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Hills cop trial board is slated

By LYNN ORR

A police trial board will convene in the near future to hear charges against Farmington Hills Police Capt. Russell Conway, official sources confirmed Friday.

The charges involve violation of departmental rules between a police officer and an attorney, sources said. Hills Police Director John Nichols will chair the trial board, consisting of Lt. Thomas Godwin and Sgt. Norman Kilmer, Hills police officers, and secretary Joanna King.

Neither Conway, a longtime veteran of the force, nor Nichols were available for comment. Scheduling of the trial board has yet to be confirmed.

Under the Michigan Open Meetings Law, the trial board will be open to the public, unless otherwise requested by the person charged.

Officials have been expecting a shakeup in the department since Nichols was named police director last fall. The special order convening the trial board was the first indication of expected departmental changes.

UPON NICHOLS' request, the Hills City Council authorized the director to make changes in the department two weeks ago during a budget session.

The 1978-79 police budget submitted by Nichols was the first public acknowledgement of proposed alterations in the department.

The budget includes the addition of three inspectors to the force. Currently the department lacks nine.

Two lieutenants are expected to be promoted to the position of inspector because two lieutenants' spots were deleted from the budget. Budget allocations for four additional sergeants also indicate some promotions within the department.

Dust rift expected at hearing

Residents' willingness to pay for dust control will be the main event at this week's Farmington Hills Council meeting.

The public hearing will convene at 7:30 p.m. in North Farmington High School, 32900 Thirteen Mile, on the necessity of having residents pay for calcium chloride treatments on dirt and gravel roads.

Up to this time, the city has paid for the service out of the revenue received from local weight and gas taxes. But the city administration wants to preserve those funds for maintaining paved roads.

A homeowner on a 100-foot frontage lot will pay \$11-13. That figure represents an average unit price, according to city officials.

While the expense is relatively low, many residents have appeared at previous council meetings to object on principle. Sentiments of the objecting homeowners is that it is a lost city service.

"Whenever you provide a service and then take it away, it's hard to explain with other priorities," says Ralph Magid, director of public services.

Patching, paving and generally maintaining paved roads is one of Magid's priorities. Although paved roads outnumber unpaved roads by a slight majority in the city (160 to 90), gravel and dirt roads take a disproportionate amount of maintenance money, says Magid.

Of the approximately \$500,000 allotted for road maintenance, 60 percent was used for unpaved roads last year.

Those subdivisions opting for self-paid oil treatments will be able to opt out of the assessment, says Magid.



Sunlight can be used for heating homes, powering cars, moving ships and providing electricity, believes David Lord, whose drawing took first place in the Sun Day drawing contest.

Sun Day makes youngsters beam with solar genius

Sun Day has come and gone. The rounds of "Here Comes the Sun" have ended. And life has returned to its routine.

But even while living in gas-heated homes and driving gasoline-powered cars, most people will be more conscious of the potential of solar energy.

Those who thought solar energy was largely an untapped source discovered that the technology is here and solar power is a reality. But the more than 140 youngsters who entered the Sun Day drawing contest seemed to know that already. Sponsored by the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, Concern Inc. and the East Michigan Environmental Action Council, the contest focused attention on possible uses—today and in the future—for solar energy.

Many of those who entered the contest may grow up to live in homes heated and cooled by sunshine.

David Lord thinks he'll also be driving a solar-powered car and own a boat which runs on sun rays.

An eighth grader at Abbott Middle School in West Bloomfield, David said



DAVID LORD

he had thought about solar energy before entering the contest.

"They already can do houses with it," said David, the son of Ronald and Rita Lord. "If they did it the same way they could do cars—and especially boats."

"You wouldn't need as much gas. But you'd need some if it wasn't sunny."

Although he has heard about nuclear energy, David said he didn't like the idea of using it. "That gets too dangerous."

Sunshine is better because it's free and "everyone can use it," he noted.

In Troy, a group of elementary school children will learn about solar energy first-hand. One school which will open in September is equipped with solar panels and storage equipment.

