

Farmington Observer

Volume 83 Number 10

Monday, November 22, 1978

Farmington, Michigan

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Twenty-Five Cents

Firemen win round in battle against Hills

By LOUISE OBRUTSKY

Oakland County Circuit Judge Steven Andrews has ordered Farmington Hills to give two volunteer fire fighters a chance to take tests toward becoming full-time members of the department.

The judge allowed the city to fill three of the five new full-time positions but city administrators say they won't have anyone until the case is out of court.

Harold Sweet, 33, and Jon Quisenberry, 31, were initially barred from taking the tests because they didn't meet the fire department's age and height requirements.

Firemen are required to be between the ages of 18 and 31. They should also be between five foot eight inches and six foot four inches tall.

Sweet is five foot seven inches and Quisenberry is five foot six inches tall. They filed suit in Circuit Court and filed a complaint with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) contesting the regulations and charging the city with unfair labor practices.

The court request isn't the first opportunity they had to take the written examination according to City Mgr. George Majoros.

"We tried to make arrangements for them to take the exam, but their attorney wrote us saying they wouldn't allow them to take the test," he said.

THE TIME THE CITY had scheduled the test was inconvenient for her client, says the volunteers' attorney Jessica Cooper.

Sweet was teaching a first aid course for the city that evening and Quisenberry was attending classes that night, she said.

"I called the city but they wouldn't talk to me, the person I talked to said my clients should call finally, I wrote a letter," she said.

The city plans to allow the men to take the tests as soon as possible, Majoros said. "I think Andrew's decision makes it clear that he wants us to let them go through the process," he said.

The testing will be done through a third party according to Majoros. "We have nothing to do with the testing," he said. "It's impartial."

"I talked to Judge Andrews about a guarantee that the testing would be fair," Ms. Cooper said.

"I didn't want the men to take the test before Judge Andrews had ruled on the matter," she said.

The injunction against the filling of two of the five full-time positions Farmington Hills wants to create in the fire department is effective until MERC hands down its ruling.

THE MOVE doesn't guarantee that the two volunteers will be hired, according to Ms. Cooper.

First, we have to win before the MERC and then they have to pass the tests to qualify she explained.

The volunteers, who were working 40 hours per week, will tell MERC their working hours were cut after they filed a suit in circuit court against the city according to Ms. Cooper.

"The men talked to other people about being disqualified for the positions because of their age and height," she said.

"They had their hours cut because they were considered troublemakers. They were punished for trying to better their working conditions by banding together."

"They were trying to be salaried," she said.

Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort explained that Sweet and Quisenberry's hours were cut because other men had complained about the hours that the two were working.

"It was just a coincidence that their hours were cut after they filed suit," he said.

"We were unaware of the court action when we cut their hours. The men were working all evening, according to Majoros."

"No one else wanted those hours. They were the only ones who said they could work them," he said.

TWO MEN would be on standby for the four fire stations, according to Van De Voort.

"If a guy was unemployed, we'd let him work in September, two men complained that they didn't have work and wanted full-time. We had no choice but to let them join in," he said.

Both administrators said that it was decided by the city to split up the hours the volunteers worked.

Although the volunteers say the city frowned on their efforts to organize a union, administrators deny that they were even aware of the move.

"I hadn't heard anything," said Van De Voort. "I don't know that the volunteers would organize."

"I never would interfere with organizing," he said.

Majoros expressed strict neutrality on the subjects of unions.

"We exist with union and non-union employees," he said. "In accordance with state law, I, as a city administrator, have to be neutral. I can't say anything in support of them or against them."

"That would be against the state's fair employment laws," he said.

Majoros does support the fire department's age regulations.

Majoros supports maintaining the present age requirements in view of the mechanics of the city's pension system.

"If they do away with the age requirements and a man of 35 or 45 applies, how is he going to contribute to the pension fund?" he said.

"He won't have contributed enough for a pension by the time he's ready to retire. Who will pay it then," he said.

Majoros said the funds may have to come from the city then.

Van De Voort says the regulations were based upon requirements of other departments in the county.

"I think if you get a man at 35, by the time he's 60, he begins to pace himself. The physical activity of this job includes tugging and kidding," he said.

"If a man's older he can sit up front."

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Farmington-Farmington Hills "Old Newsboys" will be hitting the streets on Dec. 10 to help raise money for the Goodfellow

effort to make sure that every child has a Merry Christmas. (Event photo)

Yule volunteers

Goodfellows to hit the streets in annual Christmas gift drive

The Farmington-Farmington Hills Goodfellows are at it again and they need your help to make sure that every child has a Christmas.

General Chairman Mike Tomlin is asking residents of this area to volunteer their time and talents. Those interested should call Tomlin at 474-3400.

Last year, the Goodfellows served more than 200 families, which included 600 children.

"This year all indications point to our serving many more," says Tomlin.

The famous "Old Newsboy Paper Drive" is a Christmas tradition in our area," he says.

The old newsboys will be handing papers this year on Dec. 10 at strategic areas throughout the two city communities.

Proceeds from the sale are used to help pay for the projects undertaken by the Goodfellows.

The services include food baskets, toys, dolls, dresses and shirts for needy families in the Farmington area.

Volunteers are needed to knit mittens, scarves and hats and to make or donate dresses and shirts. Also needed are men and women to pack and distribute donations.

Helping to sell papers on the streets this year are the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, the Farmington Area Jaycees, the Farmington and Farmington Hills police, and

the Farmington Community Lions Club. Also aiding will be the Farmington Elks and Exchange clubs and the Farmington Lions.

Fred Menke will serve as executive director. The assistant general chairmanship will be filled by Farmington City Councilman Dick Pupper.

