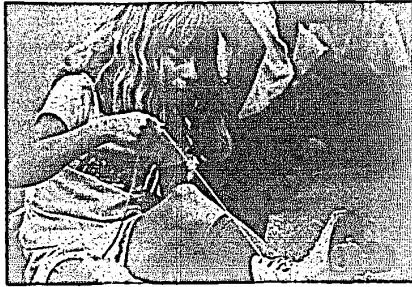


# Farmington Observer Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 71 Monday, July 19, 1978 Farmington, Michigan 22 Pages Twenty Five Cents



Debbie Aporus, 10, was just one of the hundreds of area youngsters who participated in Friday's recreation day at City Park, sponsored by the Farmington and Oakland County recreation departments as she laces her skate to join the many others skating around the park's parking lot. See story and pictures on page 3. (Staff photo by Harry Mauths)

## Templin stands firm Pay dispute appeal looms

By RON GABINSKI

After months of listening to both sides in the contract dispute between Farmington Hills and its patrolmen Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Templin decided last week that their previous contract was valid.

The dispute in question was over a provision in the patrolmen's 1972 contract that said cost-of-living increases would double every six months by having the index figure compounded each pay adjustment period.

Templin's decision now paves the way for the Hills patrolmen to receive the biggest paychecks in the state for regular duty. Top pay after three years would reach almost \$21,300 for patrolmen after starting as a rookie at \$14,000.

Hill City Manager George Majoros estimates that retroactive pay for the patrolmen would total more than \$27,000 dating back from 1972 to 1973.

Farmington Hills took the patrolmen to court earlier this year in an effort to get the wording of the contract changed, but Templin ignored the city's case late Tuesday by ruling in favor of the patrolmen.

"Simply, my decision was that the contract can't be broken," Templin said last week after concluding the case. "The city wanted to reform the contract because it said a mistake was made by both parties when it was signed."

"BUT I SAW nothing that proved to me the patrolmen made a mistake. Under the law you can only reform a contract when both sides admit they made a mistake," he continued.

"In this case the patrolmen don't claim a mistake was made. In fact, it is possible that the city didn't make a mistake either."

Templin ruled that the patrolmen's previous contract was valid and the city was responsible for paying the men the cost-of-living adjustment retroactive to the pact's signing in April, 1972, and continuing until March, 1973.

He said that if the city didn't pay the policemen, then they must return to his court room where he would issue an order forcing the city to pay the adjustments.

While Templin said his ruling might be an unpopular decision, Majoros said he wasn't going to do anything until he receives an order from the court forcing him to pay the policemen.

"When we receive that court order we're going to take it to appeals court," Majoros said. "The city council has the right to appeal any decision and I would recommend that they appeal that court order because there is so much money involved."

"We brought action in court to reform the contract, but the judge upheld the policemen's motion and threw the case out of court. The city stands right now. I don't really know. I have to talk the matter over with our city attorneys first," he said.

AS MAJOROS SAID that the case would be appealed, Hill Police Officers association president Jerry McKenzie said he wouldn't make any comment until he met with Union Local 214 president Joe Valente and discussed the patrolmen's position. Hills patrolmen belong to Local 214.

"I want to make sure our side of the story is told correctly," McKenzie said Friday afternoon.

Once president returns from out-of-town before we make any further comment on the case."

Templin worked on the dispute for several months in and out of his chambers trying to get both sides to resolve the problem.

"I tried to get the union to settle for less money, but they thought they had good ground for their case and they did. Templin explained."

I looked at the contract the only way I could and that was as a legal document. The way I interpret it under the law, there is no way the city can get out of it.

"I know my decision might look bad to the public by allowing the patrolmen to receive so much, but I had no other choice because that's the way I must decide," the judge explained.

Speculating on the ramifications of Templin's decision, Majoros said if the city was forced to pay the officers, funds for that pay adjustment would come out of the city's unappropriated surplus account which maintains the equivalent of several months operating expenses.

Payment of this pay adjustment also would force the city to look at its budget and reconsider its priorities.

"The police operation is a good percentage of our total operating budget exceed-

ing \$2 million of the \$6 million total," Majoros said.

If the paychecks for the patrolmen go up so much, it's obvious that we must make cuts some place in our budget. We would have to look over the department to see how we could restructure the budget in order to provide services to the community with the least tax burden on the residents."

Although Templin ruled in favor of the patrolmen, Majoros says he doesn't think the city will lose the case.

"I can't believe we will lose the case if we appeal, so I'm not that concerned about having to cut services if I don't have to," he continued.

I think we ought to pay the police officers a comparable wage, which isn't necessarily the highest in the state, nor the last one line either," Majoros said. "But we do want it to be above average."

If the patrolmen are granted the retroactive pay, their salaries would be in line with the department's command officers. Sergeants make \$17,823, lieutenants receive \$18,822 and captains gain \$20,322 under their previous contract agreement.

The city and both its patrolmen and command officers have been negotiating contracts since their previous contract expired in March, 1973.

The patrolmen's contract is in arbitration, while the officer's negotiations are in abeyance, Majoros said.

