



Farmington Observer

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Need for firefighters grows with city

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Full-time firefighters in Farmington Hills will work longer hours in a short week to cover an increased demand for medical and fire calls during mid-to-late afternoon.

The revised schedule, effective Dec. 3, calls for the eight full-time firefighters to work from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., four days a week. The department's 81 paid call-back firefighters in turn will have to fill in more hours, at least equal to eight, 10-hour shifts to make the schedule work, said Fire Chief Richard Marinucci.

"We won't spend it all this year," Costick said, about the amount allocated in the city's 1984-85 budget. "We'll probably use up slightly over half in the current fiscal year."

"It's mainly the traffic problem that we are trying to deal with," Marinucci said. Because traffic congestion continues to be a growing problem, chances for delayed response for medical emergencies and accidents is increasing, Marinucci said.

The new schedule replaces the original shift structure in place since 1977 which called for the full-time employees to work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week. The full-time employees will have different days off, Marinucci said.

"This system has worked well but does not fully address the growing

trend for more and more runs occurring in the middle to the late afternoon and especially during the afternoon traffic rush hour when a good number of paid call-back firefighters are still either at their work site or in traffic on their way home from work," said Costick, in a report to council.

The new work schedule will allow the city's four fire stations to be manned during the morning and afternoon rush periods, when it is generally difficult for the paid call-back firefighters to make their way through traffic, Marinucci said.

"We feel this is especially important since traffic congestion on many of our major arteries has become noticeably worse," Costick said in his report.

"Without station coverage this delays the time required to get to the fire station and even delays travel time in making the actual incident response."



RANDY BOSTSTAFF photographer

Firefighters have found themselves busier than ever as the city grows. And with that increase in business comes a change in the work schedule.

Anna recalls old days

By Tom Baer staff writer

When the Hupert family left their northern Michigan farm for Farmington Township back in 1935, they had more than just their household possessions in the trailer.

"We were excited about it," remembered Annabelle, then 11 and the oldest of four Hupert children, of the move to her new home at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, "but it was altogether different from living up north."

"Up there, we had a 100-acre farm. Down here, we had just one acre."

But Edward and Revella Hupert and their progeny soon put that one acre to good agricultural use.

"We had a big garden like everybody else, and we'd brought down with us some pigs and a cow," said Annabelle Hoeglund, longtime Farmington-area resident and city of Farmington employee.

The family had left Luther, a small farming community between Cadillac and Reed City, for the Detroit area because Edward had a job with Ford Motor Co.

But Annabelle doesn't remember Farmington as being part of the big city — not back then, anyway.



RANDY BOSTSTAFF photographer

Annabelle Hoeglund tells about the old days in Farmington before the expressways were built and a local business really was just that — local.

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Bootleggers battle goes another round

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Bootlegger's Bar in Farmington will remain open temporarily despite a decision last week by an Ingham County Circuit Court judge to uphold the state Liquor Control Commission's (LCC) refusal to renew the bar's liquor license.

The Michigan Court of Appeals Friday stopped Ingham County Circuit Judge Robert Bell's order from being executed.

Norman Farhat, the bar's attorney, sought this temporary stay from the appeals court after Bell had neglected to automatically implement it. It will protect the Farmington Bootlegger license until early December.

Farhat also appealed Bell's decision. "It gives us the opportunity to file for a stay in circuit court," Farhat said. "The court rules allow for an automatic 20-day stay. That was not being honored."

FARHAT REQUESTED a hearing before Bell to stop the LCC from taking the license pending his appeal to the appeals court.

The city and Michigan attorney general's office have objected to the hearing, according to City Manager Robert Deadman's report to council.

Bootlegger's Bar will remain open at least until the Michigan Court of Appeals determines whether to execute Bell's order or to continue the stay until Farhat's appeal is heard, Deadman

said. Bell's decision and Farhat's appeal represent the latest battle in a long-standing war between the city and bar owner Joe Asclone.

Farmington City Council in March recommended to the LCC that renewal of a Class C liquor license granted to Pal Joey's Inc. for the operation of Bootlegger's Bar should be denied.

