

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Hills city council defeats attempt to amend charter

By STEVE BARNABY

An attempt to amend the Farmington Hills City Charter has been defeated by the city council at this week's council session.

The proposed amendments were brought to council attention by the Council of Homeowners Association of Farmington Hills. The association had attempted to have the three amendments tacked on last November's ballot but ran out of time.

The proposals would have:

- Limited elected officials to two terms of office.
- Required voter approval of any budgeted or additional appropriation of \$100,000 or more.
- Allowed only the voters to amend or repeal ordinances or charter amendments adopted through initiative or referendum. City council would be unable to rescind or repeal for five years following the effective date of the repeal by the electorate.

Under the present charter, the council may take action after the first year of repeal.

COUNCILMAN FRED LICHTMAN defended the charter as now written.

"We've only lived with this charter for two years. We should give it a chance to work," said Lichtman, who was a charter commissioner.

"I can't see pot shooting at the charter so it becomes distorted. I think we should give this a bit of thought before taking action."

While council defeated the concept of putting the amendments on the ballot, Councilmember Joan Dudley proposed that the council and Homeowners Association study (term of office limitations) to see if it was workable. But that motion, too, was defeated.

Only Dudley and Jan Dolan were in support of the study.

"I believe in office limitation," said Dudley. "It's darn hard to beat an incumbent. We are frightening away good people who should be encouraged to participate. Let's get more people involved."

But the rest of the councilmembers took the advice of City Attorney Terry Brennan who said limiting term of office was becoming unpopular in court cases where the concept had been tested.

"Anybody who has the will power to stay in political office term after term should be given the right to go to the starting gate," said Lichtman. "The community could lose someone who had rendered a valuable service."

Councilman Keith Deacon said the proposal discriminates against persons who may get elected to a two year term.

"We could have some persons serving four years, while others would be serving eight," he said.

Under the present charter, the can-

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didate with the least amount of votes gets a two year term.

All councilmembers were opposed to the spending limitation, maintaining it would change the basic concept of the city manager-council form of government. Brennan said such adoption would make the government inoperable.

"My opinion is that it would take a great deal of authority away from the council and give it to the people. It would change the form of government that we have," he advised the council.

Councilman Robert McConnell said the spending limitation was impractical and added that council had demonstrated it was doing its job in limiting unnecessary spending.

"I want to insure the public that the council is conscientiously staying within the budget. Just think of the cost of special elections if such purchases had to have the approval of the electorate."

Deacon warned that if voter approval was needed, funding for federal programs could be missed.

Councilman William Ortman was more candid, saying taking away the council's spending power would emasculate it.

BESIDES OBJECTING to the actual proposals, McConnell and Licht-

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OCC Womencenter serves large audience

By CORINNE ABATT

While the three-year-old Womencenter on the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus, is essentially oriented to women (who would believe otherwise), it helps men students, too.

"At first," says counselor Mary White, who acts as center friend and advisor, "men didn't attend our programs. Now, a third or sometimes half our audiences are men."

The Womencenter, funded by the college as well as the student activities fund, operates on a \$1,800 a year budget. Just as important is the actual office space which serves as a meeting room, gathering place and library for the growing collection of books on women's issues and problems.

Each semester, Mrs. White says, there are about 15 women who function as the active corps. They work as volunteers at the center, get together to brainstorm program ideas and follow through on the planning. They range in age from 18-50 and older. The center is their common denominator.

In addition to regular nighttime programs such as the recent one on welfare and survival economics, the center hosts the International Women's Day program each March, and at least three health days and two orientation days a year.

THE POTENTIAL audience is far broader than the students on campus. Mrs. White says the center serves the large college clerical staff, faculty members and women in the community at large.

The orientation days are set up for the latter group—so women can visit the campus and meet others like themselves who have returned to school after raising families or working outside the home.

"The women in the community talk to us about their fears and concerns about coming back to college," Mrs. White says. "Our focus here is to deal with the concerns that face women in society at large."

She continues, "Because we were an all women organization, there was flak from both men and women when

we began. They didn't understand. We're not anti-male. We're anti-sexist system. All of our programs are open to both men and women. Our hope is to do consciousness raising for both men and women."

She says the women who use the center and attend programs go from very independent, outspoken libbers to "those who are still very willing to let everyone else tell them who they are and what they are supposed to do. If that's where they are, that's fine with us."

A series of programs on child care will be held after the first of the year, probably starting in February and running into March.

Mrs. White says, "Child care is the linking thing which ties all of our concerns together."

ANOTHER ADVISOR for the center is Dean Don Nichols who has made a study of programs for women at community colleges. He will present his findings at the American Association for Junior colleges convention in Washington, D.C. next March.

One point he will make is that it is rare to find centers such as the one on the Orchard Ridge campus in two-year colleges. Many offer programs for women, few have formally organized offices and planning resources.

Because of limited budget, the Womencenter office is staffed by volunteers and students on a work-study program.

