

Volunteers take case to city council

By RON GARIBSKI

The Farmington Hills Volunteer Fire Department plans to take its case before the Hills city council tonight.

Their case, as the unit's chief and assistants explain, is that the fire department is capable of providing 24-hour, seven-days-per-week ambulance service to the entire city.

Since last Monday, when the city council agreed to contract with the privately owned Farmington Hills Ambulance Company, leaders of the Hills force have met every night. They were preparing a position statement on human rescue operations in Farmington Hills as provided by the entire volunteer fire department.

Their statement, an in-depth seven-page report, will be read by members of the unit at the Hills city council meeting tonight at 8 p.m. at city hall.

THE FIREMEN are objecting to the

council's acceptance of the Hills ambulance service contract, adding that the council doesn't really know what the volunteer department has to offer area residents.

"All we want to do is tell the community what we have to offer," the chiefs and assistants said last Thursday at one of their meetings. "The department is equipped to provide around the clock service and we want everyone to know this."

"The council has not seen what we have at our stations. We are equipped to handle almost any medical emergency. They were not informed when they acted on the Hills ambulance contract at their last meeting. We hope they are broad-minded enough to see our position and iron out any differences of opinion," said the leaders, speaking as "one unit."

Each of the four fire chiefs last week received the resignations of most of the 10

volunteer firemen to demonstrate to council and city officials that the unit is acting on this matter as "one single unit."

"Yes, we have resignations of almost every man in the department. But, we are not using this as a gun against the city council's head. We don't want to be forced to resign and see the city without proper fire and rescue personnel manning the stations. This is the furthest thing from our minds."

"ALL WE WANT to do is show the council and the city that we are united in this cause. We have total support and are not acting as individuals," the chiefs and assistants explained.

"We are protesting the decision to turn over all medical rescue runs exclusively to the Farmington Hills Ambulance Company," they said.

They said they don't plan a mass resignation because, in all sincerity, they could not withhold fire and rescue protection from the city. "The men of the unit are too dedicated to the people of this community to do that," they said.

"Instead, we are protesting what has happened to our pride and credibility over the past couple of weeks."

According to the chiefs and assistants, the fire department is equipped almost identically to the Hills ambulance service. The volunteers and the ambulance company have both their transport vehicles the same way and have worked together on many occasions, sometimes switching equipment during the course of rescue operations.

"It is not that we aren't equipped. We have the first aid supplies and a lot of it has not been used for months. At the meeting, we plan to tell taxpayers what we

have and what they are actually paying for."

MANY OF THE firemen have advanced first aid training and are prepared to meet medical emergencies. Several of the men are EMT's, i.e., an assistant said.

The firemen also believe that the ambulance service contracted by the city will not be able to provide the same quick response as does the fire department.

"The fire department could be, and most times are, on the scene before the ambulance and already working when it arrives. Therefore the firemen save valuable time. Under the new contract, the fire department won't be able to respond to a medical emergency unless they are called in by the ambulance crew. Before, both fire department and the ambulance would respond to the emergency. Now, the ambulance company has the exclusive right to first respond to medical rescue calls.

"This is our biggest gripe against the council. There are documented instances in which the ambulance service took 20 minutes to get to the scene of an emergency. That's ridiculous. The person could have died by then. With the firemen responding, we could have been there in minutes," they said.

The firemen say that the council's decision to contract with the ambulance service for five months at \$2,000 per month is an insult to the volunteers who have been providing rescue service.

At tonight's meeting, the volunteer firemen plan to appear on mass before the city council and inform officials and area residents of the services the firemen can provide.

The department also wants full disclosure and discussion of this issue by the council and public before the city enters into any agreement to provide medical emergency service.

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Sled dog

The distinctive face markings of this Siberian husky may create a scary look, but these Edgewood school students discovered he's really a friendly, loveable guy. Story and picture on page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

City exhausts overtime funds plowing snow

By RON GARIBSKI

It's been a nightmare for the City of Farmington's Public Services Department since the first heavy snowfalls in January. The department thought it would get through the winter easily, but now a find itself using up its overtime funds and more than its normal share of salt.

"It's been tough. We have used up all our budgeted funds for overtime in January. Now we are into February and we don't have any overtime money left to continue with extra hours of winter maintenance," says David Jones, director of the public services department.

"About the only thing helping us make it is that we had some money left over in several other maintenance accounts. We didn't use up all the funds in those accounts and at least now we have some money to use for overtime."

THIS YEAR is the first time since 1971 that Farmington has used more than \$100,000 worth of salt. The city usually uses that much all winter, but the snow season is only half over and already the city is using more salt.

There hasn't been much variance in the price of salt in the past few years, but it sure is tough when the area gets more than 18 inches of snow in one season. Five years ago was the year of ice and watery conditions and not just snow. So the department had to use a lot of salt instead of just using plows to clear the streets. For a city the size of Farmington using over 1,000 tons of salt means that it's been a bad winter," explains Brown.

"We thought we might make a through

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They met folk dancing and are teaching it today

By CORINNE ABATT

Lenore and Walter Protschak of Farmington Hills met at a folk dancing group at Detroit's International Institute 25 years ago.

A quarter of a century of marriage, family and folk dancing later, they are still convinced it's one of the great activities for fun and leisure time.

The couple will teach a 10-week course in folk dancing at the Farmington Community Center starting this month.

Suburbanites who have had little contact with the art may be reluctant to become involved thinking it's too hard, too strenuous, or too complicated.

Mrs. Protschak says, "There are literally hundreds of beautiful, walking dances that are a mild form of exercise. There are many simple ones anyone can do the first night using simple right and left foot steps."

to beginners—couples and singles.