Bootlegger's Bar, 32305 Grand River has operated with a Class C liquor license since June 1981. Council

recommended renewal of the license each year without objection until February and March 1984.

Before recommending in March that Bootlegger's license not be renewed, council held two public hearings at which city officials and homeowners testified to a host of incidents involving the bar and its patrons.

Among the complaints were alleged incidents of fistfights, urinating in the

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Heroes honored in city ceremony

By Tom Baer staff writer

Three citizens got involved in the fight against crime — and the city of Farmington last Monday showed its appreciation.

Mark S. Palinko and brothers Joel and Craig Eastman were given "civilian citations" during Monday's city council meeting by the city's Department of Public Safety to honor their special efforts in stopping or helping solve two local crimes.

"It's an attempt to recognize the con-

tributions that citizens can make," said Director of Public Safety Frank LaHoff of the awards.

Palinko, a 27-year-old Farmington resident, was honored for the part he played in apprehending several men who were accused of taking a motorcycle from a garage on June 27.

According to police accounts, Palinko, while driving home, was flagged down by a neighbor on Farmington's Vicary Street. The resident explained that he had just witnessed the theft of a

motorcycle from a garage on June 27.

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Police battle for immunity in hot pursuits

By Jackie Klein staff writer

"The decision, responsibility and method of fresh pursuit rests solely with the individual officer. In deciding, he must exercise sound judgment and carefully consider the facts, seriousness of the offense, possible consequences and safety of the citizens whose protection is his responsibility."

— police policy

The Michigan Association of Police (MAP) is lobbying for legislation to protect local police officers and cities from multi-million dollar lawsuits stemming from accidents in high-speed chases.

The topic "What is law enforcement going to do about police chases now and in the future" was discussed by county prosecutors, attorneys and labor relations specialists at a seminar in Southfield Wednesday.

The MAP seminar was in response to

charges of negligent homicide during high-speed pursuit brought by Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson against two police officers in separate incidents.

"The emergency vehicle code is unclear and police officers are between a rock and a hard place," said George Cushingberry, MAP lobbyist.

"What is needed is legislation to provide a blanket policy on high-speed chases and local government immunity from criminal and civil prosecution re-

sulting from high-speed police chases."

STATE SEN. Alan Croppsey and Reps. Ernie Nash, Joe Young Sr. and Perry Bullard have agreed to make such legislation a top priority when the Legislature reconvenes after the first of the year, Cushingberry said.

But it could take as long as two years to pass the proposed measure, he added. The legislation would relieve local units and ensure protection against loss in the same manner as medical mal-

practice policies, Cushingberry said.

Richard Thompson, chief assistant to Patterson, said the recent charges of negligent homicide against a Troy officer and Oakland County deputy were the first ever brought by the prosecutor against police officers in high-speed chases.

Charges against deputy Roger Gelsler were dismissed and Troy officer William McCabe faces a Dec. 3 preliminary examination on charges of negligent homicide in 52nd District Court, Walled Lake.

Warrants for negligent homicide are issued on the belief that police officers or citizens were speeding without due care, causing an accident and killing innocent people, Thompson said.

According to Thompson, 20 percent of high-speed chases result in death, 60 percent in injury and 70 percent in accidents with the fleeing person usually being pursued for minor offenses.

In a 1983 case in Ann Arbor, a civil suit was filed when the car fleeing from a high-speed chase struck a third car, causing injuries.

"The Michigan Supreme Court established a standard of care to be used by police officers in pursuit. The court determined what is considered negligence."

THE COURT standard compares the conduct of police officers to the common sense of a "prudent" man in the exercise of his duties of a light nature under light circumstances, Thompson

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oral quarrel

High-speed chase: right for police?

To chase or not to chase? That seemed to be the question for the area law-enforcement officers who attended the recent Michigan Association of Police (MAP) seminar in Southfield.

High-speed police chases resulting in injuries to innocent persons may lead to multi-million dollar lawsuits against the officers and the cities they represent.

to protect police officers' and cities from such suits.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: WHAT SHOULD THE POLICY ON HIGH-SPEED CHASES BE IN OUR POLICE DEPARTMENTS?

To answer this question, call 477-5498 anytime before 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 23. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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