

Ron Holko resigns as Hills police chief

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

After months of behind the scenes battling, the Farmington Hills City Council has accepted the resignation of Police Chief Ronald Holko. Holko submitted his letter of resignation to City Mgr. George Majors who presented it for council action at this week's meeting. He will leave the department on March 1. He came to Farmington Township in 1972 from the Westland Police Department. The resignation was accepted by

the council in a 6-0 vote, with Councilmember Joan Dudley absent. The vote was taken without debate.

In a short statement, Majors announced Holko's resignation and at the same time denied accusations made in the Jan. 24 edition of the Farmington Observer which said that Holko's resignation had been long in coming because Majors was waiting to hire a police official from outside the city who was as yet not free to leave his position.

WITHIN THE last year, Holko has been the center of controversy because of disenchantment expressed by the city's volunteer firemen, who claimed Holko was unresponsive to the department's needs.

After the run in with the volunteers, Majors hired Fire Chief John Van De Voort and Holko's area of responsibility was confined to police operations.

Last July it was discovered that Holko was the owner of a private secu-

city service—the first hint that he was bracing for leaving the department.

But even then he stood fast and said he wanted to stick it out as the city's police chief.

"I don't plan on leaving Farmington Hills. I have too much to do here, yet. I'll work here as long as they want me and I'll attempt to build this department to the quality that I want it," he said in July.

But the pressure for his resignation continued. The Farmington Observer

learned in early December that Majors was holding executive session discussions with the city council, recommending that Holko be asked to leave.

Holko refused to talk about his pending resignation at that time.

PHONE CALLS PLACED to Holko by the Observer after this week's meeting were unreturned.

Administrators and city legislators remained closed-mouthed about Holko's job security throughout, but sources within city hall claim that Holko was holding out in hopes of col-

lecting contract benefits and of finding another job.

Holko's career has been a stormy one since he came to Farmington Hills. In 1974, his personal secretary was put on trial for embezzlement of funds. Two city employees were temporarily dismissed from the department by Holko, and the city union took the side of the employees. Since that time, employee resentment against Holko has continued to escalate.

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Conservation is key

Business fights energy crunch

By LYNN ORR

The "worst winter of the century," as the National Weather Service calls it, has inflicted numerous blows to the east and Midwest.

Neighboring Ohio is facing critical fuel shortages, just short of the emergency level, and Farmington businesses and facilities endured a five per cent voltage reduction last week from Detroit Edison.

Although almost everyone except ski resort owners are hoping for a respite from record low temperatures, business and industry, as well as utilities are preparing for emergencies.

Consumers Power Co. doesn't anticipate shortages unless the crisis situations in nearby states require government intervention.

"Unless the federal government comes in and takes it away from us, we'll be able to accommodate our customers completely," said Jim Thomas, district manager of the Livonia office, which serves the Farmington area.

"We've curtailed customer growth in anticipation of this kind of situation," he said. "If we hadn't, we'd have the same problems as Ohio."

Detroit Edison is working on a five-step program to avert a power short-

age, according to Betty Setz of the public relations department.

"Reducing our own use is the first step," she explained, "and what followed last week when the coal was frozen was the five per cent voltage reduction."

"The third step requires that we ask our industrial customers to reduce use by 10 per cent, and the general public would be asked to curtail use next," she added.

A rotating blackout, no longer than two hours, would be the fifth measure if other means failed to solve the problem.

ALTHOUGH DIAMOND AUTOMATION is a small fuel user, the company would be forced to shut down if the situation was critical, according to plant manager Richard Becker.

"We've been faced with this for two years," said Becker. "We're an individual user that may be subject to cutbacks. Most of our gas consumption is for individual comfort, if the heat is cut back too far we'd have to close the doors and only maintain enough heat to keep the pipes from freezing."

"That's a possibility we face at any time," he added.

Frank Fodajil, vice president and general manager of Willow Run Rubber and Lining Co. on Eight Mile,

claims his company is doing all it can to save fuel.

"We've asked everybody to keep the doors and windows closed, and we've been turning the lights off, especially on the weekends. We heat our molds electrically, and we can't reduce the heat," he explained.

"It takes 600 degrees to melt the plastic, and if a blackout occurs, everything that's in the process at that time would be spoiled."

The company manufactures automotive plastic parts, and the majority of the equipment must be kept running at all times.

"If we shut down and start up again, the power used to reheat is additional power, and the time the machines are down is lost time."

Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College has initiated some voluntary measures to reduce fuel consumption, explained Soeren Gozmann, director of physical facilities.

"We went from one end of the campus to the other shutting off lights, exhaust and ventilation fans, and other things," he said, explaining the procedures followed when Edison asked for the voltage reduction.

"If we have to turn off anything else, it would be marginal operation at best. We try to do without as much as we can, but at what point do you

cry uncle?" he asked.

OCC applied for a public works grant to convert the gas lights in the parking lot to electric lights but failed to receive the \$350,000 request.

Maintenance crews try to maintain the temperature in the low 70s or high 60s to conserve fuel, he noted.

BOYSFORD HOSPITAL has taken several energy-saving steps over the past few years—some that don't always meet with patient and employee approval, said Seymour Cantor, hospital administrator.

