

Farmington Observer

Volume 94 Number 56

Monday, April 25, 1983

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

Farmington water rates set for hike

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

In July, Detroit will raise Farmington with an increase in wholesale water and sewage disposal costs — 47 cents per cubic foot for water and 24 cents per cubic foot for sewage treatment.

So Farmington officials are eyeing hikes in residential water and sewage rates to offset the city's increased prices.

"They (rates) have been going up annually and sometimes more than annually," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

The yearly rate increases are following a pattern established several years ago when the federal Environmental Protection Agency took Detroit to

court for violating pollution control laws, Deadman said.

Effective July 1, Detroit will raise Farmington's wholesale water rate from the existing \$2.59 per cubic foot to \$3.06. Wholesale sewage treatment prices will increase from \$3.34 per cubic foot to \$3.58.

These increased Detroit (passed on through Oakland County) wholesale rates will cost Farmington about \$52,000 annually, Deadman said. But other costs within Farmington's water and sewer department also are increasing by about \$28,000, bringing the city's increased total to approximately \$80,000 in 1983-84, he said.

Faced with an anticipated decline in tax revenues in 1983-84, the city will be unable to absorb Detroit's rate increases so they'll have to be passed on to the Farmington consumer, Deadman said.

"IT'S NECESSARY to raise local water and sewer rates," Deadman said last week.

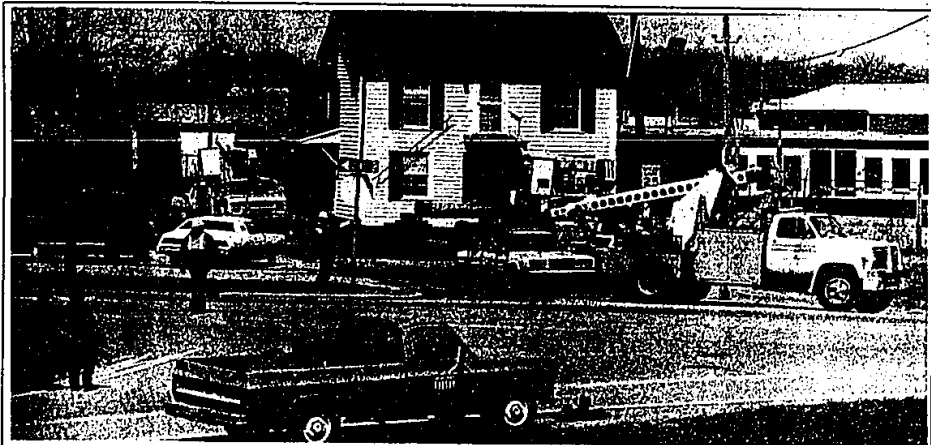
As proposed, residential water rates on a minimum quarterly billing will jump from \$7.04 to \$7.45 on the first 6,000 gallons of water used. For each 1,000 gallons of water used over that minimum, Deadman said, the rate would increase from 88 cents per 1,000 to 92 cents.

City officials also are recommending that residential sewage rates continue at the current 150-percent of a homeowner's water bill. That, however, also represents an increase when applied to the proposed increased water rates, Deadman said. So a recommended combined minimum water and sewer rate will be \$18.85 or 75 cents higher than the current minimum of \$17.90 for the first 6,000 gallons of water used.

Although City Council members have yet to approve the proposed rate hikes, the recommendations are part of the proposed 1983-84 budget which must be adopted by June 6.

Council members are expected to review the proposed rate hike's impact on the city budget at one of their four scheduled budget sessions:

- April 28 at 7 p.m.
 - May 5 at 7 p.m.
 - May 12 at 7 p.m.
- All budget sessions will be in the Farmington City Council chambers, 23500 Liberty.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Tucked in on Tuck Road was the historical home which was being moved from its site next to the Botsford Inn over to its new location

near 11 Mile and Drake. Although taking several hours, the move was accomplished successfully.

A memorable move

Historic home finds a new site

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Moving day for Bruce and Doris Smith meant hauling their recently purchased 143-year-old home six miles down busy main streets.

The \$1,000 price tag on the structure was minute compared to the \$10,000 the Smiths planned to pay in moving the home from Grand River and Eight Mile to Drake and Lyman near 11 Mile.

The moving process was delayed last Wednesday at one point when a larger Michigan Bell truck was called out to fill in for a smaller truck.

The Smiths obtained permits from the City of Farmington, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County and the utility companies in order to move the house.

