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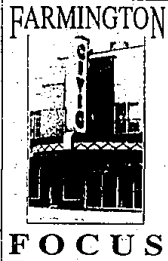
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Ethics debate erupts into accusations

By Casey Hana
staff writer

Although Farmington Hills City Council members agree that a further study of council ethics is needed, a discussion on the issue Monday erupted into a tirade of accusations. Council members chastised each other, a recent Detroit News series that discussed two city officials and their business interests, newspaper reporters and even the public during the 1 1/2-hour discussion.

One councilman said the council has been "blindsided with deceitful notions," another called on the press and public to be more ethical in their approach to council, and a third called the internal politics on the council "incredible." "I feel like I have been a victim of some deceitful acts in the city," said Sever, who accused Mayor Jean Fox and mayor pro-tem Aldo Vagnozzi of

working behind the council's back by meeting with politicians in Lansing. "We're plagued with deceit."

"What we need (on an ethics committee) is a fresh start with credible people. Start new, start fresh, start over and let's get the truth out there."

FOX and Vagnozzi said little, apparently choosing to ignore the comments.

On Monday, Fox proposed a three-point plan for re-activating the city's ethics committee, a proposal to which the council agreed. They will study whether to have an ethics workshop — suggested by Councilwoman Nancy Bates — before appointing a committee. Members debated whether to include political spending as an issue.

Despite their collective agreement

to move ahead on the ethics issue, council members vented their individual frustrations publicly.

Vagnozzi said re-activating the ethics issue is "proper."

"This is a burgeoning problem — developer influence," he said. "Big money is playing a big role, even a questionable role, in political campaigns. It is becoming a cancer in our democratic system."

Bates raised other concerns with regard to ethics.

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Hills council to look at its ethics rules

HIS NATURAL assumption was that it was vandalism. Farmington Hills resident Dan Schneider and his children pulled into their driveway recently only to find the mailbox pole broken off and the mailbox in pieces on the lawn.

"Since so much of what we hear is negative, my natural assumption was vandalism, though this would be unusual in our generally peaceful neighborhood," Schneider said.

"I was pleasantly surprised to find a note attached to the broken mailbox. It said, 'I'm terribly sorry but I hit your mailbox. I will be happy to replace it.'"

The note attached to the broken mailbox was signed, Barbara Coultter, whom Schneider believes deserves a "Citizen of the Week Award."

"She could have driven off and taken her chances like so many folks do. Instead, she showed a sense of honesty and decency that we need to see more of," the 1990's Schneider said.

"Hats off to the decent folks of Farmington Hills like Barbara Coultter!" Schneider concluded.

RUBBISH REMINDER to all Farmington residents. Rubbish will not be collected Thanksgiving, Nov. 22. Other holidays on which rubbish also won't be collected are Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day.

If the holiday falls during the week, your rubbish will be picked up a day later than it usually is. For example, Thursday's trash will be picked up Friday and Friday collections will be picked up Saturday, according to Earl Billing, director of Farmington Department of Public Services.

ALL GIFTS, letters, cards, books and magazines collected for men and women in the armed forces serving in the Middle East will be packed up and on its way Nov. 18 by Adat Shalom's social action committee.

"All of the materials we have now to go this week will arrive in time for Hanukkah and Christmas," said spokeswoman Judy Marx. "Even our preschoolers got in on the giving. They are sending Kool-Aid — sounds funny but it is one of the Items Operation Desert Shield is recommending to be sent."

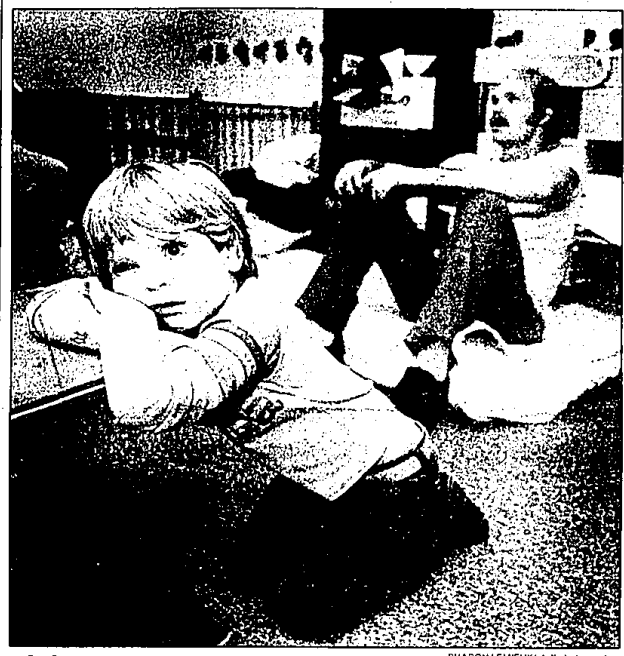
The collection of gifts was an all-out congregation effort, Marx said, "to make the holidays just a bit warmer, more enjoyable." Nancy Welberbarr is the project's chairwoman.

