

## Getting to know you



Coordinator on board: New Farmington area Cultural Arts Coordinator Nancy Coumoundouros was welcomed to the community with a reception held Monday afternoon at Farmington Hills City Hall. Robb Clarkson, Costick Center director, and Paul Barber offer congratulations.

STAFF PHOTO BY BOB BERNER

## Lois from page A1

and a mother.

None of Lois' four children lacked for attention. She made each feel special, Nancy said. She doted on her seven grandchildren with similar affection.

Lois instilled an appreciation of poetry, nature and friendship, which has been passed onto her grandchildren, Nancy said.

To those in their Farmington Hills neighborhood, Lois turned her home into the "Kool-Aid house" where other kids always felt welcomed.

Family members dubbed her "Saint Lois" because she always put others before herself, Nancy Vagnozzi Pantaleo said.

"My dad used to kid it was harder to live with a saint than to be one," said Nancy, drawing laughter. "She did all the hard things and made them look easy."

Her mother would stay up late at night to help with last-minute college term papers, using her ample journalistic skills to edit them.

"My mother was everything to me," Nancy said. "Those of you who went to (the University of Michigan) must remember 76-GUIDE. It was a number on campus where you could call for information of any kind."

"My mother was my 76-GUIDE."

Nancy told those in attendance not to be sad. To keep her mother's memory alive, she asked people take a walk, see a movie or help someone in need.

"My mother is not gone," Nancy said. "Look around you: A piece of her is in everyone in this room."



Mass: More than 200 people attended Lois Vagnozzi's funeral.

## Harrison grad gets a place in holiday production

Eric Gutman, a 1995 graduate of Harrison High School, is scheduled to serve as the understudy for both male roles in "Forbidden Christmas," the holiday edition of the hit musical spoofs "Forbidden Hollywood" and "Forbidden Broadway."

"Forbidden Christmas," the latest musical creation by composer-lyricist Gerard Alessandrini, plays from Wednesday, Nov. 17, through Dec. 31 at Detroit's Century Theatre, 333 Madison Ave.

With side-splitting satires of holiday movies, albums and television specials, "Forbidden Christmas" features a potpourri of holiday parodies.

Gutman, son of Farmington Hills residents Howard and Karen Gutman, marked his professional debut earlier this year during the "Forbidden Hollywood" run at the Century. He recently achieved his Actor's Equity Association membership.

Upon his graduation from Harrison, Gutman was accepted into the musical theater program at Western Michigan University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music theater performance. Gutman also is a musician and dancer.

Tickets for "Forbidden Christmas" are available at the Gem and Century box office (313) 963-9800, and through TicketMaster phone centers, (248) 645-6868.

Ticket prices range from \$24.50 to \$38.50 on most nights. A 2 p.m. performance on New Year's Eve is \$45 (\$95 including "surf and turf" dinner).

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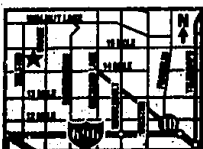
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