"We've rigged our furnaces so that the thermostats cannot call for more than 70 degrees, which works partially but not completely," he explained.

"During the voltage reduction, we shut off 50 per cent of the lights in corridors and the cafeteria—those not essential to patient care."

"We simply can't comply with the President's request to dial down to 55 degrees or so at night."

The hospital has an auxiliary generator that can increase power for short periods, and an oil tank is buried on the grounds in the event that gas is shut off.

Cantor hopes hospitals would be on the top of a priority list if a critical fuel situation developed in Michigan. "You can dial down at home, and I do, but you can't reduce heat in the hospital by too much without affecting patient care."



Dig that snow

Farmington Hills resident Brad Orr doesn't mind all the snow that has been plaguing the older generation this winter. Brad, a member of the Royal Order of Alta Pushee, is a student at Alameda Elementary School. (Staff photo)

Fight winter doldrums

Sign up for recreation

Forget those winter blahs.

Thanks to the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC), area residents will have a chance to participate in a variety of classes beginning in February and lasting for eight weeks.

Classes, ranging from gymnastics to disco dancing, will be offered at four Farmington School District elementary schools: Flanders, Gill, Shiawassee, and Fairview.

Flanders and Gill programs begin on Feb. 8, with registration Feb. 7. Shiawassee programs begin on Feb. 14-15, with registration Feb. 7. Classes at Fairview will begin on Feb. 28 and March 1, with registration Feb. 21. Interested persons also may register at the recreation office, 3155 Eleven Mile or by using the registration form accompanying this article.

Registrations will be accepted at the first class meeting if openings are available.

GYMNASTICS, costing \$6 will be offered at Flanders beginning Feb. 8 at 4:30 p.m. for kindergartners through second graders; at 5:30 p.m. for students in the second and third grades; and at 6:30 p.m. for fourth-sixth graders.

Gill will offer gymnastics at 3:30 p.m. for kindergartners; second graders; 4:30 p.m. for second-fourth

graders; 5:30 p.m. for fourth-sixth graders; and 6:30 p.m. for sixth-ninth graders.

Shiawassee will have classes at 3:30 p.m. for kindergartners-second graders; at 4:30 p.m. for second-fourth graders; 5:30 p.m. for fourth-sixth graders; 6:30 p.m. for sixth-ninth graders; beginning on Feb. 14. On Feb. 15 classes will be conducted for kinder-

gartners-third graders at 3:30 p.m. and for third-sixth graders at 4:30 p.m.

Fairview will have classes beginning on Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. for kindergartners-second graders; at 5:30 p.m. for second-fourth graders and at 6:30 p.m. for fourth-sixth graders.

Classes beginning on March 1 will

(Continued on page 4A)

Adults have fun too

Teenagers and adults also can enjoy the fun being offered by the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) in its winter classes to begin in February.

Classes will be offered at Flanders, Gill, Shiawassee and Fairview School. Flanders and Gill programs begin Feb. 8, with registration Feb. 7. Shiawassee programs begin Feb. 14-15, with registration Feb. 7. Classes at Fairview will begin Feb. 28 and March 1, with registration Feb. 21.

Persons also may register at the recreation office, 3155 Eleven Mile or by using the registration form accompanying this article. Registrations will be accepted at

the first class meeting if openings are available.

VOLLEYBALL, costing \$6 for singles and \$10 per couple, will be at Shiawassee, beginning Feb. 15. Sessions for teens from 7-8 p.m. and for adults from 8-9:30 p.m. Gill will offer adult volleyball, beginning Feb. 8, from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

DISCO DANCE, costing \$8 for singles and \$12 for couples, will be offered at Shiawassee, beginning Feb. 14, from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

TAP DANCE, also costing \$8 for singles and \$12 for couples, will be at Shiawassee, beginning Feb. 14, from 8:25-9:30 p.m.

MID-EASTERN BELLY DANCING. (Continued on page 4A)



People's art

Sarah Fox, a member of the Farmington Artists' Club, shares some of her talent with the residents of the Oak Hill Nursing Home by painting a mural for them. Ms. Fox is looking for other artists to join her

in her efforts to bring art to the people. Interested persons can contact her in care of the Farmington Artists' Club, Box 13, Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

Development firm set to open doors

The first tenant at the Woodcreek Officecenter, Farmington Hills, will be a major development corporation relocating from Detroit, according to Woodcreek owner Philip Koppman.

Republic Development Corporation will begin occupying the 10,420 square feet it has leased about mid-March.

Construction of Woodcreek, a two-story, 60,200-square-foot structure at 31275 Northwestern, was recently completed. Workers have begun customizing the interior for future tenants.

"Republic will be our first tenant, but we have several other commitments as well," said Jon Velick, Koppman management leasing agent. Republic, alone, will take almost 50 per cent of one floor. They're moving several departments to Woodcreek."

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FARMINGTON AREA RECREATION COMMISSION
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48018

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____ City _____

CLASS _____ Starting Date _____

SCHOOL SITE _____ Time _____

FEE: \$ _____ Grade Level (if student): _____

Please make checks payable to Farmington Area Recreation Commission. Your facsimile of this form is acceptable.

No refunds after second class begins. A \$2.00 administrative charge will be withheld on all refunds unless class is cancelled by the Recreation Commission.