



# Farmingington Observer

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## Flood threat looms

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmingington Hills city officials are facing a tough question — how can the city pay its \$2.4-million share of the \$4-million Caddell Drain?

The problem is acute at this point because of other needed city improvements, such as a possible new police station.

The Caddell Drain project is planned to clear up flooding problems like the one which struck the Red Roof Inn and surrounding areas in late 1981.

The cost is to be borne by Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, the Oakland County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

City officials discussed the financing problem at a council study session last week.

**THE STATE** Municipal Finance Commission has approved city sale of limited obligation bonds to raise money for the city's share of the project.

City Manager Lawrence Savage said paying off the bonds would involve either raising the city's present 7.8-mill property-tax rate (\$7.00 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation), or cutting other city expenses to allow the payment.

He estimated the city would have to pay \$280,000 each year to retire the bonds over 20 years.

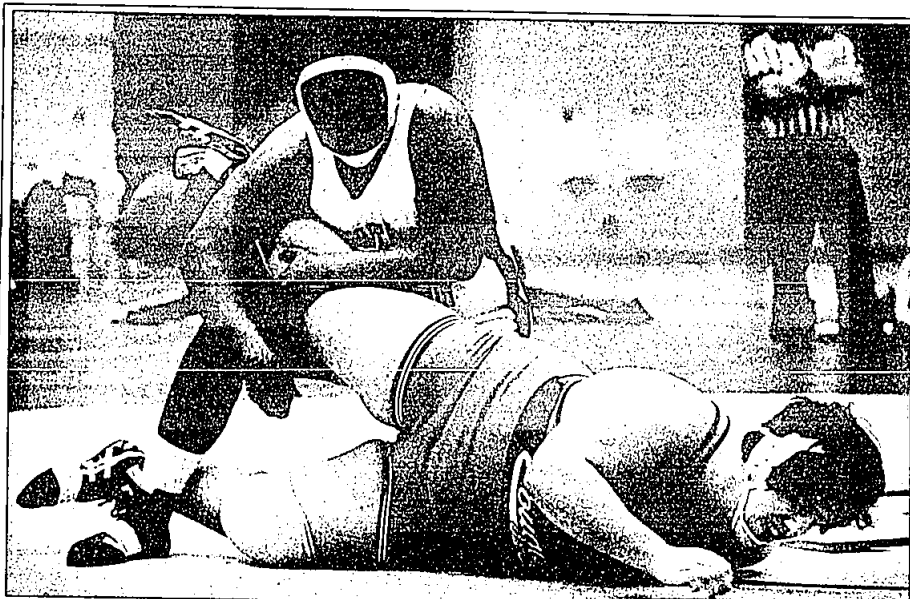
"Since each mill levy raises about \$1 million, it would take one-third of a mill tax to pay off the debt," he said.

Savage said that paying off the drain costs and a new police building would involve a debt of \$5 million. "There's no way to do that with the present tax levy we have today," he said.

**COUNCIL** members disagreed on the best course of action.

In order to build the first phase of the Caddell Drain in 1982, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi and the county road commission agreed with MDOT to provide a temporary solution to the

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## 'The Mook' strikes

North Farmington's Greg Collier, known to friend and foe alike as 'The Mook,' downs Garden City opponent Marvin Piko during the recent area-wide wrestling tourney. To read more about the matches, turn to the sports, Section C.

RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

## Council hopefuls queried

At 7:30 p.m. tonight Farmington Hills council members will publicly interview 16 candidates who are seeking an appointment to the City Council.

The special meeting will begin with council members establishing the appointment procedure they will follow.

Timed statements by each of the candidates will follow. Council members are expected to make the appointment tonight.

The 16 residents are bidding to fill the vacancy left by former Mayor Fred Hughes who officially resigned as a council member on Jan. 20 to take a job promotion.

Applicants for the vacant City Council seat are: Robert Anzlovar, 30157 De Orr Drive; Mary Avery, 28060 Thornybrae Court; George Benington, 30154 Pipers Lane Court; Jack Burwell, 32529 Wayburn West; Phillip Chase, 38217 Tralee Trail; Eldon Dillon, 47508 Westcott Crescent Circle; Kenneth Gray, 37052 Carla Court; Susan Higgins, 25339 Arden Park Drive.

Also applying are Maste Kurzeja, 21728 Oxford; Edward McDonnell, 33700 Quaker Valley Road; William Ortmann Sr., 28010 S. Harwich Drive; Robert Primeau, 33101 Raphael Road; Timothy Romps, 24508 Springbrook; Terry Sever, 34436 Beechwood Drive; Aldo Vagnozzi, 26193 Killarntan; Al Zolton, 29549 Gilcrest.

If applicants are unable to attend the interviews, council members will consider them based on their resumes.

Although Hughes was re-elected last November to serve a two-year term, the appointee may serve only until the November 1984 election.

