

Edison studies ways to boost power in Hills

By Florence Flock
Staff writer

While Detroit Edison searches for an answer to boost power capacity for Farmington Hills customers, the city council says "no way" to 60-volt utility poles, with added circuit lines, along 12 Mile.

As part of a long-range program to boost capacity, Edison officials met with the city council July 20 to discuss plans to link the power substation at 11 Mile and Drake to the mainsource station at 11 Mile and Inkster.

"Edison is telling us that if we don't do something soon, we will have some real problems," Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

"We need to look at all the options. Edison will present us with some of

those options within the next couple of months."

EDISON PROPOSED 60-foot poles along 12 Mile to carry a 120,000-volt line linking the two stations and producing higher power capacity. Edison plans to boost substation capacity 70 percent, which will provide a 20-percent margin above the highest load experienced so far this summer.

But installation of utility lines and poles would hinder the appearance of a new boulevard planned for development on 12 Mile, between Farmington Road and Haggerty, Mayor Terry Sover said.

"We are set against poles along 12 Mile," Sover said. "And if we reroute lines into private streets, that would be an additional expense to Edison. They would have to pay for the property."

THE CITY council prefers underground utility lines.

Underground lines would run for eight miles along the 12 Mile boulevard. Edison pegged underground lines at \$12 million — \$20 million over what Edison earmarked for the project. The city would be required to pay a large portion of the added cost, Sover said.

"Right now, the city is saying, 'Why should we pay for anything, you're supposed to supply the power,'" assistant city manager David Call said. "I don't think Edison has ever gone the alternative route and billed the customers. That may be something new."

Residents may be asked to pay an added Edison service charge per month to make up the cost of underground installation; but a charge can

not be estimated until all options are reviewed, Call said.

"We need to see the cost and how much residents are willing to participate in the program," Sover said. "Edison should bill the customers rather than have the charge be a tax item."

Within 30 days, the city council plans to meet again with Edison officials to formulate a plan to improve power capacity in Farmington Hills. Edison would like to begin construction by 1990.

LARRY SUNDRGREN, Detroit Edison Oakland Division engineering and planning director assistant, cited two separate capacity needs.

The substation at 12 Mile and Drake has three circuits but needs another to handle higher capacity. The mainsource station at 11 Mile and Inkster has two transformers

but needs a third, Sundrgren said.

"We are dealing with two independent needs," Sundrgren said. "We would like to satisfy both needs in a single project with a minimal amount of construction."

Linking the two stations would boost power capacity for Farmington Hills residents and eliminate outages caused by overloaded circuits experienced in the past, said Joe Chambers, Detroit Edison Oakland Division engineering and planning director.

Outages have been caused by overloaded circuits brought by the growth in Farmington Hills, Chambers said.

Another substation is proposed for Haggerty and I-696. It also would be linked to the mainsource station at 11 Mile and Inkster, Chambers said.

IN 1988, Edison officials said pow-

er did not meet company standards in Farmington Hills, where residents experienced frequent outages during the summer. The number of air conditioners in use exceeded Edison projections, Sover said.

"We got a lot of complaints last year with power outages," Costick said. "The system was overtaxed with the heat of the summer."

"We have had fewer calls about outages this year compared to last year," Call said. "But we still have had a few."

Outages were lessened this year by moving power from overloaded circuits to other circuits with adequate space, Chambers said.

"This has become something we really need to start working on," Chambers said. "As Farmington Hills develops and the whole area grows, we need to be prepared."

Restaurant opens amid controversy

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to the amount of my collateral, is there any way we can get the city off the hook as far as this co-signing?"

"He said at that time, come in and discuss it. The sooner the better, as far as I'm concerned," Marmion said.

MARMION'S WIFE, Joan, who works with him, agreed. "In two, three, four, five years, whenever we can do it," she said.

Their son, Gordon, is head pro at San Marino, on Highland, north of 11 Mile.

The city council approved a 20-year, three-party agreement with Marmion and Farmington Hills-based Michigan National Bank when Marmion discovered that he was short \$50,000 in collateral to cover construction costs.

Five years ago, Marmion maintains, the work would have cost \$200,000, but cost increases upset that to \$250,000, resulting in a collateral shortfall.

Liens have been placed on Marmion's Farmington home, where he has lived for eight years, and a Florida condominium, he said. The Marmions — who have two daughters, Karen Freuling of Canton and Diane Green of Dearborn, neither of whom is involved in the business —

are former Livonia residents.

"If I didn't get the lien on my houses for the bank, the city wouldn't have signed it (the agreement)," Marmion said. "I didn't want anybody else but me involved in the agreement) because the contract with the city is with me."

"According to my contract, as long as I own 51 percent of the business, I can do what I want with the other 49 percent. I've got good friends who were willing to put up the money but I didn't want to do it — the paperwork involved and the hassle."

