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Buckler's bid for city recant hits the dirt

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Junior Farmington Councilman William Buckler has lost in his bid to have his colleagues reconsider their stand on a senior citizen housing project proposed for Farmington Hills.

In a letter sent to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) last month, the council objected to the proposed project, to be located at Farmington and Drake roads.

That correspondence cited what the Farmington council considered deficient in living up to MSHDA requirements for such projects.

Buckler's change of heart came, he said, after conversations with Farmington Hills councilmembers who told him there wasn't any other site in that city for the project.

"We must ask ourselves if we want to be responsible for MSHDA disapproving the project," he told fellow councilmembers Monday night.

Buckler's motion to notify MSHDA that the council had changed its mind went without a second. He said that council's only reservation should be the project's height.

In its letter, the council said that the low income portion would be "out of character" when compared to the surrounding neighborhood.

Although Buckler's motion failed, other councilmembers expressed displeasure with the letter's final form.

"I have had my misgivings about the letter," said Councilman Ralph Yoder. "I'm sorry I ever had anything to do with the letter."

Yoder said he was upset when learning the letter said the council was opposed to the project because it was "unsuitable" for that neighborhood. He said the only reason he would object to it would be because of the six-story height.

Yoder admitted that he hadn't fully read the letter before it was delivered to MSHDA.

The letter was sent after the legislative body conducted a number of meetings with city residents who objected to the project being built on the borderline between Farmington and Farmington Hills.

A number of residents from both cities have objected to the project, which

could include as many as 200 units. A portion of that project, 60 units, would be for low and moderate income families.

But Yoder said it would be useless to correspond further: feelings to MSHDA because "the damage is done at this point."

But Buckler was persistent in his efforts to persuade the council to change its position. He said a visit to an already constructed project of a similar nature in Westland had also helped to change his opinion.

"I feel if our residents would take a look at the (Westland) project their fears would be dispelled," he said. "I don't think there would be an adverse effect. Our own residents would benefit."

Buckler noted that objecting to the project would be in contradiction with the city's Commission on Aging recommendation in support of the project.

But Councilman Alton Bennett supported the council's move.

"I find it difficult to believe that there isn't another site available in Farmington Hills," said Bennett. It is obvious there are other sites."

Bennett noted that the site proposed for Farmington's senior citizen project met the required standards. The city of Farmington is building its own senior citizen project at the site of the old Farmington Junior High School on Grand River.

"The things we wrote to MSHDA objecting to were about the standards," said Bennett. "If they don't stick to their standards, that's up to them."

The Farmington council isn't trying to "blackball" the Farmington Hills project, Bennett said.

"We've asked for consideration and so far it hasn't been received," he said.

Among those areas listed in the Farmington letter as deficient were:

- Isolation from all commercial, governmental and social services available in the community.
- Lack of street lights on public roads, sidewalks and other traffic control devices in the area.
- Lack of reliable transportation system.

• That it is inappropriate to build a six-story structure on a site already higher than the neighboring parcels.



It's come to this?

With the gas shortage looming ahead, it appears as though Farmington Hills resident Lawrence Dalton is a few steps ahead of those persons still driving auto-

mobiles. Dalton's trusty steed is named Martini. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

He recommends excise tax

Shell answer man talks about oil

By MARY GNIEWEK

"It is time we started listening to President Carter and cut down on discretionary driving. We must get demand in balance with supply. The best way to avert a crisis in Michigan is to use less gas," warned a Shell Oil executive in Farmington Hills this week.

Bill Ramsey, sales manager of Shell's Michigan headquarters in the Woodcreek Office Center, also advocated placing an excise tax on gas sales as one short term alternative to rationing.

Meanwhile, the American Petroleum Institute announced this week that oil companies have cut May gasoline allocations an average of 17 percent over last year, which will result in the sharpest decline of gas sales since the Arab oil embargo of 1974. Ramsey offered this personal insight to the nation's growing problem.

Why is the gas shortage more severe in

California than other parts of the nation?

I think California is harmed more than the north because of rapid population growth and widespread use of the automobile. The demand exceeds the supply. Also, I think it's obvious panic buying. They're transferring storage from oil companies into consumer fuel tanks. People come in to buy just three or four gallons — when the gauge barely moves off full. They waste gas waiting in line.

When will gas cost \$1 a gallon?

I would say when OPEC raises the price efficiently to do it. We don't know what is going on in the OPEC consortium. It is beyond our control because we're dealing with an external influence.

How much foreign oil is imported?

Between 42 and 50 percent a month. We import crude oil from every oil producing country in the world except Canada, the United Kingdom and Russia.

Is Shell researching alternatives to oil fuel?

Yes, Shell is working on coal and shale conversion and tar sand activity. But the cost of these alternatives is a problem. With current technology, we cannot produce as cheaply as the OPEC nations can supply crude oil.

What about the argument of hiking the price of imported food to equal the cost of imported oil?

Food is not going to the places we get oil from. Unless we used a third party barter system, that wouldn't be possible. Oil imports cost more than all the funds derived from agricultural exports.

