

# Farmington Observer

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## Services unscathed in federal cutback

Farmington and Farmington Hills city managers say the phasing out of CETA funding shouldn't affect essential city services.

On Monday, the U.S. Labor Department imposed a hiring freeze on all Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) employees working in the public service sector. The Reagan administration intends to eliminate 340,000 federally subsidized jobs in state and federal government by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Farmington Hills presently has 28 CETA-funded employees.

City Manager Larry Savage said the breakdown by department of those employees is 12 in the police department, three in the fire department, two in the department of public works, one in the finance department, seven in parks and recreation, one in the general government department, one in engineering, and one in building maintenance.

Farmington now employs only three CETA-funded employees, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman. He said there is one CETA employee

working in maintenance at the court building, one in the department of public works and a third position, in the community library, that will be filled if allowed under the freeze. Deadman said the position can be filled despite the freeze because the replacement has already been selected and trained for the job.

Attempts to reach Harold McKay, manager of the Oakland County office of employment training for clarification were unsuccessful.

**THE TWO** programs affected by the hiring freeze are known as Title II-D and Title VI programs.

The federal order, which was sent out late last week, states that "Effective March 2, the prime sponsors shall not enroll any new participants or refill any vacancies in programs funded under Title II-D and Title VI except in cases where it can be formally documented that an individual has been approved for hiring but has not yet reported to work."

It is on the basis of that language that Deadman believes the library em-

ployee will be funded under CETA.

In Farmington Hills, two community service officers started work in the police department on Monday, the same day the hiring freeze went into effect. Thirteen other CETA employees began 18-month training programs in February, according to Savage. The terms of two of the 28 CETA workers in Farmington Hills are nearing completion, he added.

"There was a time when we actually depended on hiring necessary employees on CETA," Savage said. "Most of the essential ones, however, have been absorbed."

Savage doubted if any more CETA workers would find jobs in Farmington Hills government.

A personnel official in Farmington Hills said the city has "one of the best records in the county" for placing former CETA workers on the city's payroll.

**AT THE HEIGHT** of CETA funding, Deadman said only eight employees worked in public service jobs in the city. And since 1974, he said, only two jobs funded by CETA were transferred to the city payroll.

"One was a federal grants coordinator position," Deadman said. "That person also handles personnel and purchasing, and that job was maintained (with city funds) when the (federal) funds dried up. And one position in the police department, that of officer, was maintained."

"If CETA never existed, it wouldn't have been critical to our operation," Deadman added.

However, he said, some communities relied on CETA "as revenues reduced because of lost taxes CETA filled holes that couldn't be filled with regular revenues." Those communities, such as Detroit, said Deadman, are in trouble.

Earl Billing, DPW director in Farmington, said the cutbacks mean he'll have to make do with six employees instead of eight.

"We may be slower getting the grass cut but we'll try to make it work," Billing said. "Two people should not affect us greatly. I don't want to paint a gloom picture. We'll do our very best."



Imagine all the people

That's what Nino Tanzini, 3, seems to be thinking professional clown. To see what some of the other — all the people watching him be a clown — after he children looked like, turn to 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Bors) School were given a touch of the grease paint by a

## Residents meet superintendent

The Farmington PTA Council is once again offering an opportunity for parents to ask questions of Farmington School Supt. Lewis Schulman. This spring session of "Meet Your Superintendent" will be held Wednesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. at Harrison High School, 25995 W. 12 Mile Road.

Planning to assist Schulman field

questions will be Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent, and Mr. Gerald Potter, James Geiger and Clayton Graham, the principals of Farmington's three high schools.

However, questions from parents with children at any grade level are welcomed.

## Brotherton balks at casino gambling in state

Casino gambling — with its spinning wheels, rolling dice, endless nights, high stakes and emotional intensities — is knocking again at Detroit's door looking for an invitation to come to town.

This time, some influential persons like Detroit Mayor Coleman Young are eyeing gambling revenue as a way to bring more money into financially strapped Detroit.

His efforts will be backed up by a multi-million-dollar war chest contributed by the hotel and restaurant interests which would like to see casino gambling in Michigan.

At the base of it all is State Rep. Casmer Ogonowski, D-Detroit, who has once again run the issue up the legislative flagpole to see if it will fly.

But some of his colleagues are less than enthused. State Rep. Sandra Brotherton, R-Farmington, is one of those.

"The concept bothers me. I think it would do bad things to the area," she said.

Ogonowski has yet to bring the bill up in committee. Presently, he is scrambling for enough support to get it out on the floor with a favorable recommendation.

"I'm afraid casino gambling would take money out of the pockets of persons who just can't afford it," said Brotherton.