Mrs. White sees some good in this arrangement as opposed to full-time, paid staff. It has forced women to take the initiative, plan their own center and programs.

Nichols says the fact that the center serves both women on campus and in the community "is consistent with the community college philosophy to pay some attention to people outside the college."

He mentions a service the center does for the college.



While Aleah, 14 months, rests, her mother, Buffy Sinclair, talks with those who drop in about the activities of the Womencenter on the Orchard Ridge campus. Aleah often attends classes with her mother. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthner)

Kidnap suspect nabbed by FBI

By RON GARBINSKI

FBI agents, working with the Detroit Police Department, Wednesday arrested one suspect in the City of Farmington wanted in connection with the kidnaping of a Detroit bank assistant manager.

Wilburn K. DeBruier, special agent in charge of the Michigan Office of the FBI, said that as a result of an extensive investigation by both departments, two men were arrested in conjunction with the Dec. 5 abduction of James Crawford and subsequent extortion from the bank Crawford, an assistant manager at the Junction and Michigan branch office of the National Bank of Detroit, was kidnapped outside the office as he arrived for work last Friday morning.

FBI sources said Crawford wasn't with or under the control of the suspected kidnapers at the time of their arrest. As of Wednesday night, it was not known where Crawford may be and a investigation to locate Crawford is still being conducted.

Arrested were Chester Stanley Wysocki, 38, 7318 Coleman St., Dearborn, and John Scott Garsides, 39, of Columbus, Ohio.

At the time of their arrest, both men were in flight. Wysocki was arrested by the FBI and Detroit Police Officers in Farmington. Garsides was

apprehended by FBI agents 20 miles west of Dayton, Ohio on Interstate 70.

Both men will be charged with kidnaping and violation of the Hobbs Act, Section 1861. This section of the act deals with abduction or kidnaping involving interstate commerce. In this case, the bank which is a federally insured depository.

Garsides was arraigned yesterday in Columbus before U.S. Magistrate Mark Abel. Wysocki was arraigned before a U.S. Magistrate in Detroit.

A witness to the kidnaping said that at 8:30 a.m., Dec. 5 a man forced Crawford into a car where a second man waited.

Officials at NBD had been awaiting ransom delivery instruction from the kidnapers of the 25-year-old Grosse Pointe bachelor since Friday. No contact had been made with the kidnapers since Friday afternoon when they made a ransom call to another NBD branch office.

Since that time, several Detroit area radio stations had broadcast an appeal from Crawford's parents and NBD officials to arrange contact with the kidnapers or set up a drop-off point for the \$250,000 ransom.

Over the weekend, NBD sources said that the kidnapers used citizens selected at random to relay ransom demands and threats to the bank.

Executive forms record company

By W.W. EDGAR

Because Oltmar C. Miller, a young advertising executive now living in Farmington Hills, figured the listening public was tiring of rock music and ready to return to middle of the road, easy listening variety, Livonia is now able to boast a record company.

"We hope to do for this easy going music what Motown Records did for rock music and the city of Detroit," he explained in his new office at 34203 Plymouth Road.

Under the label of Scorpion Records, he has joined with A.C. Trest, who was born a few blocks from the office, in what is now the A.C. Trest advertising agency. Behind this move

is the hope the Scorpion label will become a hit in the record business.

"FROM THE days when I was handling an FM Radio program in Allen-ton, Pa.," he said, "I figured if I ever could get the right combination together we could do it. I think we have that now, with Joey English, the singing star who also lives in Farmington Hills, and the use of the United Sound Studios (formerly Motown) to produce the product."

Miss English, discovered by Sammy Cahn, the song writer, has appeared on the Merv Griffin TV show and is due for an appearance with Dinah Shore later this month.

"What we need in the record busi-

ness," he went on, "is good promotion. And now with this advertising company we have all the facilities we need."

"If all goes well, Joey will have an LP record on the market in February. It will be a series of Sammy Cahn numbers. The acceptance of this record will show us if we are on the right road."

Miller couldn't help smiling at the thought that he has a PhD in biochemistry from the University of British Columbia and studied at Lehigh University while doing his turn on FM Radio at Allenston.

ASKED HOW he arrived at the name "Scorpion" for the record label,

he explained that this was just another hunch.

"While looking around for a name, I learned Joey English was born under the Scorpion sign and that settled it right there. I think it's a good combination."

The new partnership in the Trest company is fully equipped to handle the promotion of the singing star and all other types of advertising.

Located in the old Carey building, where the late Nettie Carey, the first woman elected to Livonia City Council, once lived, the combine is planning a rehabilitation job on the exterior along with landscaping to fit into the beautification program for Plymouth Road.

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BOYS AND GIRLS!

It's time again to enter the Observer & Eccentric annual holiday art contest. Look on page 16C for all the contest information. Read it carefully and submit your entries — you may be one of the many artistic winners of this year's contest.