

Farmington Observer

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Water battle is a puzzler to suburbia

By LYNN ORR

Farmington area residents using city sewer systems will probably see a \$5 average hike in their quarterly bills this fall—the price of cleaning up the Detroit sewage disposal system.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills were enjoined in a law suit against the City of Detroit filed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA says Detroit's sewage system is polluting the Great Lakes, and the federal agency is suing the Detroit Water Board, its customers, including Farmington and Farmington Hills, Oakland County, and the State of Michigan, charging that Detroit failed to meet a July 1 deadline for compliance with EPA standards.

Last week, both Farmington and Farmington Hills city officials agreed to be represented in the case by former Circuit Court Judge William P. Hampton, who's representing Oakland County. But city officials are unclear as to their status in the case.

"In discussions with the city attorney, we find at this point that it is not clear whether the city is either a defendant or a plaintiff in this lawsuit, or whether the city may be fined in the future if Detroit violates the terms of the consent decree," Farmington City Mgr. Robert Deadman told the council.

AND CITY officials question whether the close to 200 per cent rate hike requested by Detroit over the next two years has been substantially researched.

"There's no question that Detroit has got to have more money to build and maintain a proper system," Deadman says. "Because of the speed in which this is being put together, no one has had adequate opportunity to evaluate whether the money is too much or not enough."

And since Detroit faces the loss of \$300 million in federal funds to meet EPA pollution standards if the rate increase fails to get approval by Sept. 30, the push is on to get suburban communities to waive their rights in getting the rate hike through.

"For the last two years, most of the suburban users have been of the opinion that the City of Detroit was com-

plying with EPA regulations," Deadman says. "Now it's claimed that the City of Detroit sewer system is providing dirtier water than industry into the Great Lakes."

"The federal government knows Detroit cannot comply without more money, but whether or not the judge and all the suburban communities will go along with all this is quite crucial in terms of the federal money."

While suburban communities may be hesitant in giving Detroit the rate increases immediately, they face problems in their own communities in terms of raising rates.

THE CITY of Farmington is a direct customer of the Detroit Water Board for its water and sewage systems, while Farmington Hills buys services from Oakland County, which in turn buys services from Detroit. And although all suburban communities are charged the same rate for water and sewer services, the suburbs charge differing rates to their customers.

The hike approved by the water board but not yet approved by the Detroit City Council would increase the present charge of 89 cents for disposal of 1,000 cubic feet—7,500 gallons—of sewage to \$1.72. After July 1, 1978, the charge would be \$2.08 and \$2.52 after July 1, 1979.

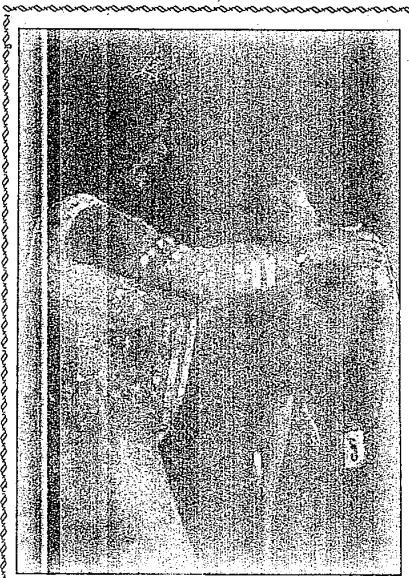
The average homeowner in the City of Farmington pays about \$28 for a quarterly bill, which will get about a \$5 rate hike for the sewage rate increase.

Because Farmington has a combined system, in which storm and sanitary systems are combined, the hike affects city residents more dramatically.

"Weather conditions affect the amount of water introduced into the sanitary system," Deadman explains. "If we had no storm water in our system, you would ship less sewer water back to Detroit than we brought in, theoretically. Since we have a combined system, storm water goes down to Detroit for treatment."

And Deadman isn't sure that reducing the amount of water sent to Detroit is cost effective, although the proposed rate increase makes it a more economical idea than thought pre-

(Continued on page 4A)



Joining the winners' circle

The new Miss Farmington, Dorlisa LaMarra (right), is congratulated by Farmington's own Miss Michigan Holly Ann Schmitt during this week's ceremonies. To read more about the new queen, turn to the Suburban Life Section B. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Sister cities seek rec unity

By LYNN ORR

If Farmington Hills officials agree to sell recreational services to the City of Farmington, the recreational picture around the area won't change much next year.

Still smarting about Farmington Hills' exit from the Farmington Area Recreation Commission last March—and the withdrawal of the commission's major funding—City of Farmington officials nevertheless agree to purchase services from the Hills next year at a cost of about \$23,000.

After considering various alternatives, the City of Farmington's Ad Hoc Recreation subcommittee recommended the move to purchase services and maintain a "Sister City" attitude with the Hills.

