

Farmington Observer

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Lange to commission: Shape up or ship out

By STEVE BARNABY
 Farmington editor

Work with the city council or resign. That was the warning Farmington Area Commission on Aging members received Tuesday night from William Lange, freshman Farmington Hills councilman.

The commissioners, led by chairman Dr. Joseph Gadbaw, met with the council to request direction from the newly elected city legislative body.

Lange made his statement after expressing displeasure with commissioner Aldo Vagnozzi, who Lange said publicly "insulted" the council in previous weeks.

Vagnozzi last week accused the council of perpetrating a hoax on Farmington Hills residents concerning a senior housing plan proposed by veteran Councilman Joe Alkateeb.

"If we can't work together, I recommend resignations from everyone," Lange told the commissioners.

If "viable" alternatives aren't found to build good relationships between the two governmental bodies, resignation is the only answer, Lange said.

Lange accused Vagnozzi of making a political animal out of the housing issue and said there was a proper forum for disagreement but not for personal recrimination.

"You've thrown out quite a threat to us. For you to say you want us to resign is an unwarranted slur."

— Aldo Vagnozzi

VAGNOZZI RESPONDED by saying the council hadn't any right to ask the members to resign.

Commissioners are appointed by the council for specified terms and can only be replaced after that term expires or by reappointment of office, Vagnozzi said.

"There is no way you're going to get us out. You're not going to get those who got elected. To some people getting elected is more important than anything else," he said.

Lange ran for city council in opposition to the proposed senior housing site at Freedom and Drake roads, which was to be supported with bonds sold by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

The Commission on Aging had recommended the plan to the previous council.

COUNCILMAN Alkateeb joined Lange in criticizing the Commission. He accused it of acting both as a commission and a lobby group for senior citizens rights. That, he said, was unsatisfactory.

"How can we distribute information without being censored?" he questioned the council.

Former Councilman Keith Deacon defended the Commission's role and its relationship with the city council.

Census delay would cost Farmington state funds

By MARY GNEWEK

Farmington Hills could lose \$205,512 and Farmington an additional \$28,602 in state shared revenue if use of 1980 U.S. Census data is delayed for six months, according to state Department of Management and Budget estimates.

The state House of Representatives is considering legislation that would delay the effect of the census from April 1 to October 1 to lessen the burden of population loss on major cities like Detroit and Grand Rapids.

House Bill 5257, sponsored by Rep. Mary Brown, D-Kalamazoo, would ensure that cities would continue to get state funds based on 1970 census data.

Rep. Brown's bill was defeated last Dec. 15, but an amendment was added and it is once again before the House. Supporters believe it will pass by a close margin this time.

Under provisions of the bill, a city's 1980 population would not be used in the state's distribution formula for revenue sharing until October 1980. By current law, new population figures would be used in April.

BILL SPONSORS believe with a six month delay, cities that have lost population would not have to repay the state for overpayments they'll receive prior to the release of new census data in the spring of 1981.

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said he would support the bill if it was more than a one-time endeavor.

"I believe it wouldn't be all bad to accept a delay if it would happen each time a census is taken," Deadman said. "Farmington will eventually stop growing. We could benefit from it."

"But there is no provision in HB 5257 to continue delaying the use of new census data into the future. So the large winner is Detroit."

"I'm not anti-Detroit but I don't think other cities should have to give up programs to aid them."

State Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton, R-Farmington, is an opponent of the bill.

"Farmington and Farmington Hills have been underpaid for years," Brotherton said. "Population is increasing and services rendered are increasing but there are no additional revenue sharing dollars to meet those needs."

"This bill will shortchange Farmington another six months," he added. "It'll continue paying cities losing population more than they're entitled to, as has been the case for the past five or six years."

IN 1970, Farmington's population was 10,329. Today, Deadman estimates it's more than 12,000. Farmington Hills has jumped from 48,694 in 1970 to 63,000 today, according to City Clerk Floyd Cairns.

"In most media accounts of the legislation, the only thing dealt with is the amount won or lost by any community," said Bernard Pora, a House Democrat research staffer and bill supporter.

The administrative question involved with retroactive adjustment hasn't been addressed adequately. The impact would be a severe hardship for communities - with declining population.

State shared revenues total \$500 million this year, but accounted for just \$162 million ten years ago.

This year, Farmington received \$386,817 and Farmington Hills \$1.7 million in state shared revenues, according to state Department of Management and Budget figures.

If HB 5257 passes, Farmington would get \$469,528 and Farmington Hills \$2.3 million from the state in the next fiscal year.



Dan and Barb Osowski of Farmington Hills comfortably sit in their home waiting for some out-of-town Republicans to come by and rent it during the week of the GOP convention. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Boats to bathtubs offered to visiting Republicans

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Everything from a 33-foot sailboat to a 7-by-6 foot bath tub will be offered to Republican visitors this summer as residents vie for a chance to host a VIP and pick up a few extra dollars by renting out the family home.