Casino gambling, he said, would have

an effect on more than just the poor. Middle income persons who may now take one or two trips a year to Las Vegas may be more tempted to gamble away the paycheck, causing an adverse effect on family members.

**SMALL MERCHANTS** also could suffer, he said.

Brotherton noted that in Atlantic City, N.J., many smaller businesses have been pushed out by landlords who sell property to larger business concerns.

"It's just not the way many people envision it would be," said Brotherton. "I have trouble believing that with the kind of weather we've got that Detroit would be an attraction to tourists."

In some cases, he said, it could cost rather than bring in money. Much of the money taken in by the state for horse racing is given back to the cities like Livonia and Hazel Park to pay for traffic control and police protection.

Brotherton also sees the possibility of an increase in crime, noting that Atlantic City has experienced such an increase since casino gambling was sanctioned.

"From a parochial point of view I don't know how casino gambling would benefit a city like Farmington, except to provide residence for those involved in the gambling business," he said.

"I've just never really considered

voting for this," he said.

The only way Brotherton would even consider supporting Ogonowski's bill is if something like a Tisch amendment was made law and "the bottom was taken out of our tax base."

**OAKLAND COUNTY** Prosecutor L.Roberts Patterson said he has mixed emotions on the question.

"Clearly you see the need for more revenue for Detroit and the entire state, but I'm very nervous about it."

"In law enforcement, you're going to find a lot of very hesitant people because of its track record in other places like Atlantic City."

"At this point, we'll have to wait and see if there is any support outside the city or even in Detroit. I see no

groundswell at this point."

Brotherton agrees, saying he has yet to receive a phone call or letter in support of casino gambling.

One group expected to endorse casino gambling if or when it officially becomes an issue is the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau. The bureau has 760 members in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

About 30 percent of the members — representing segments of business and

labor — are in Oakland County, 60 percent in Wayne and 10 percent in Macomb.

Twice before when it became a state issue, that organization was surveyed "and a stable majority" came out in favor of casino gambling, said Mike Wright, vice president of operations.

"Members were invited to make comments, and the dominant theme was that casino gambling could provide a needed economic stimulus to the area."

## County will remedy intersection headache

After years of traffic jams, near misses and fender benders, one of the Farmington area's largest traffic problems is about to be eliminated.

The intersection of Grand River and Ten Mile in Farmington Hills is slated to be widened to five lanes with a center left hand turn lane and new set of traffic signals.

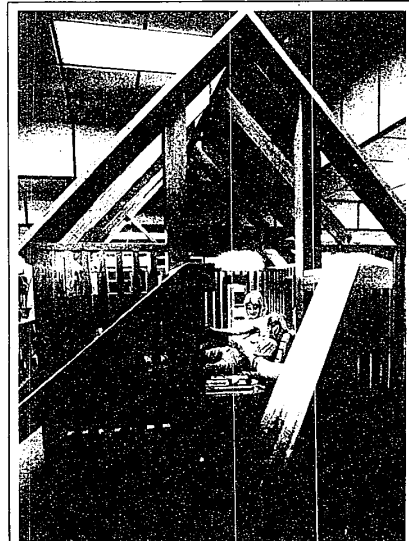
"Construction will get underway this spring and be completed before winter," said Fred Houghton, chairman of the Oakland Board of Road Commissioners.

Construction costs, estimated at

\$700,000, will be shared 90 percent by the Federal Highway Administration, five percent by the Road Commission, and five percent by Farmington Hills.

Right of way costs are an estimated \$18,000 to be shared equally by the Road Commission and Farmington Hills.

The project will require that a portion of Ten Mile will be closed at Grand River for approximately two months. Local access will be maintained during this time by using Grand River to Haggerty and Haggerty to Ten Mile, which will be signed as a detour route.



## Contemplation

Just relaxing and contemplating with a friend can be part of an enjoyable day in the children's section of the Farmington Library. Sara Norton (left) and Joanne McKenzie enjoy such a day. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

## Oil boycott brings a record response

A record number of letters are coming to the Observer & Eccentric offices after Cracker Barrel Debate columnist Steve Barnaby asked readers last week which oil company they would like to see boycotted.

A portion of those responses are featured on today's editorial page. "I'm simply overwhelmed," said Barnaby, who says about 40 to 50 letters a day have been coming in since his column appeared last Thursday.

"This response just goes to show you that consumers are fed up with the high price of gasoline. They are willing to

commit themselves to see it change," he said.

Readers from all 12 Observer & Eccentric editions have responded, as well as persons from outside the circulation area.

"The word is spreading faster than I had anticipated. Persons have written from as far away as Wyandotte and Gibraltar, as well as Lake Orion and Pontiac," he said.

Presently, the Observer & Eccentric editorial staff is weighing its options on how best it can serve its readers in aiding in this boycott.

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