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Veteran wins a seat Council picks manager

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Beginning in February, Farmington Hills will have a new city manager.

The Hills Council, in a unanimous vote last week, approved the appointment of Lawrence Savage to fill the chief administrative spot vacated by George Majoros in August.

Savage, 54, city manager of Traverse City, was one of three candidates interviewed for the position. He was chosen from a field of 64 applicants nationwide.

The swarthy, World War II Navy veteran has a long record of public administration experience, the majority of it in Michigan.

A Saginaw native, Savage is a Northwestern University graduate, where he received a BS degree in economics. He also has a masters' degree in public administration from the University of Michigan.

He also attended the U-M law school for one year.

Savage served as Traverse City chief administrative executive for 15 years where he administered a \$10 million annual budget and 220 employees.

Traverse City, one of the largest cities in Northern Michigan with a 20,000 population, has a commercial airport, water plant, sewage plant, and marina. It also has municipal generation and distribution of electric power. Savage was responsible for administering all of these facilities.

Among his major accomplishments while serving in Traverse City was the construction of a 118-unit high-rise structure for senior citizen housing. The project cost \$3 million.

Over the last 15 years, Savage has seen the majority of Traverse City's major construction take place.

Other projects under his administration include the construction of a \$2 million water treatment plant; construction of a \$3.6 million addition to the electric generating plant; construction of a \$50,000 storm sewer program in advance of major street paving program; and a \$1.1 million airport improvement program, including a new 6,500-foot runway, commercial terminal, general aviation and administration building.

Savage is familiar with the complexities of securing funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), having

received monies from that federal agency for a number of projects.

Before going to Traverse City in 1964, Savage served as Grosse Pointe's first city manager back in 1960. While there, he instituted a system of administrative regulations, creating a central purchasing service and a personnel program.

He also "sold" a bond issue for certain park improvements and the construction of a municipal swimming pool, working with a citizens' advisory committee in a door-to-door campaign.

Other work assignments included a three-year stint in the City of Cheboygan as city manager, as well as personnel director and administrative assistant in his hometown of Saginaw.

He is a member of the International City Management Association and was its president for the Michigan chapter in 1976-77. He holds membership on the Michigan Municipal League's legislative committee and is a board of trustee for the League.

Other memberships include the American Academy of Political and Social Science and the American Society for Public Administration. He is married and has four children.



Winter delight

Skating is one of the prime pastimes in the State of Michigan as is demonstrated by this person who has picked one of the many slopes to challenge during the winter season.

Group fights development

Farmington Hills residents on Nine Mile between Halstead and Haggerty have formed a neighborhood association to preserve the rural character of their area, according to newly-elected president Dan Mullendore.

The Nine Mile Neighborhood Preservation Association consists of eight families and owners of the Piennontess Swim Club. Many of the homes are historic and have been lived in by generations of the same family. The area is characterized by gravel roads and serviced by wells and septic tanks.

"We'd like to present a united front to the city to encourage action which would preserve as much rural atmosphere as possible," Mullendore said.

"We're not an adversary group, we will work with city government by making them aware of our desires."

ROAD PAVING is one issue the association is prepared to fight against.

"It's rather frightening to see hundreds of new subdivisions sprouting clear to Novi and up and down I-275. The new satellite cities will inherit the problems of the older cities people moving away from."

"The city will feel pressure to build more shopping centers, and more schools. We're consuming more and discarding the older city. Garbage sites are created, then people continue

to move further out. Our philosophy is to keep urban activities concentrated."

"It's the mutual concern of the folks in this area. If we valued the status and the benefits of the subdivision, we'd be living there. But we are united in our values and feel threatened by expansion."

Mullendore has been an area resident for 11 years and has lived in his Farmington Hills home three years.

The Farmington Hills city clerk's office estimates there are 46 neighborhood associations in the city. At least one-third of the groups keep active membership lists, according to a city spokeswoman.

Looking back: Snow big story in January

Following is the first in a series of articles reviewing the events of 1978.

JANUARY

The big story in January, one which residents talked about for months to

come, was the surprise snow storm which struck in the last week of January and closed down schools and businesses for days.

