

Tupper's father may replace him on City Council

By Craig Piacchura
staff writer

Telephones at Farmington City Council members' homes have been busier than usual due to the intensive lobbying efforts to fill the seat vacated by Councilman Richard Tupper.

About a half dozen persons are being seriously considered for appointment to replace Tupper who resigned May 17, citing increased business demands out-of-state.

He has served on council for 10 years.

One of the names being bandied about as a replacement is Tupper's father, 78-year-old Bayard Tupper. He presently sits on the Tax Board of Review.

"What started the whole thing — what dinner was it again? — oh, the Mayor Exchange Dinner," Bayard Tupper explained.

"Bob Deadman (Farmington city manager) came up to me and said 'I hear you're taking Dick's place.' I said, 'Not by a longshot.' I didn't think my wife would stand for it. But she was enthused about it."

The elder Tupper said he's served on the school board and the planning and tax boards for years and knows what the city needs to continue in a conservative direction.

HE ACKNOWLEDGES that his age might hurt his chances at landing the City Council appointment.

"There were a lot of people hollering about Reagan being 70 but he got shot and got over it pretty quick," said Bayard Tupper.

Other persons being considered for the \$800-a-year post which expires in November 1985 include planning commission members Lee Ratliff and Shirley Richardson, the wife of former mayor John Richardson. Roger Walker, Jr., 61, who serves on the Tax Board of Review, has asked council members to consider him for appointment to council. Walker is the president of Farmington Realty Co.

"I just feel my experience in business and so forth would be a benefit to

the community and I would like to volunteer my services," Walker said.

He calls his political persuasion "middle-of-the-road" which allows him to vote for Democratic and Republican candidates based on their stand on issues. Walker said he sees no great problem in the city he'd work to rectify.

COUNCIL MEMBERS have 60 days from May 17, the date of Tupper's resignation, to announce an appointee to fill the seat. If no one is selected by that date, the city clerk would have to schedule a special election to allow voters to select a replacement.

Mayor Alton Bennett predicts the appointment will be announced at the June 21 council meeting. Names of everyone already under consideration will be "read into the record" at Monday night's meeting, Bennett vows. Council members will have the opportunity, at that time, to add any other names they would like considered, he said.

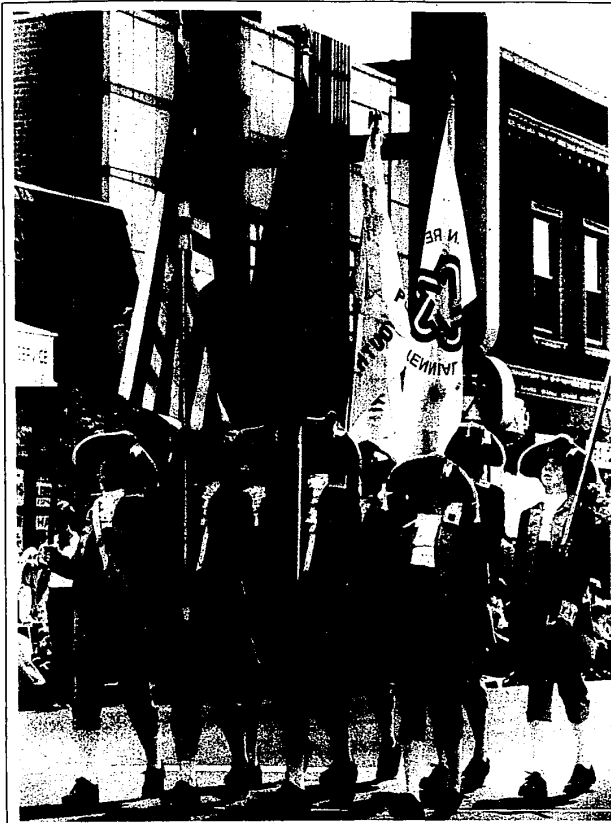
The consensus of council members is that the appointee will come from the ranks of the planning commission, zoning commission or another city board.