School officials expect solar energy to supply up to 80 percent of their energy needs. And if it works, solar equipment will be installed on two other new schools which were built with solar energy in mind.

As state and federal governments begin offering tax breaks and other incentives for installing solar equipment, more houses and buildings may be constructed or converted to utilize sunshine.

As energy costs rise, it's time to look upward.

M-275 is target

Debate looms over trunkline

The Michigan State Highway Department's M-275 alternative study team will meet Monday and Wednesday with proponents of the two plans that are still being considered as possible north-south state trunkline routes.

State Highway Department engineers will meet with Stephen Rozman, chairman of the Citizens in Opposition, to M-275 at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the county's Southfield district office. Commerce officials and a new study team will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Commerce Township Hall with Oakland County Commissioner Robert McConnell, author of the Commerce compromise or McConnell boulevard plan.

Officials from communities along McConnell's planned alignment have been invited to attend.

"Right now, we're looking at tentative layouts and rough cuts of the proposals to make sure that we know what they have in mind," team leader Mike Flaggole said.

The Citizens in Opposition have proposed a scenic drive of four divided lanes, with limited access along Haggerty Road, from Eight Mile to Richards roads.

The drive then would follow the Union Lake Road corridor north of Cooley Lake Road, as a four-lane, undivided roadway, where a new route would be built to Williams Lake Road. From there it would head north to M-58.

THE MCCONNELL plan also would follow Haggerty Road, from I-66 in Novi to about Parlane Trail, where it would veer northwesterly over the approximate route of the original freeway proposal. The original plan was

cancelled by the Michigan State Highway Commission late last year. McConnell's plan would hook up with the I-275 and I-66 expressways.

A public hearing will be conducted on the two alternatives, although Flaggole said he isn't sure when they will be.

"We still have some detail work to complete, and we're not sure whether there will be an environmental assessment before we go public," he said.

"We also have to come up with some right-of-way acquisition costs."

In directing the highway department last January to study the two alternatives, the highway commission also indicated that the plan should be reviewed by the Michigan Environmental Review Board, which was studying the original freeway environmental statement when M-275 was scrapped.

And, for the second month in a row, there was no mention of M-275 alternatives at last week's commission meeting, according to commission secretary Jim Grassman.

THE COMMISSIONERS were informed in a memo from study team leader Terrick Altman that the Walled Lake City Council has officially withdrawn its parkway plan from consideration as an alternative.

In another recent development, Gov. William Milliken, Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young briefly discussed western Oakland County's road problems at their April 14 meeting on the county's threatened pullout from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMATA), according to Murphy's press secretary Mike Niemann.

Murphy, who had proposed the Lakeland Parkway alternative to M-275, reiterated his support for a north-south state trunkline for western Oakland County, Niemann said.

Murphy has endorsed McConnell's boulevard plan.

As part of an agreement between Murphy, Milliken and Young, the governor agreed to direct Highway Department Director John Woodford and Highway Commission Chairman Peter Fletcher to meet with Oakland County officials to resolve the county's "specific problems."

'No parking' signs planned for Lakeway

Parking will be prohibited from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Lakeway Street near Farmington High School.

Complaints about students parking on the street initiated the traffic control ordinance, approved by the Farmington City Council last week. The Public Safety Department determined that a majority of the street's residents approved of parking restrictions to eliminate the student problem.

The "No Parking" signs will be posted along Lakeway from Shinawasee to Valleyview. In addition, parking will be prohibited at any time on Lakeway 40 feet south of Shinawasee.

Residents had complained that students were parking on the street to avoid school personnel. There is sufficient room space in the school parking lot to accommodate student cars, reported Dan Byrnes, Public Safety.

Teachers need sex education to teach class

Although Michigan allows its school districts to add birth control information to their family life curriculum, some school systems are forced by financial pressures to think twice before adopting the new policy.

