

Audit: Water losses drain city's budget

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Aside from a little basement flooding, the city of Farmington's fiscal house is in order, according to an annual audit. James Egan of the accounting firm Plante & Moran gave a glowing report, but listed a few areas of possible concern. One of those is an increased drainage of the city's water and sewer fund.

A loss of \$287,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year and \$196,000 the year prior coincides with water losses of 17 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

Such losses are not uncommon with an older system such as Farmington's, Egan said. But the numbers draw attention when compared to only a 3-percent water loss in 1988-89.

One of the reasons for the loss is the city does not fully recoup depreciating expenses from residents in order to keep rates low. Egan doesn't suggest they start.

"If you fully fund, you'd have higher rates and you'd build up surpluses you don't really need," Egan said.

Egan said the concern is having enough working capital for repairs and maintenance. The audit estimates there is enough money to pay for three months worth of work.

Otherwise, the city would have to borrow from other funds or sources if major repairs occur.

"That's approaching the lower end of the acceptable range in an operational fund," Egan said. "It wouldn't take much in terms of expenditures and repairs to dip below that fund."

City manager Frank Lauhoff said the city has monitored the situation closely.

"We're fine," he said. "The system is fine. The cash flow is fine."

Lauhoff said part of the problem was the experimental shut-down of a 1 million-gallon holding tank in Oakwood Cemetery operated by the Detroit Water Department.

As a result, numerous breaks occurred, some of them undetectable initially.

The city went back and asked the water department to restore use of the tank. The department has since complied.

The city has also received \$43,000 in credits from the Detroit Water Department.

"We think we have a real good handle on it now," Lauhoff said. "... We're seeing our numbers going the other way."

The city raised water rates 16 percent July 1, partly to offset water losses and reduced use by residents and the new sewer separation system.

Egan also suggested the city and the Downtown Development Authority get any contingency plans in order in light of expected cuts in revenue sharing and tax incentive funding as a result of Senate Bill 1.

The DDA has already devised a plan for a special assessment for commercial property owners downtown to make up the anticipated lost money. A public hearing has been set for Monday, Nov. 15.

Egan said the city should consider doing a technical review of its computer system.

"We've been noticing an advancement in technology and the prices are falling," Egan said.

Hearing set in school transfer dispute

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Nov. 10 hearing has been set in a lawsuit attempting to block the transfer of a Harrison High student to North Farmington, but both parties are hopeful a solution can be reached before then.

An attorney for Donyelle Moore, 16, of Farmington alleges the high school junior's relocation from Harrison to North Farmington is racially motivated because it will prevent her from performing on the girls track team, which is predominantly white.

Don Cowan, director of Farmington Schools Building and Student Services, said there's no basis for the claim. He added there's been a misunderstanding.

"I think we're all out for the best interests of Donyelle," Cowan said.

A temporary injunction was issued Monday by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick, which stops the transfer pending the hearing.

"I think our allegations are pretty clear," said attorney Dolores Preston-Cooper, representing Moore. "We're alleging the school district had no authority to transfer her and that in transferring her there may be some other purpose."

"We allege a discriminatory purpose because she is one of five or six black students on a 60-member track team and scouts (would) come out and observe her as an 11th grader in the spring."

The transfer reportedly resulted after Moore and another student became involved in a dispute at Harrison. The other student, who is also black, has not been transferred.

WSU's lifelong learning college to come to Hills

A \$10.2 million project will merge facilities in Oakland County into a Farmington Hills site as part of Wayne State University's College of Lifelong Learning.

Robert Carter, dean of the college, said the plan will eventually provide one regional center in each of the three counties the college serves — Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. There are now seven extension centers in the tri-county area, including the Signature building in Southfield and Birmingham Groves High School in Oakland County, along with

several other class sites. The move would consolidate classes into three sites. The Texas Instruments building on 12 Mile will be the site of the Oakland center.

"The cost (estimated at \$10.2 million) will include renovation and an addition to the building," Carter said.

He said the consolidation will bring together some 6,000 students in Oakland County to one location. The target date for moving into the new building is between January and May of 1995.

READER SERVICE PHONE LINES

HOTLINE: 953-2020

- > Open houses and new developments in your area.
- > Free real estate seminar information.

CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 591-0900

- > Place classified ads at your convenience.

CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS

- > OAKLAND COUNTY: 901-4716 WAYNE COUNTY: 591-0500
- > Request subscriptions at your convenience.

EVENTS LINE: 953-2005

- > Current details regarding community events including dates, times and fees.

