

# Farmington Observer

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## Hills tower boosters rejected in height bid

By Joanne Malczowski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills' amateur radio operators have lost their latest bid to change the city's height restrictions for antenna towers.

Following a public hearing Monday, city council voted unanimously to deny a zoning amendment that would have allowed a radio operator to build an antenna to a maximum 75 feet. Mayor Charles Williams was absent.

Council's vote upheld the planning commission's recommended denial of

the proposed zoning amendment in mid-March.

**THE DECISION** forces radio operators to follow the city's longstanding procedure of requesting a variance from the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) if they want to extend their antenna towers higher than the current maximum 25 feet.

In denying the radio operators request to add antenna towers to the zoning ordinance's list of height exceptions, council members pointed to the adequacy of the ZBA variance procedure.

Council members also indicated they did not have a reason to change the zoning ordinance.

"I don't feel we should rewrite zoning ordinances to accommodate the hobby of a few," said Councilwoman Joan Dudley, pointing to the approximately 40 ham radio operators in Farmington Hills.

"I think we have a reasonable method," she continued, referring to the ZBA variance procedure. "I do feel it would be unreasonable to rewrite a zoning ordinance for every interest."

But radio operators Monday claimed

the ZBA variance procedure, which allows residents to voice their opinion before a variance is granted, forces neighbors to take sides against each other.

Radio operator Larry Gordon of Newell Circle West, who has led the campaign for an ordinance amendment, told council that neighbors are not a "fair judging group" because the issue inevitably boils down to aesthetics.

Although he provided information on the safety of taller towers, as well as the lack of electrical interference

caused by tall towers, Gordon said neighbors consistently refer to the possible negative impact on their neighborhood's appearance if tall towers are allowed.

"Aesthetics was the item," Gordon said, about the numerous discussions concerning increasing the height of antenna towers.

**GORDON ALSO** claimed that many ham radio operators don't seek a variance because they believe that once neighbors are asked for their opinions, they will be "rejected."

The ZBA, he said, in effect, polls neighbors on whether the radio operator in their subdivision should be allowed to increase the height of the antenna tower.

"At least I study each case (variance request) on its own merit," said George Roberts, a ZBA member. "If the public wasn't allowed to voice their opinion, we would have a kangaroo court or star chamber."

On the other hand, LeRoy Peterson, whose antenna tower extends beyond

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## Fear of office plans stilled in 13 Mile area

By Joanne Malczowski  
staff writer

Opposition to having an office building and accompanying 300-car parking lot as a neighbor has won success for Farmington Hills Country Club from a Stonebrook Court and Franklin Fairways subdivision.

To resounding applause Monday, the city council unanimously denied a request to rezone about six acres adjacent to the wealthy subdivision near the Stonebrook Court and Franklin Fairways residential zone to office and parking zones. Mayor Charles Williams was absent.

The Abbey Group developers, who have a purchase option on the residential property, planned to build a low-profile office building and adjacent parking lot north of 13 Mile Road, between Northwestern Highway and Franklin Fairway.

Council's vote upheld the planning commission's earlier recommended denial of the rezoning request.

**CITY PLANNER** Claudio Coates told council he favored the commission's recommended denial because of an adverse effect on the area's traffic as well as an intrusion of office zoning into a single-family area.

In making a case for rezoning, Abbey Group attorney Kenneth Newman told

council that the property near Northwestern Highway eventually would become commercial as has much of the property along the thoroughfare.

"The general nature of Northwestern Highway from our perspective has developed as a non-residential area," Newman said. "Virtually, this entire intersection has been bracketed by commercial."

But council members and subdivision residents refused to buy Newman's predictions.

"OS-3 (special office district) was never intended to encroach on 13 Mile or any of the other mile roads," said Councilman Joe Alkatech, who said he does not "want to start the ball rolling on 13 Mile."

Most of the property fronting on Northwestern Highway has been rezoned to office and commercial uses. Much of the rezoning took place because of consent judgments with developers who were seeking to change the zones from residential to commercial.

**AS PROPOSED**, the land would be divided into almost three acres for a parking lot, another almost 2.5 acres into office fronting on 13 Mile and the remaining almost one acre devoted to residential. Maintaining the most east-

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## Willow weeps no more

Brothers David (left) and Jamie Hill of Canterbury Commons in Farmington Hills are examining this 75-foot weeping willow tree

that was toppled in their front yard Monday by high-velocity winds.

RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

## Maverick candidate vows to win

By Tom Boer  
staff writer

Jim Dunn's gloves came off Tuesday in a corner booth at a dimly lit bar, and they're likely to stay off through Nov. 6 — election day.

Dunn, a maverick Republican who'd like a seat in the U.S. Senate, came to The Red Timbers restaurant equipped with a blue and white "Reagan-Dunn" button on the lapel of his business suit, a Merit cigarette between his fingers and plenty of tough talk for his opponents.

