

# We're wrapping up a review of accomplishments in 1999

## July

Kenbrook, Grace and Power elementary schools were praised by district officials for making significant strides in the latest MEAP scores. Priscilla Brouillette was elected Farmington school board president for 1999-2000.

## August

A new Hills bike helmet law passed in June and put on hold by the city in July became law when petitioners failed to get the necessary signatures needed to put the issue on the ballot.

The extended Haggerty Connector, also known as M-5, opened between 12 Mile and 11 Mile Roads.

Teacher and former junior varsity football coach Richard (Rick) Jones became the first graduate of North Farmington to be named its principal.

After a summer of district-wide renovations and remodeling, the state fire marshal gave Farmington schools the OK to open on schedule.

Roosevelt's Bar and Grill at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads, was hit with an outbreak of hepatitis A, later said to be "inadvertent." It got a clean bill of health from Oakland County in September.

Bill Knapp's, located on Orchard Lake for 22 years, was forced to close due to lagging sales. Next door to Knapp's, the former Old Orchard Theater became the Orchard Grove Community Church.

A weekend storm left thou-

sands of area Detroit Edison customers without electricity, some for four days. Meanwhile, a Detroit Edison lineman working in the Hills died when he accidentally touched a downed live wire.

Farmington hired M.K.A. Inc. of Wixom to oversee more than \$409,000 in renovations to the Civic Theatre.

Stephen Dibert filed as a candidate for one of three Farmington city council seats, opposing incumbents Bill Hartsock, JoAnne McShane and James Mitchell.

Candidates for Hills city council election: George Sarkisian vs. Councilwoman Nancy Bates for mayor and incumbent Vicki Barnett and challengers Ron Oliviero, Barry Brickner, Chris McRae and Paul Molin seeking three council seats.

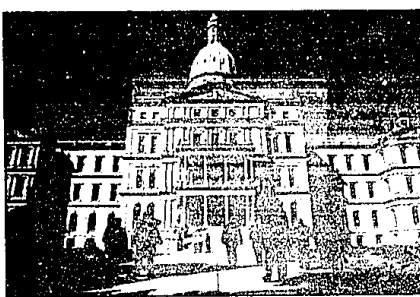
Nearly 200 people attended the dedication of the Kids World Playspace in Farmington's Shiawassee Park.

Farmington High's first-ever football game on its own newly lighted field was spoiled by a 20-17 loss to Novi.

## September

A convoy of angry city officials from many communities in southeastern Michigan, organized and led by their Farmington Hills peers, rolled into Lansing to counterattack what became known as the anti-Home Rule Bill.

House Bill 4777 was aimed at defeating Detroit's Living Wage law, but had wider implications, the officials said. It was defend-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

**Home rule: Local officials and residents trooped to Lansing to confront legislators about house bill 4777. Many believed the bill effectively eliminates home rule in favor of state law.**

ed by State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills), a co-sponsor.

The existing Farmington Players Barn theater is to be torn down for an assisted living center. But the latter's developer, Sunrise Development, contributed \$175,000 toward a new theater.

North Farmington and Farmington won city titles in boys and girls cross-country, respectively. Farmington Harris won two varsity football victories because it used an academically ineligible player and will have to win its last five games to qualify for the state playoffs.

Detroit Edison heard a barrage of complaints from Hills residents frustrated by frequent power outages.

## October

Farmington-area high school students ranked eighth in Oakland County for MEAP test results, but only about 20 percent of district eighth graders took the test. Some 79 students from the three high schools qualified for \$2,500 state-paid scholarships.

In the Clarenceville district, the scholarship opportunity more than doubled participation. In Walled Lake schools, about 75 percent of the juniors took the MEAP.

While designs for the expanded Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library were still being finalized, the renovated Farmington Downtown branch re-opened Oct. 4, part of an \$11.7-million bond issue passed by voters in 1998.

Renovation work on the 80-year-old Farmington Civic Theatre began.

In the first year of the expanded Michigan High School Athletic Association football playoffs, Farmington High's Falcons became co-division champions in the Western Lakes Activities Association; played for the league title, but lost to Western Division winner Walled Lake West, then pummeled Lake-land 40-0 to earn their first-ever state playoff berth. The Falcons upset Novi in their first Division II playoff game.

Defending state champion Farmington Harrison won its last three football games to return to the state playoffs as a wild-card team.

Paula Kuciak, former Hills woman charged with attempting to hire someone to kill the father of her son, was found guilty and sentenced to 20 to 60 years in prison.

The Farmington school board approved bids totaling \$180,000 for a facelift for the Lewis Schulman Administrative Building.

Dr. Lee Halsted, longtime area general practitioner who retired in 1986 after 50 years as a physician, died at age 91.

## November

Councilwoman Nancy Bates trounced challenger George Sarkisian for mayor with 80 percent of the vote, succeeding Vagnozzi, who was term-limited from running.