## Speech freedom rift hits OCC

By ERIC PETERS

A Detroit bi-weekly tabloid The Sun has charged Oakland Community College (OCC) administrators with engaging in "illegal and unconstitutional" suppression of their newspaper.

At a Thursday morning press conference on OCC Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, Sun publishers Barbara Wrenberg and David Sencar declared the school was in direct violation of the First Amendment's right to a free press.

Ms. Wrenberg said that large numbers of a special bicentennial issue given out free were found discarded in trash bins at OCC campuses.

"People are disgusted with their law makers being law breakers," she said. "The school has no policy for distribution. I think we're being singled out. I think they disagree with our policies."

Sun distribution coordinator Vince Harrington said that approximately 1,000 copies of the paper had been confiscated and thrown away at three Oakland campuses: Orchard Ridge, Auburn Hills and Highland Lakes. Another 10,000 free papers continued to be distributed on 14 other college campuses in the area without incident.

land Community College was not discussing an administration version of the controversy. Phone calls to him were screened by a secretary who stated, "If it is concerning the Sun newspaper, Dr. Hill has no comment on the subject."

It was made clear to the secretary that the main point which required explanation was simply "What is OCC policy for distribution of periodicals on campus?"

The message was presumably delivered to Dr. Hill, but he did not come to the phone and left no reply. Attempts to reach provosts and deans at all three schools in question were equally fruitless.

An article in the July 23 edition of the Sun stated the reason for the feud as being a backhanded "vendetta" on the part of OCC trustee Lala Johnson. The Sun alleged that Johnson had permitted distribution of Jimmy Carter campaign literature until she "was reminded" by her fellow trustees of the policy against distribution of partisan political materials on campus.

The article said Johnson reacted by questioning the validity of Sun distribution, because it had published two articles critical of Carter in May, prior to the Michigan primary. The action of banning the underground paper was interpreted as a result of this conflict of politics.

MS. JOHNSON, however, denied any connection between the Carter literature and removal of the newspaper and claimed she had never even seen a copy of the Sun. She said it was "probably the trustees and certainly the right of the campus provosts to determine what type of literature can be distributed on campus."

"When I read about the personal vendetta in the Royal Oak Tribune, I couldn't fathom who they were talking about," informed that it referred to her, she laughed and replied, "That's ridiculous. I don't know where they're getting this misinformation but it's obviously quite inaccurate."

Mrs. Johnson characterized representatives of the Sun as being "annoyous to the colleges and students to increase circulation. This is primarily a judgement on my part, because I don't have all the facts, but for the time being it appears that is the case."

The trustee admitted she had helped her friend Wivi Levin, wife of Sander Levin, overcome some difficulties she was having getting Carter campaign literature passed out and a fund-raiser scheduled on campus. "I didn't allow it to be handed out. I brought it up for a board decision," she said.

THE BOARD of trustees saw no harm in the literature being permitted, but banned the fund-raiser as being against college policy.

Mrs. Johnson said, "I consider mine to be a non-partisan position," she added, "and I wouldn't do anything to betray it."

Seeing the relation of the First Amendment in the case, Mrs. Johnson said it was the opinion of the board attorney that, "not only is it legal, but we have the duty to determine what material can be distributed on campus to students."

Choice of textbooks falls under that category, but the board leaves such decisions to academic staff members.

engaged in a promotional drive making free copies available to college and university students.

Representatives of OCC have taken the position that the give-away was a gimmick intended to increase circulation for advertising purposes. Students of the Sun were subsequently confiscated from student unions and thrown into waste paper bins, the paper charged.

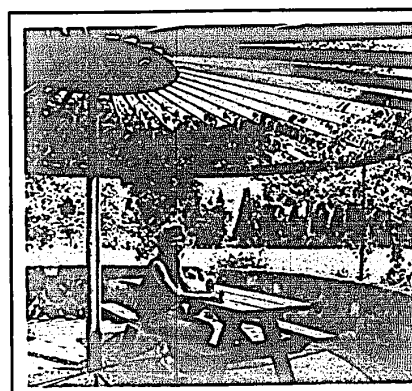
Reporters and representatives from the Sun claimed that every effort had been made to reach OCC administrators and to attain an amicable resolution of the dispute with scant success.

Said Harrington, "Responses ranged from one polar region to another. The explanations given for the actions were various and conflicting." He accused OCC administrators of "stonewalling."

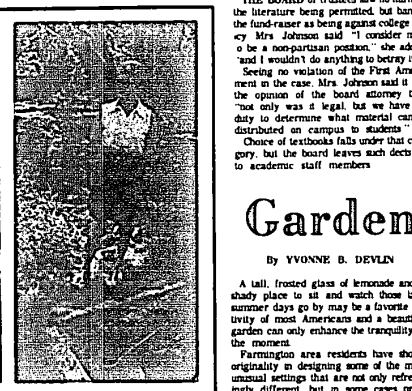
In a similar situation at Highland Lakes campus, the ban caused action by student government and faculty members which brought about a restoration of Sun distribution.

On the Auburn Hills campus, James Ingram, Director of the Student Union, allegedly admitted the paper was considered by college officials to be "too controversial, and was removed."