State-recommended guidelines concerning the educational background of a secondary school teacher in charge of the new course prohibit some districts from adding to their old materials, according to Farmington School District's Assistant Superintendent Lawrence Freedman.

Under the recommendations, slated for final approval after the State Board of Education receives comment from the districts, secondary teachers would be required to have a total of 12 credit hours related to teaching human sexuality.

Teachers would be required to have a background in health education, biology and behavioral sciences as well as human sexuality courses.

Elementary school teachers are automatically eligible to teach the classes, according to the policy.

Under those rules Farmington School District would be unable to implement a redesigned family life course which included birth control information.

THE DISTRICT lacks a teacher who has those specific college credits, according to Freedman.

The law gives districts the option to remain with their old programs or to switch their course plans to fit the new policy. Because switching could involve sending teachers back to school to pick up college credits, Farmington might stick to the present format of its family life and human

relations program, according to Freedman. There are 100 teachers involved in the program, which started in 1971.

State recommendations would allow a district to request a one-year approval of a teacher without the required college credits.

But Freedman would like to see Michigan provide an alternative to returning to college by setting up its own training program.

"In the future, you could say that a college would meet the requirements. But districts with declining enrollments and declining teacher population can't hire new teachers. They have to stay with the employees who have been with them the longest," Freedman said.

"Most districts will be in the same boat," he said.

In spite of his criticism of the recommendations, he has praise for its parent review committee, composed of parents, students, teachers and clergy from within the district.

THE BOARD is part of the state's program to keep birth control and family life information within the realm of parent control.

According to Michigan Board of Education recommended guidelines, the expanded program is designed to complement instead of challenge home training.

Although birth control information would be part of the new courses, abortion would be excluded from the course material.

Presently, Farmington's program deals with family life and such topics as venereal disease.

Schools provide no birth control information.

Hills meeting agenda planned for tonight

•Farmington Hills City Council will conduct its regular meeting preceded by a special hearing at North Farmington High School gym, Thirteen Mile near Farmington Road. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. May 8.

•A public hearing to determine the necessity of establishing a city-wide dust control special assessment district will begin at 7:30 p.m. A scheduled public hearing concerning the necessity of road improvements in Franklin Forest Subdivision has been postponed until May 22.

Unfinished business includes the following items:

- Consideration of introduction of an ordinance regarding school property control.
- Consideration of introduction of an ordinance to amend the uniform traffic code regulating the operation of motor vehicles on school property.

NEW BUSINESS includes the following items:

- Appointments to boards and commissions.
- Consideration of a request for extension of time for a landfill permit in section 17.
- Consideration of a request to change the name of Park Ravine subdivision to Acorn Valley subdivision.

•Consideration of establishment of a special assessment district for sewer improvement in the Greening-Bond Street area in Glen Oaks subdivision.

•Consideration of establishing a payback arrangement with a resident in reference to the water main at Meadow Glen subdivision.

•Consideration of a request to vacate part of the King William Drive in Dunbar Oaks 1 subdivision.

•Consideration of a request for approval of a preliminary plan of the Farmington Hills Hunt Club Subdivision, Halstead between Ten and Eleven Mile.

•Consideration of a request of approval of a final preliminary plan for Green Hills Woods 2 subdivision.

•Consideration of approval of an amendment to a consent judgment in reference to the Diamond Lake Co. vs the City of Farmington Hills.

•Consideration of awarding a bid to repair the police department roof.

•Consideration of proposed Planned Residence Development plan in reference to the estate of Rowenueck vs the City of Farmington Hills.

•Consideration of approval of the Finnish Cultural Association Center's Mayfest Festival for noon to 6 p.m., May 27-29.

•Consideration of a standard resolution 4 to declare the necessity and set the date for a cost hearing dealing with the necessity for dust control special assessment districts.

inside

WAKE UP, AMERICA

At least that's what some Farmington Hills residents found themselves doing when local DJ celebrity Dick Purton launched his early morning show from their house. To see what it was all about, turn to page 3A.

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