AD SITTER

- > Don't talk to strangers! Let us handle the callers. At your convenience, call in to retrieve responses from your ad. It's convenient, safe and free! With any paid classified ad. Respond to an ad: 953-2000; place an ad: 591-0900.

FAX LINE: 1-800-967-5904

- > You can use a MasterCard or Visa to access the following information from our classified ads:

- Item No. 9402: Looking for a place to rent or someone to share an apartment? Get a listing of our rental classifieds. Available beginning October 6 by 6 p.m. and every Wednesday thereafter at the same time. Cost: \$5.95.
- Item No. 1510: Plan your next trip to the cider mill with this directory of cider mills in southeast Michigan. Cost: \$3.95.
- Item No. 9700: Collectibles: Auction sales, Antiques crafts, rummage sales. Cost: \$5.95.
- Item No. 9800: Recreation: boats, motorcycles, campers, airplanes, etc. Cost: \$5.95.
- Item No. 9822: Vehicles: Used trucks, vans and all makes of automobiles. Cost: \$39.95.
- Item No. 2001: Listing of all golf courses and their rates in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Cost: \$4.95.

O&E On-Line

BIRMINGHAM AND SURROUNDING AREAS: 901-4711

LIVONIA AND SURROUNDING AREAS: 591-0903

- > With a computer and modem you can log on to O&E On-Line, a computer bulletin board service (BBS). Here's some of the features you can access:
- Community events including all areas covered by our paper
- Stock quotes that are updated daily.
- Associated Press news - local and national.
- Westcoast Music Review, an electronic music magazine.
- Boardwatch magazine, a guide to on-line information services.
- PC Catalog allows you to shop on-line for all computer needs.

Sign on to O&E On-Line with or without our software. Software is available by mail for \$5 or save yourself the shipping costs by stopping by the Observer & Eccentric offices in Livonia or Birmingham and pay \$3.

BBS HOTLINE: 953-2266

- > Feel free to call us if you need help signing on to O&E On-Line.

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

The Ole General Store

Gifts • Home Decor

31505 Grand River Ave.
(corner from Orchard Ln. 1/2 mi.)
LaSalle Winery
Farmington 478-8248
Mon.-Sat. 10-5 P.M.

ALL
FLORALS
10%-30%
OFF
SALE ENDS NOV. 10, 1993

THINKING ABOUT...

A NEW FURNACE
Bryant
CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE ESTIMATE
476-7022
ANYTIME
D&G HEATING & COOLING
19140 Farmington Road • Livonia

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster, send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspaper 805 E. Maple, Birmingham MI 48009-0910. Telephone 644-1100.

Subscription Rates: (Outside U.S. & Canada) \$30.00 per year; (elsewhere in Michigan) \$15.00 per year; (elsewhere in U.S.) \$10.00 per year. Single copies 50¢.

Advertisement Rates: (For information on advertising rates, call 478-8248.) A 100-word advertisement in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card copy of which are available from the advertising department, 21090 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI 48031-1133. 478-8248. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric do not have the right to sell this newspaper and only publication of an ad represents their complete and exclusive acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Need New Windows?

Call
BUY-RITE WINDOW
Replacement Windows Quality Crafted To Fit Your Style of Living
• 100% Financing
• State Licensed - Insured
• Member Better Business Bureau

Senior Discounts!
Send us the Observer & Eccentric Community for 10 years
20% DISCOUNT
to the first 20 callers
471-5600
33591 Seven Mile, Livonia



In an ingenious yet futile gesture, Neil Leinwohl attempts to receive Comedy Central on his own, not realizing we're on his cable system. With comedy that's smart, daring and as original as Neil's headgear.

Comedy Central can now be seen 24 hrs. a day on Metrovision.

Comedy Central. The only all comedy cable channel.



MetroVision

St. Mary and Beaumont...



partners for your good health

At St. Mary Hospital our first concern is to provide you with the best possible health care. To be here when you need us. So, we're making changes to offer you the latest technology, quality service and access to advanced medical specialists.

Change means progress. And, our recent affiliation with William Beaumont Hospital makes us a hospital with additional support from a highly respected institution.

Working together with Beaumont, St. Mary Hospital is enhancing many services important to the community. These include the new Maternity Center, expanded Emergency and Cancer Care programs and plans for a new Women's Center.

St. Mary and Beaumont...partners for your good health.

For information on St. Mary Hospital's services or for a Physician Referral

call
464-WELL



St. Mary Hospital
36475 Five Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154