Aside from social and pleasant activity with some cultural understanding side benefits, the Protschaks have another motive. They hope the dancers in the new class will be a nucleus for dancing at the second annual ethnic festival on the grounds of the Farmington Community Center in late spring.

Ethnic festivals are something else the couple have shared for a long time. Protschak was associated with the International Institute for dancing at the grounds of the Old World Market, a popular annual event in Detroit for 40 years. He had similar responsibilities with festivals in Erie, Penn. and St. Paul, Minn.

Already named honorary chairman of this year's festival at the Community Center, Protschak was co-chairman for the first last year.

"When planning a festival for the first time, it is wise to concentrate on one of three areas—food, program or crafts—and then gradually add the rest. When I came in on the planning they said they were going to do all three. I shook my head."

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As far as the couple know, there is one of the few suburban dance groups geared

High school hosts parent orientation

Starting today and continuing for the next two weeks, North Farmington High School will host an orientation program for parents of incoming senior high students.

The one hour parent and staff sessions will begin at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday at the school.

Parents of next year's 10th graders will be able to visit classrooms and talk with teachers about courses and activities at the school.

"We do this to eliminate many of the bad rumors parents hear about high schools," says North principal Lynn Nutter. "It's a big step into high school for both students and parents. By conducting this orientation program, we hope to make that transition a rewarding one for everyone."

North started the sessions three years ago and, according to Nutter, it has been very successful.

"We have gotten a lot of positive response from parents about this program. They tell us that it has really prepared them for their child's entrance into senior high," Nutter continues.

"And it works smoothly. It helps bring the community and the schools a little closer together by explaining what the new experience is all about."

Parents are aware of problems. The program is geared to help them prepare for what will happen. They learn about courses, activities and all the various events that go on here."

While parents are visiting North, students at Dunckel and Warner Junior Highs (feeder schools for North, will be talking with counselors about what courses they should take when they start 10th grade.

Then in the spring, all 10th graders at Dunckel and Warner also will visit North and spend several hours at the school talking with teachers and other students.

Nutter considers this probably the most effective way of introducing students to senior high. The staff is pleased with the program and will continue it again next year.

At the end of the Parents' orientation sessions, the staff meets with parents to discuss what the group has seen. Parents are given evaluation forms and any questions will be answered. If a question cannot be answered at that time, Nutter will follow-up at a later date.

Further information about the program can be obtained by contacting Nutter at 628-5511.

Two Harrison students Area co-eds named to academies

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Two Harrison High School coeds have been nominated for admission into traditionally all male military academies.

Linda Diekman, 17, applied to the Air Force Academy and Lynn Burrell, 17, is a nominee for West Point.

one of the college board testing services sent her a brochure about West Point, but she applied to the Air Force Academy after one of its cadets spoke to her class.

"I was planning on going to Michigan Tech," Ms. Burrell says. "I tried for a four-year teaching scholarship. She planned to major in geological or mineral engineering but may study chemistry, science or mathematics at West Point."

She top didn't decide until December to apply to a military academy.

She added she disagrees with some of their ideas also.

Each woman should have a chance to advance herself if she's qualified," she says.



LYNN BURRELL

Both coeds admit they drifted into the idea of applying to a military academy.

"I heard that Congress passed a bill that allowed women into the academies," Ms. Diekman says. "I just kind of got interested. I really didn't decide until the end of December."

MS. BURRELL, who has a 3.81 average, applied to West Point partly because she always wanted to be in the Army.

"I think I could be qualified to do it once I've been trained," she said.

"It's not so much the military life," Ms. Diekman says. "I think it opens up an education and an opportunity that's been open only to guys."

Ms. Diekman isn't sure about her major yet, but is interested in social science.

"They have career areas in just about any area," she says.

She sees the Air Force Academy as an opportunity to learn to fly, though women are not allowed to attend flight school.

"They feel though that in four years, they will allow women to go into flight school," she says. "I'd love it." She would "not especially" want to fly in a combat zone.

"I'm just as willing (as a man) to fight for my country," Ms. Burrell says.

Both nominees agree with some of the ideas advocated by women's lib.

"I believe in women's liberation a lot," Ms. Burrell says.



LINDA DIEKMAN

"I don't go for far out women's libbers," Ms. Diekman says. "I feel that if women are capable, they should be given a fair chance."

MS. DIEKMAN adds that she disagrees with some of their ideas.

"Each woman should have a chance to advance herself if she's qualified," she says.

Both families support their daughter's decision to apply to a military academy.

Ms. Burrell says her father is happy that she's reaching for such a high goal.

"My father keeps pointing out the bad points," Ms. Diekman says. "He decides that it would be a great opportunity. He says it's a case of a girl being in the right place at the right time."

"My mother would support me no matter what my decision is," she adds.

Friends of the nominees didn't seem surprised by their nomination.

"Most girls that I talked to about it think I have more guts than they do for trying it," Ms. Diekman says.

Both nominees must be able to do such exercises as the arm hang and a standing broad jump to qualify for the academy.

ONLY ONE candidate from each district is chosen for a particular academy.

Ms. Burrell, who swims 40 laps a week with her father, says she's a little nervous about the physical ability test. She's been exercising on her own for the last four years, but has taken only one gym class in school.

Ms. Diekman, who moved to Farmington from Monroe, says that she's been active in speed swimming, water ballet and tennis.

"I'm a sports nut to begin with," she says. "But the muscles I've developed aren't the same as the girls who have been out playing softball."

Because women haven't been admitted to the academies for years, standards for the physical ability tests haven't been formulated yet.

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GOURMET COOKING

Students always are preparing new recipes to put in our gourmet cooking class. To see how they enjoy their new dishes, read about Mrs. Barbara Durand's course on Page 2.