While waiting to speak to the Farmington Lions Club at the Novi restaurant, Dunn, 40, took a few verbal jabs at political foe Jack Loumsa, a fellow Republican and former astronaut, and incumbent Democratic Sen. Carl Levin.

"I have the utmost respect for Loumsa as an astronaut," said Dunn of the man he'll face in the Aug. 7 primary. The winner will run against the popu-

lar Levin in the Nov. 6 general election. "My problem with him (Loumsa) is that he doesn't know the issues," said Dunn, a wealthy East Lansing builder who's attempting to re-enter politics after losing his seat in Congress in 1982.

The Michigan-born Loumsa, who spent 17 years in America's space program and gained hero status after participating in two missions, returned to the Wolverine State in January after a long absence to announce that he intended to take on Dunn and Levin in the Senate race.

"I don't know why he's involved in politics," said Dunn, who served a term in Congress from the Sixth District before losing in 1982 to the same man he beat in 1980 — Bob Carr. "He (Loumsa) just doesn't know the issues."

"He said in Ann Arbor, quote, 'You can teach an average high school boy all he'd need to know about the issues in Michigan,' unquote."

**WILLE DUNN** isn't taking Loumsa lightly, he admits that "my battle's with Levin."

A Dunn-Levin contest, if it happens, will be "an issue-oriented race," according to the challenger, who mentioned the following issues:

• Taxes — "Would you want your rates 25 percent?" Dunn asked. "If Carl Levin had his way, they would be."

• A balanced budget — "Do you think that Washington should have to behave like you and I do and balance the checkbook every month? I certainly do. Carl Levin has continually voted against a balanced budget."

• Crime — "Should we get tougher on criminals? Carl Levin has always voted against capital punishment. I'm for it for those convicted of the most serious crimes."  
Levin, Dunn claimed, also has been "ineffective in getting defense contracts to Michigan."

Dunn said he had a three-point program to solve what he said was the "No. 1 problem — the economy and the size of the federal deficit." His plan includes:

• A Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget.

• Two-year budgeting instead of the present one-year system. "That would take some of the politics out of it."

• A freeze of the federal budget at the 1984 rate — \$355 billion.

**BUT IF DUNN** has what he thinks is a winning program to go with his one election success, then why have some of the big GOP money men in Michigan deserted him in favor of Loumsa?

"No. 1, I'm too independent for some of them," answered Dunn, who claims to have statewide support on the county level. "In 1980, they ignored me because they thought no one could beat Bob Carr."

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Jim Dunn  
U.S. Senate candidate

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## oral quarrel

## Where will Tigers be come October?

How 'bout those Tigers!

The Tigers — Detroit's entry in Major League baseball, in case anyone's forgotten — are the hottest property in the sport right now with an unbelievable 18-1 win-loss record during April. Many fans feel the team is pennant and World Series bound; others are sure the April spurt is just a fluke and claim the squad will fold during the long season.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

Come October, what will the Detroit Tigers have to show for their play during the 1984 baseball season?

To answer this question, call us at 477-5459 anytime before 1 p.m. on Friday. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

## Physician thinks fast to save man's thumb

Don Moore, a 42-year-old Detroit, has an excellent chance to regain the use of his thumb — severed in an accident last Monday and then surgically reattached — thanks to the determination and skill of a Farmington Hills doctor.

Moore severed his left thumb and nearly sliced off his left index finger while using a circular table saw to cut firewood in the backyard of his east side home.

Moore was taken to Detroit's Harper Hospital by a neighbor. The thumb apparently had flown into a neighbor's yard after being severed.

**HARPER'S** replantation team, which includes Farmington Hills' Dr. Lawrence Zachary, wanted a chance to reattach the digit — but where was the thumb?

Zachary, a plastic surgeon fellow at the hospital, refused to believe that the thumb couldn't be found.

"The doctor got into his car, raced to the man's house, and he and some neighbors searched and finally found the thumb in a neighbor's yard," a hospital spokeswoman said last Tuesday.

Zachary then wrapped the thumb in gauze and a surgical glove, put it in an

ice filled container and raced back to the hospital.

"Then a team of four doctors, which includes Zachary and Dr. Robert Larson, worked for 10 hours to successfully reattach the thumb and index finger."

"WE'VE HAD very good results with digits," said Zachary, adding that the team had reattached an arm with at least 10 fingers in the last month. "The thumb was cut off cleanly and cleanly, and that was an advantage for us."

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**"MORE HELP APPLIED THAN NEEDED!"**  
M. Braunsch was "very happy with the response" of the Observer & Eccentric EMPLOYMENT-INSTRUCTION Classified ad placed. "Over 25 calls I know of — wasn't there to answer the phone all the time!"

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