About 1,000 Detroit and suburban residents have expressed an interest in dining, dining and housing dignitaries and media members this July, according to Norma Laskey, special housing coordinator of the Civic Host Committee.

They range from the Farmington Hills homeowners who would like to "see someone of importance" to the Southfield man who wouldn't mind earning some extra money by renting his home.

There's also a Bloomfield Hills woman who isn't interested in meeting the Walter Cronkites of the world or leasing her home for a substantial fee. She just wants to help John Anderson supporters find a place to stay.

Whatever their motives, Ms. Laskey hopes potential landlords keep those rental applications coming her way. However, she has a few cautioning words for persons considering entering the housing fray.

The housing committee is looking for homes near the Joe Louis Arena where the Republicans will encamp themselves between July 14-18.

work for her convention boarder for an extra fee.

A Farmington Hills couple, Dan and Barbara Osowski are considering throwing in an offer of housekeeping services for the person who rents their six-room 1 1/2 bath home.

THE MAID SERVICE consists of the two Osowskis who will return to their home the week of the convention to clean.

They're asking \$100 a day for their home. Most of that money will cover expenses.

"We're not trying to make money," said Mrs. Osowski. "We're doing it for the experience."

They aren't too worried that their experience in renting to Republicans will be a disappointing one culminating in discovering a favorite household item broken.

"The convention doesn't have that type of person," said Mrs. Osowski.

The family is interested in politics and thinks "it would be an honor" to have someone of importance "like the foreign press" live in their home.

During the convention, the Osowskis, their 11-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter will live with Osowski's mother in Detroit.

For Mary Smith of Bloomfield Hills, the convention offers a chance for her to help her favorite candidate John Anderson. Although Ms. Smith describes herself as a Democrat, she's unhappy with the party and happy with Republi-

can Anderson.

"He's the only one who made sense," she said.

SHE HAS bedrooms in the top story of her home near Woodward at lower-than-average convention rents. She will continue to live on the lower floor of the home and offers breakfast and coffee to her convention boarders.

Cynthia and Jim Symington, of Bloomfield Hills, are offering accommodations which are considerably larger than Ms. Smith's at a more extravagant rate.

"We're asking an astronomical price," said Mrs. Symington.

The price, according to Mrs. Symington, is reasonable if several persons share the couple's 14-room home with its four bedrooms, four baths and 7-by-6 foot bath tub. There's a music room with a grand piano and a 30-by-15 foot family room in addition to the den and sunroom. The lake front home will come complete with lake privileges, but without a boat.

Renting their home to strangers didn't involve much of a discussion. They aren't renting their house to meet celebrities.

"We just want respectable people," said Mrs. Symington. Neither she nor her husband are Republicans.

If they're successful in renting their home, they plan to move in with Symington's parents for the duration.

Tom Garrity's Southfield home isn't as large, and he's asking for the average convention price of \$100 a day.

Board ratifies pact

The Farmington Board of Education ratified a two-year agreement with the Farmington Association of School Administrators Tuesday.

The pact is retroactive to July 1, 1979, and represents a 10 percent pay increase for each year of the contract.

FASA represents principals, assistant principals, special education supervisors, directors and administrative assistants in the Farmington school district.

Tentative agreement was reached last Thursday after nine months of bargaining, according to Norman Dickson, an assistant principal at North Farmington High School and chief negotiator.

"Basically we have the same fringe benefits as the teaching staff," Dickson said.

There are approximately 40 members in the FASA unit, he said.

"We appreciate the long hours spent negotiating this contract. We believe it's in the best interest of the district," said Board President Michael Shipicek.

The board ratified the agreement unanimously.



Rolling around
 Learning a new step adds to the fun of going to the roller rink. Here Karen Willacker (left) and Marsha Mumm do some practicing. To see more of the skating action, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo)

Man shoots suspected intruder

A West Bloomfield man shot and injured one of two masked men who reportedly forced their way into his Alden Drive home just after midnight Friday.

Robert Evans pulled a revolver from his robe pocket and shot Jefferson Reno, 20, in the stomach as Reno jumped him, according to the West Bloomfield Police.

Reno and his brother, Michael, 24, who live in White Lake Township, were arrested in the emergency room of Henry Ford's West Bloomfield Center after a police check of area hospitals for a man with a gunshot wound to the stomach.

Michael Reno was arraigned in 48th District Court Saturday on two counts of breaking and entering and assault with intent to commit breaking and entering.

He stood mute at his arraignment and was unable to post the \$5,000 necessary to meet the \$50,000 cash bond. He is in Oakland County Jail.

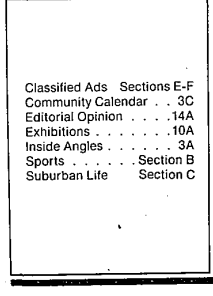
Jefferson Reno was arraigned Tuesday morning on the same charges in Beaumont Hospital, where he was listed in fair condition with abdominal injuries.

Judge Gus Cifelli and a court recorder traveled to the Royal Oak hospital where Reno stood mute. Cifelli entered the standard not guilty plea.

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