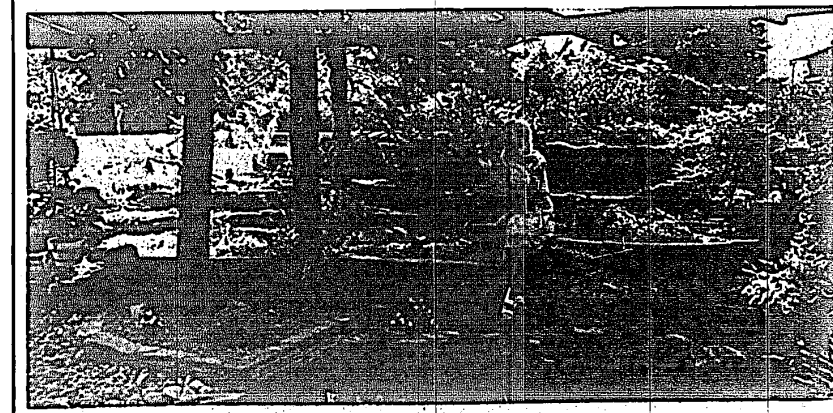
THE SUN has in recent months been



Jean Denaro retreats from the hot sun into the shade of her grape arbor



Nancy Leonard points out the old Farmington community well that was discovered in her yard.



Reporter Yvonne Devlin relaxes in the Farmington Hills garden of Bill and Gloria Devlin. (Staff photos by Harry Mauths)

ing \$2 million of the \$6 million total," Majoros said.

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## Board agenda

With declining enrollments lurking in every corner of the Farmington School District, Superintendent Lewis Schulman will propose that the school board form a "Blue Ribbon Task Force" to attack the problem on a district-wide basis, and not just on a elementary or secondary level. Schulman says the committee would join forces with Michigan State University officials in an attempt to find solutions to this ever increasing problem.

The superintendent will present his proposal to the board at its regular meeting 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Administration Building, 2200 Shawwassee. As usual, citizens will be able to voice their concerns about school matters by filling out an index request card at the beginning of the session. Other items of importance on the agenda include:

- A. Approval of expenditures—\$75,844.70
- B. Asst. Superintendent search report
- C. Street paving bond resolution
- D. Bus purchases totaling \$124,633
- E. Civil action concerning maternity leaves

## Gardens delight residents

By YVONNE B. DEVLIN

A tall, frosted glass of lemonade and a shady place to sit and watch those lazy summer days go by may be a favorite activity of most Americans and a beautiful garden can only enhance the tranquility of the moment.

Farmington area residents have shown originality in designing some of the most unusual settings that are not only refreshingly different, but in some cases practical.

Mrs. Jean Denaro, of 2783 Old Bedford in Farmington Hills, has a vegetable garden as well as a grape arbor in her yard to keep the larder stocked all year round.

"My husband, Ben, designed the circular structure of the arbor and it took him three years to build it," she says.

He broke every stone by hand and the cornerstone is of marble and sculpted with the family crest, says Mrs. Denaro.

GRAPPE VINES HANG over the top of the arbor and Mrs. Denaro uses both kinds of the Concord grapes in making jelly.

"We barbecue out here almost everyday in the summer," she says.

Every tree and shrub in the yard was started from seed, she adds. The Denaros are 16-year residents of Farmington Hills. Bill and Gloria Devlin, of Farmington Hills, have redone their Japanese-style patio and waterfall three times until they finally got it just right. The concrete pond contains goldfish that live there year-round.

"The goldfish freeze in the winter and come back to life in the spring," say the Devlins. They are never fed but live off whatever bugs find themselves in the pond.

Last year their daughter, Sus, had an outdoor wedding in the yard that was attended by more than 100 guests.

Nancy Leonard, of 2320 Shawwassee, in Farmington started digging a soft spot in her yard five years ago and discovered an old community well filled with bricks, dishes and broken keroseme lamps.

"It's about 12 feet deep and was filled with rubbish. We dug find a better dirt and a ceramic dog that were still intact," she says.

The house was built around 1850 and Mrs. Leonard says that no matter where one digs in the yard, broken objects are constantly showing up.

The yard contains three herbal gardens and a tree which Mrs. Leonard calls "the condemniatum."

"There are all kinds of animals populating that tree. Squirrels, deer mice and birds are always eating out of the bird-feeder," she says.

It took two years to build the horseshoe-shaped wall that is on the side of Vincent Brockler's yard at 3345 Oakland in Farmington.

"The reason we built it was because the house was on an incline and it was too steep for the children to go back and play," says Mrs. Brockler.

THE GARDEN PAGES AWAY from the house and the neighbors view is much better than their own, says Brockler.

It isn't much upkeep anymore since it is planted with perennials and only needs weeding once in a while, according to Mrs. Brockler. The hardest work is in the spring when fertilizer and topsoil are put on it.

inside

Brotherhood votes

News	Section A	State Representative Wilbur Brotherton
Columns	8	(B-Farmington) has been rated slightly to the left by the Conservative Party of Michigan. To see how he has voted on the recent bills going through the state house turn to page 3A.
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Robertson Life	Section B	
Classifieds	Section D.C	