

# Farmlington Observer

Volume 89 Number 73

Thursday, June 29, 1978

Farmlington, Michigan

72 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

1978 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Household help sought

# Hills opts for senior aid bid

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmlington editor

Farmlington Hills senior citizens could have additional helping hands beginning in October.

The city council has approved a grant application to fund a chore service and homemaker service programs. Cost of the programs would be \$75,165, with the federal government picking up 80 per cent of the tab.

The homemaker service program involves persons aiding seniors in light housekeeping, laundry service, gro-

cery shopping, transportation to medical appointments and meal preparation.

The chore program involves the performance of heavier, less frequently needed tasks involved in home maintenance, such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, washing and changing screens and storm windows, moving furniture, washing walls, cleaning attics and basements, carrying out garbage, weeding and mowing lawns.

Parks and Recreation Division Director Douglas Gaynor lauded the programs.

"These programs have been proven to have the highest priority in helping seniors maintain their homes and live in dignity and independence," said Gaynor of the services.

"We would like to extend these programs to help those who, through lack of available services, can no longer afford to maintain their own homes.

"Loss of homes and premature institutionalization are often the results of these circumstances," he said.

Gaynor worked with the Senior Adult Program in Farmlington Hills in studying this program. Involved in the Senior Adult Program are Loretta Conway and Nancy Bates. Ms. Conway, the senior citizen coordinator, meets daily with elderly residents at the Gathering Place at Mercy Center.

Aiding in this study were Terry McLaughlin and Carol Reinke, gerontologists from Madonna College.

These programs have potential maximum federal funding for three years, according to Gaynor. But applicants must reapply yearly for each specific service and compete with other applicants for these limited funds.

Gaynor stressed that funding for the second and third years isn't guaranteed.

Therefore, it is important that we promote these programs as a pilot, develop steps which will follow in an

effort to generate other sources of financial assistance to continue successful service programs after federal funding ceases and be ready to fund through the city's general fund," he said.

Coordinators for each of the separate programs would work on a 20 hour a week basis and be paid \$4,576 a year. Two workers would be hired for each of the programs.

The coordinator for the homemaker service would have to have a minimum of two years of college or equivalent experience in social work, public health, nursing, home economics or other related fields.

The coordinator would be responsible for screening prospective workers and for performing initial and quarterly follow-up assessments of each client's home.

An orientation for homemakers would include the aging process and problems associated with aging, nutrition, basic home management skills, age-related sensory losses and emergency first aid.

The coordinator for the chore program would be expected to contact each client after the requested tasks are performed to assess whether the client was satisfied with the service rendered. This program would be linked to the existing Community Development Funds by recommending clients to cities for home repairs.



**Rain, rain, go away**

These Farmlington area youngsters make a run for it by sharing an umbrella in hopes of avoiding a summer drenching. (Staff photo)

## Court outcome favors Harris

The arrest of former Oakland County Road Commissioner Fred Harris of Farmlington Hills in West Bloomfield more than two years ago has resulted in a \$8,000 legal settlement in Harris' favor.

Harris filed suit more than a year ago in U.S. district court charging two West Bloomfield police officers with false arrest.

He claimed he suffered humiliation and embarrassment following his March 27, 1976 arrest for driving home under the influence of alcohol.

Harris was found not guilty of the drunk driving charge by then-48th District Court Judge Alice Gilbert.

He was found guilty and fined \$35 on a charge of unauthorized use of emergency lights.

Officer Michael Messina and Richard Lamphere, who is no longer with the police department, reported at the time that Harris was erratically driving a county-owned car with a flashing light.

He was arrested the week after the tornado of 1976 hit the township. Harris claimed he was out checking damage in the area.

"I did my job," was Messina's only comment.

Harris' suit against the two officers claimed injuries, violation of his civil rights and that he was arrested without probable cause, saying the two officers used undue force.

After his arrest, he was taken to Oakland County Jail and was released the following day after posting a \$100 bond.

He sought \$100,000 in damages from the township.

## School board seeks Ross replacement

The Farmlington school board is seeking applicants to fill a board seat left vacant by the retirement of seven-year board veteran Dr. Mervyn Ross.

An appointee to serve a one-year term will be selected and announced at the July 10 board meeting, the board agreed Tuesday. The appointee will serve a one-year term until June 30, 1979. The remaining year of Dr. Ross' term will be filled in the regular election in June 1979.

The board is requesting that all persons who wish to be considered for the position notify the board in writing to that effect before 4 p.m. July 5. A biographical sketch is requested. All information should be forwarded to the Office of the Superintendent, Farmlington Public Schools, 32500 Shawasssee, Farmlington 48024.

The appointee must be a registered voter in the Farmlington School District.

THE MOVE to notify the public of the board's search was prompted by board member Helen Prutow and

Richard Ringstrom, executive director of the Farmlington Education Association. Ringstrom requested the public be informed of the upcoming appointment at a recent meeting.

All applicants will be invited to appear at a public meeting at 8 p.m. July 6 in administration offices. At that time they will be given the opportunity to make an opening statement and answer questions from the board and the public. All questions will be submitted on 3x5 cards. The appointee will be selected and

announced at the June 10 meeting.