Retired councilman Tupper first came to the council by being appointed to fill out the term of Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, who was elected to county commission. The last new face on the council, William Mitchell, was appointed in February 1981 to fill out the term of Warren Buckler, who resigned to take a legal job in the military.

Councilmen Ralph Yoder and William Hartssock see little chance of opening up the review procedure to public scrutiny. Yoder is actively backing the appointment of Bayard Tupper while Hartssock says he has submitted three names for consideration by his colleagues on the council.

Members of the public have no guaranteed right to sit in on deliberations over the appointment, Hartssock says, because "this is not a city election, the power falls on the council to fill the vacancy."

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Heritage on parade

The Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps were judged the best marching unit in Monday's Memorial Day Parade in downtown Farmington. See the

inside pages for more on the Memorial Day festivities.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Hills EDC gives nod to Holmes

The Economic Development Corp. (EDC) of Farmington Hills last week granted a local couple the right to seek \$750,000 worth of tax-free revenue bonds to build a storage facility for building materials.

While the issuance of such bonds must be approved by EDCs in the city the property is located in, city governments don't back the bonds with credit and aren't liable if the business, in this case Holmes Associates, Inc., fails.

Because the bonds are tax-exempt they are attractive to business owners and investors and usually sell at an interest rate of around 10-to-11 percent, far below the prime rate of more than 17 percent.

The applicants for the EDC bonds, Raymond and Joyce Rieger of Farmington Hills, plan to build the facility regardless of the May 25 approval of the project by the Farmington Hills EDC.

Rieger plans to build a 16,000-square-foot passive solar heated structure on 1.5 acres of land he owns on Interchange Court in the Halsted Industrial Park. The building primarily will be used to store building and roofing materials the company distributes, Rieger said. Fifteen employees will work there.

"WE DO NOT depend on new construction with our product lines," Rieger said. "Right now the retro-fit (repairing old roofs) is our biggest market. More people are taking better care of older building rather than building new ones."

When the Farmington Hills facility opens Rieger will close the company's headquarters at 8700 W. Nine Mile in Oak Park. In addition, the company operates sales offices in Grand Rapids and Bowling Green, Ohio, which will remain open. The company only employs 20 persons in all three locations.

"We've outgrown our Oak Park facility," Rieger said. "We're operating out of three separate warehouses right

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City closes loopholes in prostitution law

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Farmington Hills' prostitution ordinance is being revised at the request of 47th District Judge Michael Hand.

The briefly-worded ordinance would have prompted Hand to dismiss a recent prostitution case had the defendant not pled guilty, he said.

The ordinance says "it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in any act of prostitution."

"The ordinance was rather vague as to what crimes could be prosecuted and under what circumstances," Hand said. "I checked the state statute and it seemed to me that it covered several essential elements of crime that were left out in our local ordinance."

Hand recommended to city police that they seek an amendment which would bring the ordinance into congruence with state law.

At the police department's behest, the city attorney's office drafted a revision which recently was presented to the City Council for review.

The six-section ordinance closely resembles the state prostitution law, addressing persons who offer, accept or aid in the act of prostitution. It also stipulates maximum sentences and fines.

According to the ordinance, violations are punishable by 90 days in jail, a \$100 fine or both. Second offenders are found guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of one year, a \$500 fine or both.

"There have been some instances where ladies of the night have infiltrated our community, and local innkeepers have called us and have been very cooperative in alerting us on several occasions in the past."

— Inspector Richard Niemisto
Farmington Hills police department

Two concerns with the revised ordinance were raised by council members, who referred it back to city attorney Paul Bibeau.

"There were two questions that

arose in the council member's minds. They wondered why the ordinance is limited to persons 17 years old or older, and their other question had to do with the section dealing with solicitation," Bibeau said.

beau said. "The section dealt with males only, and they said it should apply to males or females."