The appointee would have to successfully run for election at that time to remain on the council. If more than two candidates file for the November election, a primary will be held.

## Firefighter merger proposed to combat rising expenditures

By Mario Chesney  
staff writer

Livonia's 84 firefighters have sought the word volunteer and are chal-

lenging the city with another plan — a regional fire fighting system that would include Redford Township, Westland, Farmington Hills, Plymouth Township and the city of Plymouth.

Refusing to believe the city has a money problem, the Livonia Firefighters Union last week axed the city's plan to use volunteer firefighters in the city. The union unanimously refused to

reopen its current contract with the city so that talks could begin on paying its volunteers. The contract expires Nov. 31.

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## Buying Bengals was pizza king's lifelong dream



By Tom Beer  
staff writer

Thomas S. Monaghan asked a question and then spent the next hour answering it — and telling his life story in the process.

"So what's a guy with a name like Monaghan doing in the pizza business?" was the question he used to kick off his talk Friday afternoon in a packed lecture hall on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

Monaghan, who in the early 1960s combined a \$500 loan with lots of business savvy and hard work to build a nationwide takeout pizza empire worth \$7 billion today, shocked the sports world last October when he bought the Detroit Tigers baseball team.

At OCC, Monaghan, the 46-year-old chairman and president of the Ann Arbor-based Domino's Pizza Inc., had plenty to say about both business ventures.

Monaghan called the purchase of the team for a reported \$43 million "a lifelong dream."

"We always wanted to play shortstop, and now I can do it," he said, drawing laughs from the audience. "The Tigers are going to have one of the best utility infielders around in Alan Trammell."

But while the knowledge that he really owns his favorite baseball team "is still sinking in" in Monaghan's words, he can call up plenty of not-so-fond memories of his early days in the restaurant business.

**ORPHANED** AT an early age, Monaghan's entry into the world of work came as a laborer on farms in rural Michigan.

After high school, he spent a year in a Catholic seminary in Grand Rapids, but was kicked out "because they said I didn't have a vocation and that I was mischievous. I was interested in sports,

girls and cars — and I failed at all three."

A stint in the Marine Corps "crunching gravel" as an infantryman was "the best experience of my life," according to Monaghan, who retains a fondness for the Leathernecks.

"If I had a son — which I don't, I have four daughters — I wouldn't give him a penny until he'd spent at least two years in the Marine Corps," he said.

Monaghan, who'd saved about \$2,000 while in the service, got his first taste of the business world when an oil well con artist freed him out of his money.

Undaunted, Monaghan put himself through the University of Michigan by operating his own newsstand in downtown Ann Arbor and delivering the New York Times to homes in the area.

He and his brother, James, entered the pizza business 23 years ago, using \$77 of their own money and a \$500 loan to buy Dominick's, a two-table carter-out restaurant in Ypsilanti.

The business, which was "totally undercapitalized," seemed ill-starred from the start, according to Monaghan.

"The first month we were open, we didn't even have a telephone," he said. "Now, you just try running a delivery business without a telephone."

Monaghan also squabbled with his partners, first brother Jim and then a man whom he said cheated him. Even when business was brisk those first few years, Dominick's didn't prosper.

"The more business I did, the more money I seemed to lose," Monaghan said.

**BUT THE** 100-hour workweeks and years of frugal living ("To this day, I'd rather eat my wife's hamburger casseroles than the food at the fanciest restaurants") finally paid off for Monaghan, and the business began to prosper.

A name change to Domino's — with three dots representing his three

outlets — resulted in a long and costly legal battle with Domino Sugar, which wanted exclusive use of the name. But the court fight couldn't stem the growth.

In 1966, the busiest pizzeria in the world was Monaghan's place in Ypsilanti. But then came a disastrous fire in 1968. "The whole thing went up in smoke, and I was busted again," the owner said.

Monaghan built the business again only to have it threatened by overexpansion in 1970. But he survived that, too.

Today, Domino's, which has shed its tables and chairs and is totally carter-out and delivery, is one of the fastest-growing restaurant chains in the country, with nearly 1,200 stores in 48 states. One hectic month, 55 new Domino's were opened.

"I fell in love with the delivery business early in the game because nobody else seemed to want to touch it," said

Monaghan, who delivered pizzas in a beat up Volkswagen during the early days.

**MONAGHAN**, WHO taught a restaurant class at OCC in 1969, was asked his opinion of advertising by a member of the audience.

"I believe the best advertising is walking, not written," he said. "Advertising is overrated. We've found that if you do a good job satisfying the customer, you'll do fine. You advertise and you'll get a big rush of people and you'll never keep up."

Also overrated, according to Monaghan, is a specialized "business education" such as the highly touted master's of business administration degree.

"The real education is doing, not reading," he said. "Satisfying the customer is worth about 20 educations."

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