this malady, realizing as

Steve Barnaby

Brogan told us, that "a great many things happen in the world regard-less of whether the American people wish them to or not." (**)

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President Bush has yet to take the

cure.

Rather he is most willing to levy what French Marshal Gouvin Saint-Cyr called the "blood tax," the lives of the young form cause which will destroy many and only narrowly benefit those with wealth and power.

benefit those with wealth and power.

In 1947 Henry Stimson, former
U.S. secretary of war, wrote about
war with face of the control of the control
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more destructive, more debased in
more horizont, more destructive, more debased in
more horizont, more debased in
all its aspects. The release of the
atomic energy those made it wholly
fear, that we must never have another war. This is the lesson men, and
believe that when they learn it they
will find a way to "lasting peace.
There is no other choice."

Please, Mr. President, find a way-it's a matter of life or death

Steve Barnaby is managing ed-day of the 13 Observer & Eccen-tric newspapers

State agenda

These issues need attention now

EAR GOV. ENGLER.

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Now that the inaugural hoopla has quieted just a bit and the essentials have been unpacked in your new home, we thought we'd drop you a 'ine and help welcome you to your new neighborhood.

Wow' What a party, huh? An upset election yietory and then getting married all in the space of two months, you're probably feeling pretty special right about now, tike 'you could handle just about anything.

That's good Because you're about to step into the most demanding challenge you've ever faced. By most accounts, the previous occupant of the governor's mansion didn't do too bad a job during his eight year, residency. But right off-you'rejoing to laherit some of the problems Gov. James Blanchard failed to address adequately. And the current \$1. billion-plus delicit means you're going to be dealing with a new dose of economic uncertainty from your first day on the job.

FRANKLY, MICHIGAN'S future could depend a whole lot on the priorities you set in the next few months and how well you accomplish them Serry, holf?

But remember, you're not alone in all this To half middle how you have how your manifester.

help guides the way, you have your appointers, informal advisers, the state flegislature (flig-bould be a mixed blessing) and your usually friendly, always concerned neighbors here on the

With that in mind, this is what we feel should

With that in mind, this is what we feel should be of immediate concern:

• PAY RAISES — We applaud-your-blasting of a recommendation by the State Officers Compensation Commission to raise the salary for the governor, state legislators and top judges by an average of 16 percent, while the rest of state government facts the budget-cutting ax. And we commynd you for saying that your own, raise would be donated to charity. But you can — and should — do more. Use your influence (as new top guy and former state senator) over the Legislature and urge them to rescribe the raises before the Feb. 1 deadline. We realize that while getting two-thirds of your former colleagues in the Republican-controlled Senate to reject the raises is workable, accomplishing that in the Democratic flouse will be more difficult. We can only hope for miracles.

for miracles:

ABOUTTION — We realize we can't change your views on this topic. But before signing into law any bill that would severely restrict or eliminate abortion as an option, we urge you to at least discuss it with your pro-choice, wife, Michelle

chelle.

SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM — Boy, this boy. Here we go again. Maybe, since you were one of them, state lawmakers will be more coop-

As the inequities between rich and poor school districts continue to widen, the way we finance public schools in Michigan needs serious attention. It's time for the governor and legislators to work together and come up with a comprehensive plan to reshape public education.

erative. As the inequities between rich and poor school districts continue to widen, the way we finance public schools in Michigan needs serious attention. It's time for the governor and legisla-tors to work together and come up with a com-prehensive plan to reshape public education. With a team approach to this problem, we might avoid the heavily politicized "solutions" of the past.

with a team approach to this problem, we might avoid the heavily politicized "solutions" of the past.

• METRO DETROIT — Being an outstater, we know you don't have a lot of experience in this area. Let us help you Meeting the concerns of metropolitan Detroiters is tantamount to making Michigan work, not to mention gaining a second, four-year lease on the governor's residence-of that's your desire. Just ask the previous occupant.) Coalition building with the Big Fourst the Detroit mayor and the executives of Mayne and Oakland counties and the chairman of the Macomb County Bog'd of Commissioners—18 important. The trie-fourty population of more than four million is nearly half your constituency and they require a sympathetic ear in the governor's, office in order to remain happy and healths When leads us to—

• ROADS—Since you spent the fall tooling around the campaign trail in your trusty Odsmobile—and since you promised to be the governor who makes the automobile, not the jet topier, your, preferred transportation—you probably realize many of the roads and here in suburbia are in need of a complete overhaul. More, money for improved roads in western Wayne and Oakland counties must be found within the state's budget

• MENTRALLY II. — The state's current system for dealing with mental filness is severely, but of whack. Funds are continually missallocated. More mithey is spent on unwarkable programs where the am is prevention and not enough is spent on treatment programs. The state is nearly ignoring the needs of people affected by mental filnesses—patients and their-families.

from our readers

Legislator unhappy with gun bill story

To the editor:
Your Dec. 10 article regarding gun control seriously misrepresentied my position as well as that of many of my cohiegages. The article would lead the reader to believe that on the same day I called a procedule disgusting fand I was referring to the House, not title Sente, as your article states). I voted for the bill anyway. That is simply not true.

I have always opposed local pre-

way. That is simply not true.

I have always opposed local preemption laws generally and gun preemption laws specifically. When
House Bill 5437 first came before
the House a week before the scenario described in your article. I had
several amendments ready. At that
point, when the NRA realized it was
losifig, a deal was struck that maintained 5437, but tied it to bills with
the best gun laws we could ever get,
including background checks, quality
raining, etc.

Fraining, etc.

The deal fell apart in the Senate. The bills requiring training were serously diluted, but the Senate rescinded changes in House Bill 5437,
meaning that the House could not
voic again on the 'ssue. That trapped
many of us and it was dispusting that
the House remained in session three
hours beyond its proposed adjournment only to cater to the NRA.

The "yes" votes you listed were taken from a session tays earlier than the events the article described. Many of those votes would have changed, given the opportunity.

Maxine Berman, State Representative 64th District

More is not always better

To the editor:
Part of the solution is to remove the problem. I am speaking of the millions of dollars spent on saving the oil for the Third World countries

milions of dollars spent on saving the oil for the Third World countries, that are not really participating in the Saudi Arabia conflict. The saving are the saving and the distance of the saving and the distance of the saving and the distance of the saving and the saving and the saving and the them go it alone, or at least ask them if this is what they want. Maybe if we withfield a million, dollars for every flag of ours they burn we could get their attention. Now why haven't we reduced our requirements of oil in the past 20 years? Is it because the anto industry owns too much stock in the oil companies, or are they intermarried by families and, holding American people hostage?

by lattifies and monor, opening people hostage?
With the cost of this Saudi Arabia and Iraq problem, the money could have been better used to replace oil with more effective power sources.

I believe there are people out there waiting to put on the market some form of new power sources. But they cant do it because of red tape or some kind of central Conservation is the key. More is not always better. We are all part of the solution since we are all part of the problem.

Opinions are to be shared

effectively.

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- Observer & Eccentric Newspapers -

Sleve Barnaby, managing earlie Judith Doner Berne attacked managera orginal Dick Isham, general magager Mark Lewis, director of advertising

Fred Wright director of cinclidation