Costs for the moving process, which was still underway last Thursday, was \$630 an hour.

The Smiths' purchase and promise to preserve the home is a triumph for the Farmington Hills Historic District

Commission, according to Chairman Jean Fox.

"By the time the Smiths are through they will have put approximately \$80,000 of cash into the house," Fox said. "But then the house will probably be worth around \$100,000."

The primary concerns of the Historical Commission in looking for buyers was where the house would be moved, and the intentions of the prospective buyers, Fox said.

"A dollar in the right place would have been enough for the house if all the other criteria were met," she said.

THE SMITHS will combine old and new concepts in maintaining the home.

Doris, who is a graduate of the historical preservation program at Eastern Michigan University will work to sustain the near century-and-a-half architectural appearance, and Bruce, an architect, will build a southern exposure well in the basement that will convert the energy system to solar heating.

The Smiths plan to landscape the front of the home in the same fashion

as homeowners did in the 1840s, using shrubbery and plants that grew at that time.

They plan to live in the Greek Revival architecturally styled house, which also will serve as a demonstration site of the solar system.

"It will show that you can take any house and use all the technology of energy saving," Smith said.

The recently popular solar energy project contrasts with the antiquated appearance of the house that was built by Steven Jennings in 1841 on the site that is now the Botsford Hospital grounds.

Fox is "terribly pleased" that the home was given as a gift by Botsford Hospital to the Historical Commission.

Dr. Allen Ziegler, director of the hospital, is the unmentioned benefactor of this project, because if he said 'no' at any point in time, we wouldn't have gotten this done," Fox said.

THE FATE of the home might have been ruins under a bulldozer, if it weren't for the generosity of the hospital, and the cooperation of the commu-

nity and city officials who allowed the commission the opportunity to save the dwelling, Fox said.

"Everyone thought it was important to save the home," she said.

A second house on the Botsford grounds also was donated to the Historical Commission. It was a dwelling Jennings built during the 1840s for his daughter when she married.

The present owners of the home are Jeff and Mary Stewart, who plan to move the dwelling to 13 Mile between Drake and Halsted on May 4.

Both homes were found to be historical landmarks in 1979 when the commission began an architectural and historical survey in an effort to target the buildings worth preserving in the community.

Today there are 33 historical sites in Farmington Hills, but they're not adjacent to each other.

"There's been great community support in saving these beautiful homes," Fox said.

Groups fight taxes

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills have joined the growing number of Michigan cities heralding more voter participation in tax changes.

Tired of Taxes (TOT) is circulating petitions to curtail the state legislators' control on taxes, and make it the voters' choice.

"I'm fed up with taxes, because they've gone completely crazy," Barbara Glisson, a Farmington Hills TOT petition circulator, said. "I firmly believe we should have taxes, don't misunderstand me."

"But they raise their pay and raise your taxes, and the pocket just runs dry," she continued. "I think they're double dipping, and they think we're simple down here."

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How state aids in patching up fix-it problems

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Motorists who believe they've reached a dead end when trying to reconcile a complaint against an auto repair shop can turn to the state for help.

Thousands of frazzled consumers annually call the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Automotive Regulations to help them solve disputes with auto repair shops and certified mechanics.

"Generally we try to mediate a solution for both parties, and solve the conflict," Lorraine Hodges, administrative analyst, said. "We can take a disciplinary action up to taking licenses away and closing the business, but this is very rare."

Complaints filed against two local

transmission shops resulted in two-year probation periods for each business.

Probation provisions forced the owners of American Transmissions in Farmington Hills and Transmission Rebuilders Inc. in Farmington to sign

agreements with Secretary of State Richard Austin stating they agree to abide by regulations in the Motor Vehicle Services Repair Public Act 300 of 1974. Signing the document doesn't admit guilt, but it usually ends the state's investigation of registered complaints filed at that time.

register with the state, and that all mechanics earn certification for each major area of repair on which they will be working.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Singing together

Farmington High school's choir director Margaret Kottz enjoys being surrounded by her guys. To see why this group has a special relationship, turn to page 3A.

Clarification

A story on the front page of the April 21 edition of the Farmington Observer should have read that costs in a Farmington drain project for residents living southwest of Farmington Road and Grand River dropped from an original estimate of 18.0-cents per square foot to 13.88-cents per square foot in District A. In District B, costs dropped from 8.5-cents per square foot to 4.23-cents per square foot.

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Reminder...

Your Observer carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$1.75 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.