"They reasoned that, for the collective good of both cities, a 'Sister City' attitude of cooperation should be maintained, as the two cities already cooperate in providing many civic, fraternal and cultural activities," City Mgr. Robert Deadman told the council.

"The City of Farmington participated in the development of the current recreational program offered by the City of Farmington Hills. By continuing our participation, we will provide uninterrupted services to our residents and have the use of the trained recreational personnel of Farmington Hills."

THE ESTABLISHING of some long-

term commitments were also recommended by the committee, consisting of William Barker, Jack Cotton, Jane Humble, Kenneth Murray, Gordon Page, Jean Tyler, and chairman John Stenson.

Sharing facilities, such as parks and tennis courts, on a no-charge basis; access to recreational services for residents of both cities; and a vehicle for citizen input were also recommended by the committee.

One method to establish citizen input could take the form of a recreational supervisory committee with members appointed by both cities, the report says. And the committee recommended that the City of Farmington be identified in publications issued by the Farmington Hills' recreation department.

The committee also agreed that a non-resident fee could be charged to use certain facilities in certain instances, such as facilities where capital improvements were made.

Since the City of Farmington currently has 17.1 per cent of the Farmington area equalized assessed valuation, the city's share of the recreational budget would be about \$23,000. 17 per cent of Farmington Hills net expense after revenues for recreation, about \$135,000.

The city council authorized Deadman and City Atty. Robert Kelly to begin discussions with Farmington Hills in order to attain an equitable written long term agreement covering the recreational program.

Hills officer warns of rape myths

By LYNN ORR

A dark alley, a woman alone and a dangerous stranger. These are the ingredients most people would include in their picture of rape.

Assuming that most rape victims are attacked in the middle of the night in a secluded place, many suburbanites into a false feeling of security.

In reality, most rapes and other sexual crimes are committed by friends, relatives and acquaintances of the victims, and the crime can occur in rather innocent surroundings, says Farmington Hills Officer Linda Harris, who handles all rape cases for the city.

"We don't have an overwhelming number of cases, but they have increased in the last couple of years," says Ms. Harris, who estimates about one case a month in Farmington Hills.

"People seem to think they're safe in the suburbs," she says. "Just because it's someone you know, pay attention. It's a lot easier to talk someone into being wary of strangers, but most rape victims know their attackers."

Everything reported as a rape, however, doesn't turn out to be concrete. Sometimes an errant wife who's been out late will report a rape to cover her indiscretions or a pregnant teenager will report a rape instead of ad-

mitting to her parents that she's had sexual intercourse with her boyfriend.

FARMINGTON HILLS cases have involved a rapist who roamed Grand River for a while, attacking a Botford Hospital nurse and another woman out walking; the rape of a hotel woman by several white men; and the case of the "old neighborhood Grandpa" who raped a child.

A difficult case for Ms. Harris involved the rape of several prostitutes from Detroit, who were brought to Farmington Hills, raped and beaten by several men.

"I'm of the opinion that a prostitute has the right to say no," says Ms. Harris. "You can't pick and choose in this kind of thing."

Unfortunately, the women refused to prosecute, which is a common enough experience with rape victims, if they report the attack at all.

"The first thing they want to do is wash, but they're scrubbing away all my evidence," Ms. Harris explains. When someone makes a rape report, she tries to meet the victim at the hospital to reassure the victim and to get all the evidence she can find.

One of the biggest hurdles in a rape investigation is overcoming the victim's reluctance and convincing her that she won't be on trial instead of

the rapist. Many victims Ms. Harris encounters have seen a television movie "A Case of Rape," which portrays the ordeal of a rape victim from the assault through the trial of her attacker.

"I don't know how it is elsewhere, but it's not like that in Oakland County," she says. "A lot of victims are threatened by the court situation, but first of all, I tell her that it's going to be she and I."

Botford Hospital is cooperating with the police by using of evidence needed for a court case. Ms. Harris does take pictures of the victim, in a locked room with a blanket shielding the woman.

"I've never taken a picture of a breast or asked someone to drop the blanket," she says, but the photographic evidence is important in court.

She also demands that the family refrain from bothering the victim. Often family members inadvertently quiz the victim as to whether she encouraged the attack.

"The last thing you need is someone else who's going to kick you when you're feeling bad."

"The last thing she needs is someone else who's going to kick you when you're feeling bad." (Continued on page 10A)

Rodeo: A cowboy's source of pride

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

On the road with the rodeo can be tiring and expensive but it's the life that Jim Zinser chose when he started his J bar J Championship Rodeo 13 years ago.

For Zinser the rodeo life is an education for his children and source of pride. Leaning against a flat bed trailer during a lull in preparations for the Farmington Founders' Festival Rodeo, Zinser remembered how he got his start in the business.