"It is the intent of the board to have the entire selection process open to the public," Mrs. Prutow said, in moving the procedure.

Notices inviting applicants were sent to the candidates in the June 12 election; area media; the president of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council; and presidents of the PTA and parent teacher organizations affiliated with each Farmlington school. The Farmlington branch libraries and those on the district's agenda mailing

list also were given notice of the board search.

Ross announced his resignation, effective June 30, at Tuesday's meeting. He cautioned the board to screen candidates to weed out those seeking "easy access" to a board position.

"I caution you to put the needs of the district above any and all other considerations in the appointment to fill this vacancy," he said.

He suggested the board seek an appointee who could give expertise in matters of buildings and real estate.

## Tax limit drive steamrolls to November ballot



Richard Headlee says if the limitation amendment is adopted, state and local government won't be able to expand horizontally across the pie of gross personal income. (Staff photos by Charlie Kidd)

By RICHARD GOLD

It is not official yet, but the odds are overpowering that Michigan voters will be able to voice their sentiments on tax limitation at the ballot box in November.

With a surge of signatures in the wake of California's overwhelming approval of a tax rollback, Michigan proponents of a tax limitation received enough unofficial signatures by the end of last week to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot.

That amendment would place a ceiling on state and local government spending.

The amendment drive, spearheaded by Richard Headlee, Chairman of Taxpayers United for Tax Limitation, attacks the "cancerous growth of government" and the "nauseating arrangement of public officials."

That was the theme Headlee sounded for the unexcited time—this time before the editorial board of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

THE THRUST of the amendment is essentially two-pronged, to limit increases in state spending to growth of the Michigan economy—with a factor for inflation—and to hold property taxes at their present levels, except for a factor to account for inflation.

Simply, it works like this: The best indicator of the economic condition of Michigan is gross personal income, according to Headlee.

To hold the amount of money the state spends proportionately constant to the aggregate earning power of Michigan residents, the state would be allowed to collect a certain percentage of personal income, about 2.5 per cent, through its various taxes.

The amendment, if passed, would hold property taxes at present levels with reciprocal adjustments in millage rates as property values rise or decline.

Each local taxing unit would be allowed to collect the same amount of money as the year the amendment passes—with the exception of new tax bases.

New tax base would be taxed at the prevailing millage rate at the time it is entered on the tax rolls.

While tying state revenues to personal income—and therefore real growth—and holding local revenues at their present levels, both the state and local taxing units would be allowed increases for inflation, based on the consumer price index.

THE AMENDMENT makes no attempt, Headlee says, at shifting the burden of taxation within the state. Those decisions, he says, will be left, as in the past, to the state legislature.

The point of the amendment, he says, is to put a brake on the percentage of income all Michigan residents have to pay for state and local taxes.

The amendment also guarantees that any future state-mandated programs affecting local units of government would have to be funded fully by the state.

As evidence to support the need for limitation, Headlee cites the escalating growth and "excesses of government spending" programs.

State government jobs in Michigan have risen 50.3 per cent since 1967, while the state's population has increased 6.8 per cent, Headlee says.

Spending at the state level has increased 235 per cent, while personal income has risen 140 per cent.

HEADLEE, PRESIDENT and chief executive officer of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. based in Farmlington Hills, bills the amendment as a "responsible, comprehensive and reasonable" attempt at tax limitation.

Time and again he stresses it is a moderate approach to a complex problem. He emphasizes adoption of the amendment will not cause a disruption in services. It will, however, he says, force legislators to make priorities.

Headlee calls his proposal a "scrupulous adjustment to the constitution."

It is not, he stresses, the "meat axe approach" Californians adopted.

BUT WILLIAM Lobenzher, Assistant Executive Director of the Michigan Association of School Boards, says the tax limitation amendment is by no means a free lunch for Michigan residents.

Lobenzher appeared before The O & (Continued on Page 15A)

**'We're asking the state of Michigan to be guinea pigs until enough states adopt similar proposals. When these states become so hamstrung and oppressed by federal mandates, then they can put pressure on Washington.'**

—William Lobenzher



William Lobenzher says the amendment won't cause disruption of services at first, but as mandated programs are forced on Michigan and its local governments, the relative amount of funds going to existing programs will decrease. In essence, he says, the pie will shrink.

inside

FAST CASH

Jack Johnson sold his car in no time, just by running an ad in our classified section. "I couldn't believe it. We had cash for the car the very next day." The fastest way to turn your used car into extra cash is through the pages of your hometown newspaper. Call us today.

DIAL DIRECT  
644-1070

- Arrangements.....9-11B
- At Your Leisure.....9B
- Business.....6C
- Classified Section.....7-20C
- Club Circuit.....3B
- Community Calendar.....2B
- Editorials.....18A
- Exhibitions.....17A
- Inside Angles.....3A
- M4 Memos.....3B
- Real Estate Classifieds/Section D
- Real Estate News.....12B
- Sports.....1-4C
- Suburban Life.....Section B