The blizzard, one of the worst in Michigan's history, left thousands of

residents and businesses without electricity and many persons stranded.

Police combined with employees of Bozford General Hospital to keep the health facility open. Because workers were finding it difficult to get to work

through the snow, police were driving them to work.

Hospital staff dubbed the surgery section as the "Ambulatory Sleep Inn" and slept at their work stations.

City workers had their work cut out

for them and, according to City Mgr. Bob Deadman, the challenge was met.

Crews worked double shifts to clear the streets of ice and snow. The blowing winds were the biggest handicap.

Officials were concerned with the Drakeshire Apartments, which housed many elderly residents. The power was out in that complex for nearly 24 hours and police were gearing up to evacuate residents. But the precaution proved unnecessary.

The storm cost the City of Farmington \$5,000-\$6,000. Since salt was used, the storm was less expensive than it could have been. Deadman predicted it would take another seven or 10 days to be done with this mess.

The Farmington Hills fire department was kept busy with picking up stranded residents on the surrounding expressways, according to Fire Chief John Van De Voort. Adding to the problem was a power failure in Station Two at Middlebelt and Utley.

"Power lines were going down like crazy," said Van De Voort. Primary lines, 30,000 volts, were the biggest problem.

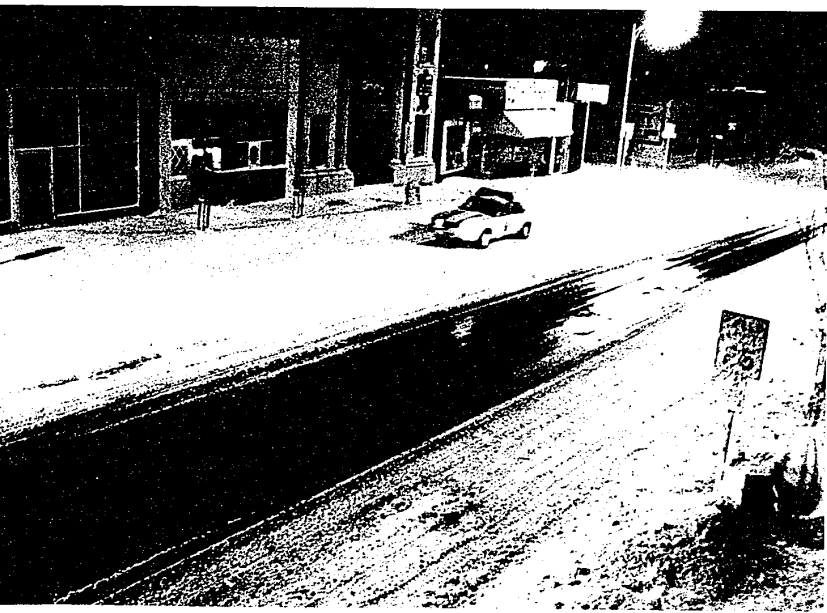
Lines also were reported down in many parts of Farmington on Farmington Road, Eight Mile, Alta Loma and at Halstead and Grand River.

THE FARMINGTON AREA lost a tongue-in-cheek landmark in January as the Waack's Bar on Grand River and Middlebelt burned down. The bar had gained a reputation in town as one of the less elegant haunts where the police found themselves frequently breaking up fights.

NEW MAYORS were elected in both Farmington and Farmington Hills. Richard Tupper got the nod from his council colleagues, while Jan Dolan became the second woman to be mayor in Farmington Hills.

RECREATION for Farmington residents was predicted to cost \$20,000 if they wished to participate with Farmington Hills. The Hills had backed away from the Farmington Area Recreation Commission and formed its own division of recreation.

THE FARMINGTON YMCA set out on the most ambitious fundraising projects that the area has ever seen. (Continued on page 2A)



A police car lonesomely patrols a stranded Grand River as the blizzard forced residents to stay in their homes. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Libraries closed for the holidays

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills Community Libraries will be closed Sunday and Monday, Dec. 31, Jan. 1. Both branches will resume normal schedules Tuesday, Jan. 2.

inside

The perfect gift

Christmas is already one day old and 364 days to go. Reporter Louise Okrutsky has some hints on picking that very special gift. To see what she has to say, turn to page 12A.

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