He was a 23-year-old when he began to think that after six years in the

ring he had seen a lot of rodeos that needed improving. So he decided to do something about it and started his own.

"I contested for a long time," said the soft spoken Zinser with a drawl. "I could see there was a need for better rodeos."

THIRTEEN YEARS LATER, Zinser, 32, is still using the lessons he learned when he rode the circuit. Today, he owns 150 head of rodeo stock which includes 75 horses and 33 or 34 bulls. A rodeo that size takes about \$40,000 annually to operate. His

stock is gathered from different parts of the western United States. Horses are bought in Montana, bulls are purchased in South Texas. These buying excursions are expensive, but to Zinser they're worth the time and effort.

"I put in a lot of miles and a lot of dollars to get them to Michigan," he admitted.

His trips to south Texas are necessary because that region supplies the most and the best cross bred bulls, according to Zinser.

Good bucking horses are difficult to find, also.

"A horse can't be trained to buck. It's got to want to buck. If you could train them, they wouldn't be so expensive," he said.

On the average, a good bucking horse can cost \$800, according to Zinser, who has paid as much as \$1,700 for a horse. His efforts have paid off. He may own the second largest rodeo in the country, he said.

In spite of the cost of securing good animals, the rodeo business is picking up after some lean years, according to Zinser.

"It's getting better. It's gotten better. There are more city and college rodeos. They're teaching kids the rodeo," he said.

"THEY'RE STARTING THEM OFF THE RIGHT way," he said as he leaned his plaid covered elbows on the flat bed trailer and looked after the wanderings of his son, Cody, 6.

"Now, kids six and seven years old are riding calves. There's no age limit. It depends on the ability of the child," he said.

Rodeos are a family business in an age that has its share of adults only entertainment.

"I'm on the road six months of the year. Next week we're off, but then we're going to Saline, Michigan. We've been in Ohio for two to three weeks," he said.

His wife Margaret, Cody and daughter Shannon, 7 accompany him on the road. Mrs. Zinser takes care of the family's correspondence and children.

"It's really great for the kids. They can see different parts of the country. I think that it will help them accept life easier than kids who haven't seen anything. They're getting smart, now. When you ask them if they want to go somewhere, they ask how far it is. They'll say, that's too far and they'll have to stay out overnight and they don't want to do that," Zinser smiled.

"I'm not real hard on the kids. I let them do what they want. They may not be here tomorrow, just as we might not. So I let them enjoy themselves," he said.

Hills meeting agenda is set

The Farmington Hills City Council will meet tonight at 8 p.m. in the city council chambers at Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road. Following are some of the agenda items for the meeting. The list is subject to change.

- Consideration of adoption of a master plan for the Parks and Recreation Division development.
- Appointments to boards and commissions.
- Consideration of a zoning request for property on the northwest corner of Orchard Lake and Twelve Mile from office and residential to business use.
- Consideration of a request to rezone property on Grand River and

Hathaway from industrial to business use requested by Bob Sellers Pontiac.

- Recommendation for interim fees to Vilcaan-Leman planning consultants.
- Consideration of participation in the Rouge River Watershed Committee.
- Consideration of a resolution requesting Oakland County to take jurisdiction of Grand River.
- Designation of an official representative to the Michigan Municipal League convention.
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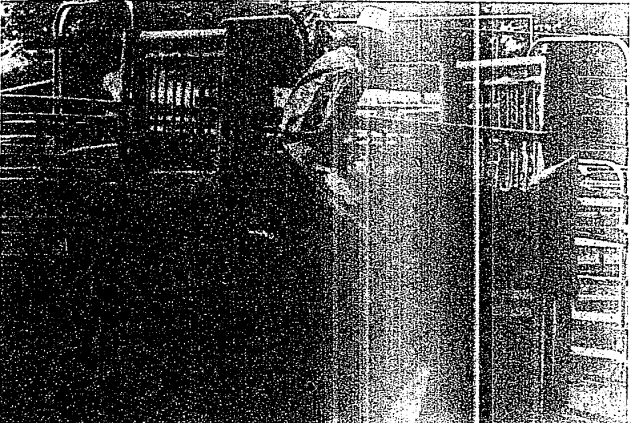
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Jim Zinser shows how to become a professional rodeo star. (Staff photo)

Community Calendar 2B
Editorial Opinion Section A
News Section A
Sports 6A
Suburban Life Section B
Classifieds Section C

SPEAK OUT
Farmington residents have a lot on their minds, these days. Primaries, senior citizen housing debates and building new recreation departments loom ahead for both cities. Maybe some lighter thoughts are being entertained in the record heat of this summer. Share them with us and the rest of your neighbors. We like getting mail, too. Drop the Farmington Observer a line by writing to Editor Steve Barnaby, Box 69, Southfield, Michigan, 48037.