HARRIS

FROM PAGE A1

weekends – all while working during the day and raising two sons with his wife, Elaine.

The Marine colonel worked for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, went into private practice and in 1989, became the Farmington rowk budge.

Office, went into private practice ain 1989, became the Farmington area's judge.

At 72, Harris will be slowing his pace a bit as he retires next month. The state constitution does not allows judges over age 70 to run for re-election.

Forty-seventh District Court Magistrate James Brady won the non-partisan election Nov. 5 to take over Harris' duties. Brady will join Judge Maria Parker in the new 47th District Courthouse being built behind the city's police station. It's set to open in January. Harris said he's pleased Brady will be on bench and said he believes the new courthouse will allow a much after environment by separating the public and immates at all time. The much larger courthouse will allow a much larger courthouse will allow a much safer environment by separating the public and immates at all time. The much larger courthouse will also make

immates at all time. The much larger courthouse will also make room for a much needed drug court, the judge said.

But Harris does not plan to hang up his robe entirely after the new year starts.

He says he will fill in as a visiting judge at the 47th when he can.

"But I don't plan to make a career out of it," he said, adding he and his wife have a place in California they like to visit when the weather turns cold. Looking back, Harris said he never would have dreamed he would end up a feater.

"Heavens no," he said.

He changed his mind after receiving encouragement from

MOFFITT

FROM PAGE AT

from PAGE AI
and Farmington Hills would
have a delegate, a sergeaut-ntarms came over to tell him to sit
down.
'And I wouldn't,' Moffle
added. Farmington Hills, which
normally has four delegates,
was allowed on. Mofflit grabbed
the microphone and announced
there would be a "nump" or
smaller, separate convention,
which drew those loyal to
unseated chair Patterson. Next unseated chair Patterson. Next month, the two factions will batmonth, the two metions party meets again to elect a per-manent chair.

party meets again to cleet a permanent chair.

McMillin's public statements indicated he represents the "profile, pro-family base" of the party that is opposed to what he termed 'the homosexual agenda." McMillin also pointed out those same conservatives are opposed to higher taxes.

Moffitt doesn't believe sexual orientation and rights of the unborn will become issues in the county board room, although they've certainly been thrust to the forefront of county politics.

politics.

The party is the sum of its parts, he said. "Some are staying with Mr. McMillin and some are staying with Mr. Patterson."

some are staying with Mr.
Patterson."

The state Republican Party has been asked to rule on the legality of the county convention, based on a request made by Patterson supporters. But judging by the convention itself, which didn't disperse until the wee hours of the morning, the future of Republican politics in Oakland County won't be an easy knot to unravel.

"At one point, someone pulled the fire alarm to get people's attention," Moffitt recalled.

RATES

Police Chief Chuck Nebus said the county's juvenile crime rate mirrors that in Farmington Hills.

mirrors that in Farmington Hills.

By comparison, total juvenile felony arrests in the city from 1991-1993 were 240; from 1992-2001, the total number was 190, said Nebus. He added that he has also seen other drumatic decreases involving crimes among teens, such as vandalism and underage drinking parties. Our highest period was in 1985 when we had special details just sent out to break up parties, Nebus said. "We've never had to do that since." He also noted drug sales among teens had decreased significantly thanks to drug-free school zone laws." I think the after-school programs have

after-school programs have helped," Nebus added.



his Marine friend and Circuit Court Judge George LaPlata to accept a governor's appoint-ment to the bench

ment to the bench in 1989.

The enjoyed the 19 plus years I've been here. I have no regers, he said.

Stephen Meads, attorney for Farmington Hills, has known Harris since he started working with the city 10 years ago.

Meads said working with the judge was a privilege.

"He brought a common sense

approach to the bench," Meads said,
"He afforded people fairness and
consideration and he was tough
when he felt it was necessary. You
knew he was going to make a decision that was right for all parties
involved.
"We're going to miss him," Meads
added. The citizens had a great
judge."

judge."
Harris and his wife of nearly 49
years have three grown sons (all
graduates of North Farmington
High School) and two grandchil-

Harris said he'll miss the courthouse staff most.
They are unbelievably profession-

al," he said while seated in his office, which is marked with pictures from

Included among the memorabilla is an old Farmington Observer pic-

is an old Farmington Observer pleture page.
It shows Harris manning a military plane for a flyower during a city parade. He said he will remember his career as a way to help people who sometimes fall off track.
"People have problems," he said. "You have to sometimes help people in spite of themselves. It doesn't always work, but I do what I can to help rehabilitate them."

一位。在海域是由自由的企会

We're looking for Christmas doll stories

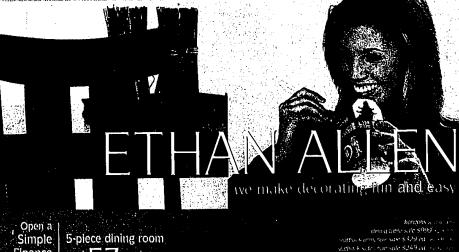
Just about every woman remembers waking up on Christmas morning and finding the doll of her dreams under the tree.

Though long discarded or tucked away in a box, this doll still holds a special place in her heart. We're planning to do a story on Christmas dolls, and we want to hear about your favorite. Also, send us a picture of the two of you on that long- ago Christmas.

Send information to Renec Skoglund, Observer Newspapers, 362s1 Schooleraft, Livonia, MI 48150, attn: Christmas Dolls, by Tuesday, Dec. 10. Contact her al (734) 593-2128; fax: (734) 593-7279; e-mail: rskoglund@oe.homecomm.net.

final 4 days of fall sale!





Simple Finance. Plan account

todayl

\$57 per month

for 60 months

food such price & 5 pairs ulaing nam \$2155, fold noon pak a includes festports by effor pairs during best, him stillen a num-ctors, their dallings pairs, and it having to corned manual informs belie por

"Truycory expenses to appliced U.S. receives now MRMA institute and terms are extend to change. MATOL institution friction a required. The involve replaced is po-eximited, bound on your best partitive previous excluding trans, as all month repla-ment form, bound is 94% APM MRMA existently from terms and form accuracy to like your matoling pagnetics and their previous exercist your proceed.

Algorithmatical U.S. standars only.

ann arbor 734,995.5585 auburn hills 248,393.6600 birmingham

248.540.8558

lakeside 586.566.9999 livonia 734.261.7780

novi 248.380.7900 saginaw

989.793.8000

www.ethanatien.com

SALE INDS DECEMBER 1: 2002.