"And, I've always been told, don't ever take in a partner. But, they were all willing to make up the difference, but I just didn't want to. I thought that by going in with the city, it was still ours together and there is no one else involved."

MARMION SAID the restaurant was appraised for more than the amount put into it, but he didn't know the appraisal's exact amount.

The tri-party agreement calls for the city to assume the balance of the \$250,000 loan from Michigan National Bank if the golf pro dies, becomes disabled or in any way defaults.

Under any of these circumstances, the contract would be terminated. Marmion or his family would be entitled to reimbursement, according



GOLFER ROGER VAN DORPE (left), GOLF PRO AL MARMION and GOLFER GEORGE MOROZ sit in the new restaurant at San Marino Golf Course.

to a schedule, for the cost of the renovation and expansion. The city would take over the restaurant.

The tri-party agreement requires Marmion to have a life insurance policy indemnifying the city of financial obligations to its estate if he dies.

If he defaults, the bank would first go after his collateral. "The bank will get paid first," said Dan Potter, Farmington Hills special services director.

During the first three years of the agreement, Marmion will receive all restaurant profits. After that, the city will receive a small percentage.

Marmion has worked at the nine-hole course for 15 years; the city has owned it for the last 11 years. Previously, it was a private course owned by Jack Melpelli.

Before coming to San Marino,

Marmion worked as an assistant manager at Redford Golf Course in Detroit for 17 years. During that time, he also was a Detroit Public Schools math, drafting and physical education teacher, he said.

ACCORDING TO Marmion, the first year he took over the course from Melpelli, rounds of golf increased to 42,000 from 27,000. About 2,100 people play golf at the course during the week. It averages 300-350 golfers per day in peak season and 275 golfers per day on the average.

Originally, a small snack bar in the pro shop was all that the Marmion family had to offer golfers forced in out of the rain. Addition of the restaurant allowed them to expand the pro shop.

Light lunches and dinners will be served daily throughout the year with breakfast available on weekends during the golf season. Marmion is seeking a liquor license to serve beer and wine. Dinner prices range \$6-\$9.

Marmion hopes the entire community, golfers and non-golfers will check out the new 110-seat restaurant.

Botsford enters Medicaid lawsuit

Citing current Medicaid reimbursement shortfalls and pending state cuts in 1990 Medicaid funding, Botsford General Hospital has joined in a lawsuit to be filed by the Michigan Hospital Association and a number of other Michigan hospitals to insure adequate Medicaid reimbursement.

The suit, filed July 25 in U.S. District Court in Lansing, became essential as hospitals recognized that the opportunities to pass the uncompensated costs of caring for Medicaid recipients to other major payors have dramatically diminished with the movement away from cost-based to price-based payment system," said Gerson Cooper, president of the Farmington Hills hospital.

The Medicaid suit is the result of a long but thus far unsuccessful process of hospital negotiations and other advocacy efforts for improved funding, Cooper said.

Cooper noted that between 1984 and 1988, while funding for state programs rose an average of 34 percent, state funding for Medicaid dropped by almost 1 percent in real dollars.

A recent study done for the Michigan Hospital Association by national health care finance authority Harold Cohen found that the average Michigan hospital is repaid only 79.5 cents for every dollar of care provided to Medicaid patients. Statewide hospital Medicaid losses total \$75 million.

This litigation calls for the state and federal governments to provide Medicaid funding levels adequate to

meet the costs of providing care for Medicaid patients. Fair and equitable payment to hospitals for costs incurred in providing care to Medicaid patients is mandated by federal law.

A decision in this case may take up to 14 months, but a preliminary injunction for interim funding relief is sought.

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Softball tourney set

Farmington Hills firefighters will host their eighth annual softball tournament to benefit the National Institute for Burn Medicine (NIBM) on Saturday, Aug. 12.

The event will be held at the new Pioneer Park on Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile.

Like in past years, the firefighters are looking for volunteers to assist in preparing and selling food and beverages, manning the dunk tank

and collecting donations. Softball firefighter Denny Hughes at 653-4740.

Volunteers do not have to commit for the entire day. They can help in more than one activity at different times.

This year, the group is hoping to break the \$2,000 mark for the first time. Last year, the event raised \$1,900. Over the years, Farmington Hills firefighters have raised nearly \$3,500 for NIBM.

clarification

Farmington Hills voters can sign up to four nominating petitions in the race to fill the four regular city council terms expiring this fall.

But they may sign only one petition in the race to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkateeb's term, which expires in 1991.

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Over 45 antique dealers from all across Michigan and throughout the Midwest will exhibit their wares and offer their services at the 11-day show.

Thousands of items will be available, including oak and walnut furniture, quilts, slot machines (now thru Sunday July 30) and antique reference books. Services include glass grinding and repairs, lamp repair, furniture refinishing, silver matching, and appraising.

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