The paper sale is being chaired by Bruce Habermahl, who has handled the

job for many years. This year's treasurer is Gerald Grace John Chapman will serve as assistant treasurer.

This year's secretary is Bill O'Conner and his assistant is Lee Stevens.

Joe Heyman is chairman for the Toys for Tots. This is the 21st year the Elks Club has participated in the effort to provide toys for our needy children at Christmas.

Bill Prisk has volunteered to serve as canned food chairman. He will ask children from the public and parochial schools to bring canned foods to the schools until Dec. 15.

Jim Stevens is handling publicity once again this year.

Mrs. Lyla Young will be collecting from Our Lady of Sorrows, Ten Mile, Longacre and Planders schools.

Jaycees unconcerned over African meeting

Farmington members of the Jaycees expressed little concern over their organization's choice of South Africa as the site of its 1977 World Congress.

The choice was the target of protests by black Africa, India, Columbia and the West Indies. Protesters objected to South Africa's policy of strict racial segregation.

"My personal opinion is that it is an international organization and they voted that they wanted to have their convention there—so be it," said Farmington Area Jaycees President Jack Davis.

"I personally, vaguely know of South Africa's problems. I leave that to the diplo-

omats, he said. "If this group or any other group of people want to meet there that's pretty well up to them."

David Clappson, a local Jaycee, expressed a slightly different view.

"I would think they would be trying to face a problem in world issues instead of avoiding it," he said.

"In facing the issue, they may be able to find a solution to the problem," he said.

"MAYBE BY BRINGING a black delegate to the area, they can show the country that blacks are capable leaders. The whites are afraid of giving up their power, they're not too thrilled about it."

"Maybe the Jaycees can get people to think ahead to a better way," he said.

"By meeting an issue head on, they will find a solution to a problem instead of avoiding an issue. The best way to solve it is to take positive action for a solution. That's what the Jaycees are all about," he said.

The rank and file of the Jaycees are excluded from deciding the location of the convention, according to Davis.

The Congress is attended by Jaycee members who have been made International Senators in the organization.

"Your community's local Jaycee doesn't really belong to the International," Davis said. "The International Senators are the creme de la creme of the Jaycees."

The International Senators were first introduced into the organization in 1932, according to Davis. The men are nominated by their local organizations to the post

Nominations must be approved by the state and national organizations.

THE JAYCEE INTERNATIONAL Senators who will attend the meeting in South Africa were awarded lifetime memberships in the organization at the time of their appointments.

They also are awarded lifetime memberships in their local chapters as well. Senators are nominated on the basis of service to the local organization.

Steps in car's path, suffers broken leg

A 16-year-old boy was hit by a car on Oak Point Drive and Farmington Road, between Twelve and Thirteen Mills, when he stepped into the driver's path, Nov. 17.

Bryan Thurston, of 23121 Peppermill Farmington, was treated for a broken leg at Botsford Hospital and released. Farmington Hills police say that he was hit by a 1976 Lincoln, when he crossed Farmington Road, apparently before seeing the car, at 2:21 p.m.

The driver of the car, Helen Knight, 50, of 1855 Glencastle, Farmington Hills, wasn't held responsible for the accident, according to Officer Arlo Newell of the traffic bureau.

"She was very upset," Newell said. "The boy's father is very sympathetic towards her. She called the residence this morning to see how the boy was doing."

How gobbler found place in history

By W.W. EDGAR

When you sit down to dinner on Thanksgiving Day and cast your eyes on the big brown man sitting in the center of the table, some thoughts should be given to the organizing of a Benevolent Society for the Return of the Turkey to Its Deserving Place in Society.

No bird has been more maligned than the turkey down through the years and it may be surprising to learn that, contrary to what many have been led to believe, there was no turkey on the first Thanksgiving Day feast enjoyed by the Pilgrims away back in 1620.

The turkey didn't make its appearance as a symbol of the day until two years later when the Indians brought four of the long-legged, spindly looking things to the feast.

They were offered only as a side dish to the venison and the corn and other products raised on the Indian land around Plymouth, Mass.

It wasn't long after that the turkey was dealt its first real blow in the race for prestige when Benjamin Franklin lost his plea to have the turkey made a symbol of the new land instead of the bald eagle.

According to the yellowed pages of American history, Franklin is quoted as saying, "I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character; like those among men who live by cheating and robbing—he is generally poor and very lousy. The turkey is the much respectable bird."

That was the start of casting the turkey aside and it has been treated horribly ever since—except to the point of testing its love life because of the gnat's demand for more white meat.

The turkey, as we know it today, according to history, is not an American bird, but was domesticated from its wild stage in Mexico. In the development it became a bird of some beauty with "royal" tail feathers that branched out into six species, the most popular of which became the bronze, red and white.

In the development the Spaniards took the birds to Europe and in times they arrived in England. From there the later groups of Pilgrims brought them to America. Even then, they were not given a high place in the scheme of things, aside from being the bird that was eaten on Thanksgiving Day.

In fact, so little was thought of it at the time that there was no Thanksgiving Day in the Pilgrims' second year over here and only a small feast in 1623. It wasn't until October 3, 1863—20 years later—that President Abraham Lincoln issued the proclamation making Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Even then the turkey wasn't given a high place—except in the center of the festive board—and about 20 years ago it was dealt the severest blow.

"We found that the white turkey—and there were few of them—had fewer pin feathers and pins than the other varieties. It also had a bigger breast. That meant there was more white meat and we began to develop the white turkey by cross breeding," says Lloyd Starling.

Once that was under way the bronze and red turkeys were bred out of existence and there was a preponderance of white turkeys today.

"But the real change came when we found that the breast became so large that

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This majestic gobbler had to fight his way to dignity.

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