Bibeau intends to find out why the state prostitution law pertains only to persons 17 years old or older. If it appears that no valid reasons underlie the age restriction, the local ordinance may exclude age entirely, he said.

The city attorney concurs with Hand that clarification of the ordinance is needed.

"I would have to say that because of the new criminal sexual conduct state law that has come out recently, I felt our statute should be updated," Bibeau said.

"We've never had the need because we never had those kinds of cases before us."

Farmington Hills police reported two prostitution offenses in 1981 in the city, and none in 1980.

"Prostitution of the type that normally comes to the attention of police has not been a significant problem in the past," said Inspector Richard Niemisto.

"There have been some instances where ladies of the night have infiltrated our community, and local innkeepers have called us and have been very cooperative in alerting us on several occasions."

The Holiday Inn staff and security personnel have been instrumental in alerting police when incidences occur, particularly during major events such as the Republican national convention and the Super Bowl, added Niemisto.

Drive-in and store employees robbed by gunmen

A drive-in movie theater and a party store in Farmington Hills were the tar-

gets of armed robbers during the Memorial Day weekend.

Two gunmen fled the Grand River Drive-In, at 30200 Grand River, with an estimated \$30,000 shortly after midnight Tuesday, police said.

The pair, armed with blue steel revolvers and wearing handkerchiefs as masks, accosted carhop Milton Kress of Livonia on the drive-in's grounds, police said. The two men ushered Kress, his hands atop his head, into the theater office, where theater manager Valdis Blaksieniks was counting the evening's receipts.

Blaksieniks, Kress and cashier LuAnn Billings of Detroit were ordered into the office restroom as the suspects scooped up the cash left lying on the counter and placed it into green canvas bank deposit bags.

About 10 minutes later, the employees left the restroom and called police.

The suspects were described as being 20-25 years old and white. They were wearing blue windbreakers.

A MAN ARMED WITH a .35-caliber Remington rifle and wearing a brown nylon stocking over his head fired into the Last Stop Party Store ceiling before robbing the store of approximately

\$800 shortly before 1 a.m. Saturday. Ghassan Khumorko, owner of the store, at 23154 Grand River, told police he was behind the cash register when a heavily built, dark-haired man walked in carrying a rifle.

Khumorko was ordered at gunpoint to hand over his money. The 22-year-old storekeeper's response was "Are you kidding, get out of here."

Another employee, Raed Khumorko, then approached the register from the back of the room. The gunman swung the rifle towards Khumorko, then raised the barrel towards the ceiling and fired a shot.

The employees then handed over approximately \$800 and raised their hands as the suspect backed out of the store.

Raed Khumorko then grabbed his 30-caliber carbine from behind the counter, left the store and saw the suspect walking northwest towards an alley.

He told police he fired six rounds in the air towards the suspect and drove to a phone at a nearby fire station after an unsuccessful attempt to locate the gunman.

The store phone had been dead since

early that day, rendering the hold-up alarm inactive, Khumorko said.

Police are investigating both robberies.

Farmington men held as vandals

Three 19-year-old men from Farmington and Plymouth face a felony destruction of property charge in connection with a car window-smashing incident in a Canton shopping center early Monday.

Arraigned Monday at the outcounty branch of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office were Patrick Lekovich of Macomb, Farmington, Jerome Hayes of Main, Plymouth, and William Sull II of Clampton Circle, Farmington.

Innocent pleas were entered in their behalf, and bond was set at \$5,000 personal for each. Preliminary examination in 35th District Court will be June 7.

ACCORDING TO a police report, Officer Gordon Stevens heard a banging noise near the King's Row shopping center on Lilley shortly before 1 a.m. Monday.

The three men were arrested at the shopping center, according to a report.

Malicious destruction of property over \$100 is a felony which carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison upon conviction.

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Thank You, G. Smith!

G. Smith called to tell us she has placed many ads in the Observer & Eccentric classified section to sell cars, furniture, etc. quickly, and has been very pleased with the results. She then placed another ad. Thank You, G. Smith.

One call does it all!



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