MEMORY LANE — From the Nov. 15, 1990 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Remember the days when a can of tuna cost 37 cents, Campbell's Chicken Noodle soup, 31 cents — for two cans on special; one-pound of mixed nuts, 43 cents; a one-pound of coffee, 83 cents; and one pound of ground beef, 57 cents.

Those prices were listed in a grocery store advertisement.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



SOS
Michael Fihart, 4, and his father, Hank, are two of Oakland County's 10,000 homeless people. Hank Fihart tells of that experience and the help he got from SOS (South Oakland Shelters) on Page 1B.

Dance teacher remembered as devoted, caring

Barbara Anne Burgess, who taught hundreds of Farmington area youngsters their first dance steps, died Sunday of leukemia in Henry Ford Hospital.

She was 62 years old, was called "Mrs. B." by her students, and was a resident of Livonia.

Funeral services were Monday in Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia.

She was a giver. She was always doing and giving, giving and doing," said Shirley St. Mary, who began teaching dance in The Community Center with Burgess 19 years ago.

This next June would be our 20th recital together, St. Mary said of the end-of-the-season performances that were so large the two women had to rent one of the high school auditoriums to accommodate the audiences.

"She never once billed the center for any candy or treats she handed out to her students, for whatever the occasion, or any occasion," St. Mary said. "A lot of her students grew up with her. Many were in classes for 10 or 12 years with her, and many brought their personal problems to her. If a child couldn't afford a costume, she would buy it herself."

In addition to the jazz and ballet classes Burgess taught in the center, she headed up the "Creative Morning" sessions for very young students and was one of the instructors for the center's summer "Creative Camp." She also taught a class in drapery making and made many of the draperies used in the center.

Burgess learned she had leukemia



Barbara Burgess
in August, 1990
"She came back to work looking like a million dollars. She came back fighting and kept up the fight until the last day she worked at the end of September," St. Mary said.

BURGESS WAS born Barbara Anne McCright in Greenville, Pa., and became a dancer when she was a very small child. She studied and performed with the Cleveland Ballet, danced with the USO in Pennsylvania during World War II, worked as a model and was crowned Miss Cuyahoga County in 1952.

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Elderly woman found dead in creek

A 74-year-old Florida woman who walked away from her relatives' Farmington Hills home early Monday morning was found dead in a nearby creek less than 12 hours later.

Foul play is not suspected in the death of Eda Perrault of Sebring, Fla., said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department. An autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday.

"She (Perrault) had all of her jewelry (when she was found)," Murphy said. When last seen she was wearing a jumpsuit and a gray fur coat.

Perrault was found at 2:14 p.m. Monday by a Farmington Hills firefighter not far from her niece's house on Millbrook, east of Middlebelt, between 12 and 13 Mile roads.

Firefighters first found her coat and then found Perrault's body a short distance upstream in the Pebble Creek, Farmington Hills deputy fire chief Peter Baldwin said. A command station for the search was set up at fire station No. 2 on Middlebelt, with the search organized by police officials.

Perrault's relatives had just brought her to Farmington Hills from her home in Sebring. When Perrault walked into her niece's house she said she was in the wrong house and walked out to the front porch, according to a police report.

"That was the last they saw of her," Murphy said, adding it is believed Perrault was disoriented.

Developer asks condo owners for support

By Susan Duck
staff writer

Developer Melvin Kaftan, who owns 14.4 acres of vacant land, east of Drake and west of Grand River, which has been the subject of his hotly disputed rezoning attempt, spoke Monday before a meeting of Hillside Estates Condominiums Association members to refresh their memory and garner their support.

Kaftan seeks to rezone this parcel from office service (OS-1) to the controversial industrial-research-office.

Both Kaftan and Leonard Siegal, his architect, spoke before the association.

'What we're offering is a lot more privacy and a better living environment. A lot of safeguards would be put on it.'

— developer Melvin Kaftan

The city council will discuss changes in the IHO and light-industrial districts at a public hearing 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19 in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile. Farmington Hills planning commissioners recommended approval of the proposed changes, based on a recent

toxic-hazardous materials report.

"The mere change in text amendment will not affect a change in the Kaftan rezoning," city attorney John Donohue said.

tabled by the city council in July 1989.

"I can't pick you up," Kaftan said. "If you back up to it (the land), don't watch television. Come out, because they count numbers. I'll need the help."

This was only one of several meetings planned before the condo association, Kaftan said. "I believe I have a responsibility to you."

Siegal stressed Kaftan's reputation in doing quality work that reaps beautification awards.

"You're interested in what would offer the best protection for your property values," Siegal said. The current office zoning allows more traffic, multi-story buildings, office buildings, which would be closer to the property line, more parking

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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 \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

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