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett was re-elected. New council members are Barry Brickner and Chris McRae.

In Farmington, all three incumbents - William Hartsock, JoAnne McShane and James Mitchell, won re-election.

Hills voters approved pay raises for mayor and council members and Farmington voters upped annual pay for their mayor and council members to \$1,800 - the first such pay increase since 1970.

The Farmington Harrison Marching Band won the Michigan Competing Bands Association Flight III state championship.

Farmington High's Falcons won their Division II district football championship in overtime, then lost in the regional, while Farmington Harrison won its 16th regional.

The cities lost two beloved female members to cancer: Lois Vagnozzi, 71, wife of former Hills mayor Aldo, and Farmington comedienne Alyce Faye, 51.

Bill Hartsock became mayor for the fourth time in his Farmington political career, succeeding Mary Bush. Jim Mitchell was voted mayor pro-tem.

More than 230 attended the revamped Cornucopia Ball, held for the first time at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills. It raised over \$80,000 for Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families programs.

Farmington Observer photographer Bill Bresler won first news prize from the Michigan Press Association.

The CED/Selective group was

chosen by Farmington Hills officials for negotiations on expanding the San Marino golf course and creating a residential development.

Farmington Harrison earned a record 13th trip to the state football finals.

The Exchange Club of Farmington celebrated 75 years of ugly neckties, bad jokes and its motto, "Unity for Service."

## December

Area residents presented complaints about Detroit Edison to the Michigan Public Service Commission, which promised to "try to get some things resolved."

Farmington Harrison defeated Grand Rapids Creston 42-35 at the Pontiac Silverdome to win the Division III state football championship, their 10th such title overall, tying a state record.

The grand re-opening of the Farmington Civic Theatre will be in January.

Farmington and Farmington Hills gave the go-ahead to architects to design a new 47th District Courthouse at the Hills' governmental and police-fire complex at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

Farmington Hills unveiled an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of Canada geese, pigeons, doves and seagulls.

Next spring, a formal bike path plan will become reality in Farmington, nearly five years after the City Council adopted it.

Supporters of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center celebrated raising \$4 million in three years to renovate six residential cottages.

A safe schools and crisis management policy had its first reading by the Farmington school board, which plans to adopt it in January 2000.

Leon Marsh, 85, a longtime farmer in what was Farmington Township, died on Christmas Eve.

Harold David Bloom of Farmington was arraigned in 47th District Court on a charge of first-degree premeditated murder in the stabbing death of his sister, Susan Carol Diener of Farmington Hills.

The Jan. 8, 2000 Civic Theatre "Grand Re-Opening Gala" is a sellout.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

**Lights: All three high schools played their first home night football games thanks to new field lighting. The Farmington Falcons take the field for their first night contest.**

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<b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Tuesday, January 25, 2000 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (afternoon) Farmington Hills Library 32727 W. 11 Mile Rd. (near Orchard Lake & Farmington St.)	<b>ROCHESTER</b> Wednesday, January 26, 2000 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (afternoon) Older Persons Commission (OPC) 312 Woodward St.	<b>LIVONIA</b> Thursday, January 27th, 2000 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (afternoon) Livonia Civic Center Library 32777 5 Mile Rd. (E. of Farmington Rd.)
<b>CLYDE</b> Tuesday, February 1, 2000 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Plymouth Cultural Center 535 Farm Rd. (near E. Grand & E. Grand)	<b>NORTHVILLE</b> Wednesday, February 2, 2000 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (afternoon) Northville Public Library 212 W. Cedar (Downtown Northville)	<b>WATERFORD</b> Thursday, February 3, 2000 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (afternoon) Waterford Senior Center 6455 Harper

All seminars free of charge. No reservations necessary. For information, call (248) 540-8710.  
Paul Leduc is a Registered Representative with Linsco/Private Ledger • 26211 Central Park Blvd #510, Southfield, MI 48076. Securities offered through Linsco/Private Ledger.

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<b>BLOOMFIELD</b> Mon., Jan. 17 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Bloomfield Public Library 1098 Lone Pine Road	<b>LIVONIA</b> Tue., Jan. 18 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Livonia Civic Center Library 32777 Five Mile Road	<b>NOVI</b> Wed., Jan. 19 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Novi Community Center 45175 W. Ten Mile Road	<b>TROY</b> Wed., Jan. 19 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies MSU Management Education Center 811 W. Square Lake Road	<b>STERLING HEIGHTS</b> Wed., Jan. 19 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Main Building 15000 Metro Parkway	<b>NORTHVILLE</b> Thurs., Jan. 20 7:00 - 8:30 pm Coffee & Cookies Northville District Library 212 W. Gady Street
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Refreshments Served-Plenty of free parking. Please arrive early, seating may be limited.

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