Is the U.S. getting oil from the Alaskan pipeline, or is it going to Japan?

The U.S. is benefitting from Alaskan oil, but it would've made more sense to export that oil to Japan. It would travel less distance and Japan said it was willing to trade us Middle Eastern oil for Alaskan oil. Middle Eastern oil is better quality. It would've been a heck

Tax power for books rejected

Voters in Farmington and Farmington Hills soundly defeated two library proposals Tuesday. The proposals would have created an independent library authority that could levy up to 1.5 mills in taxes to operate two community libraries.

Proposal A was defeated by 201 votes: 1,495 to 1,294. That proposition asked voters if the library should create a district authority to conform with state law.

The measure passed in Farmington 217 to 154, but failed in the Hills by 264 votes: 1,341 no to 1,077 yes votes.

Proposal B failed by just a single vote in Farmington but was defeated in the Hills. It would have authorized the library authority to raise its own taxes to 1.5 mills.

If it passed, a 1.5-mill levy would tax a rate of \$1.50 for each \$1,000 in state assessed value for homeowners.

The library will continue to be supported in the city budget at a rate of 1.1 mills.

Final vote on Proposal B was 1,037 yes to 1,764 no. In Farmington, voters

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of a deal. But it was a political football. Congress raised a stink, it was misunderstood. People thought we would be exporting oil when our supply was low.

Has Shell done away with premium gas?

Yes, we were the third company to do so and other companies are following suit. We're under government order to remove all lead from gas by 1985. And premium gas has more lead than any other type.

Will we see rationing? I certainly hope not. There are other ways to control gas consumption. The Department of Energy already has a \$12 billion budget; rationing would only increase the bureaucracy. The short term alternatives are very limited. Most effective would be a temporary excise tax. Tax everyone at the time of purchase. It would be tax deductible. It's the only thing I can think of that could be done quickly and slow the demand without involving a huge bureaucracy.

Ex-Marine hooks rug for Christian commander

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Patricia Das unrolled the wall hanging on the living room rug in her Farmington Hills trailer home. She looked for a moment at the wall hanging which depicted the Last Supper.

"I'm proud of it, but I'm prouder still of the man it's going to," she said.

The man she mentioned is Pope John Paul II. As soon as she finished her handiwork, she began searching for a way to send her present to the pope.

Afraid to send it through the mail, Ms. Das hopes she will find someone traveling to Rome who is willing to present the wall hanging to the pope.

Although friends mention fund raising efforts to send her to Rome, Ms. Das insists that she isn't trying to promote herself.

She just hopes her present gets to the Vatican.

It took her eight months to complete the project. Two of those months were

spent in sketching the portraits of Christ and his disciples seated at the long supper table. The 4x9 rug-wall hanging was completed last month.

WHEN SHE BEGAN the project, she intended only to copy a tapestry which hung in a friend's home.

"I pointed toward it and said, 'That's my next project,'" explained the retired Marine Corps sergeant.

"I have to work toward a goal." Her goal of copying her friend's tapestry quickly transformed itself into an effort to make a present for Pope John Paul I.

His humanitarianism won her over. "He was people-people," she said.

When he died suddenly, she vowed the wall hanging would belong to his predecessor.

"It's the people-people too," she said of John Paul II.

His concern for the poor and the disabled won her admiration.

Now her burning ambition is to see that the pope receives his present.

It's one of a series of goals in her life. When she was 18 years old, she wanted her father to sign a release enabling her to enter the Marine Corps.

Jobs were difficult to find and she decided to follow in the footsteps of an aunt and uncle who both were in the service.

"That was the service to join, the Marine Corps," she said.

WHEN SHE TURNED 21, she en-

tered the Marines. She left 12 years ago when doctors discovered she had multiple sclerosis.

Her Farmington Hills trailer holds evidence of her years in the Marines. Her discharge papers is framed and hangs on the living room wall. A shag rug wall hanging of an anchor on a red, white and blue tweed backing is wrapped around the kitchen serving bar. Over her couch is a wall hanging of the Marine Corps insignia.

Rug hooking is a favorite hobby that promises to blossom into a business.

She began hooking rugs two years ago, when a niece showed her the technique.

The niece was hooking a rug for Mother's Day. She never completed the project. Ms. Das finished it for her.

"I've been hooked ever since," she quipped.

Her masterpiece is the wall hanging intended for the pope.

"I was nervous when I was doing the faces. I thought they would come out blotchy," she admitted.

"It's the first time I've worked with multiple colors. I was nervous."

Now, the hanging awaits its new owner. Ms. Das, 44, who survives on a small Marine disability check, has turned down offers from persons willing to buy the rug.

SHE'S BEEN told that the rug is worth about \$2,000. But she is adamant about her refusal to sell it.

"It belongs to the pope," she said.

Now, her remaining goal is to find a way of sending the wall hanging to Rome.



Patricia Das holds up one end of her wall hanging which she hopes to have delivered to Pope John Paul II. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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a special section devoted specifically to you and your car, in your paper on Monday, May 14.