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Twenty Five Cents

Firemen insulted

Rescue decision protested

By STEVE BARNABY

A group of Hills residents and some of the city's volunteer firemen are protesting the recent action taken by city council to hire a privately owned human rescue service.

Last week the council contracted with the Farmington Hills Ambulance Company to provide the city's rescue service for \$2,000 a month. Residents using the service would still be billed for transportation to area hospitals.

The contract was reached after Hill Ambulance Company owner Barry Sloan informed the council the service would leave the community if a contract wasn't drawn. Sloan said his company was losing money by operating in the Hills.

Those protesting the council's move say the action is an insult to the volunteers who have been providing the city's emergency needs.

"This is really a slap in the face to the volunteers," says Frank Smith, who has served on the city's volunteer force for more than two years.

—JUST GOES TO SHOW that Farmington Hills will get by the cheapest way it can," says Smith of the administra-

tion's recommendation to contract with the private concern.

The city's volunteers are just as well trained as the ambulance company employees, he says, and the volunteers are more dedicated.

A number of Hills' volunteers are taking courses which will qualify them as Emergency Medical Technicians, Sloan, in his presentation to council, said his men, who were training to become EMTs.

Although the volunteer force is on duty at stations four to six hours a week, Smith and other volunteers say they respond to calls 24 hours a day.

The volunteers have a real loyalty, but we are getting frustrated because we've been disregarded so many times," he says. The volunteers, he says, are spending their own money to become qualified as EMTs. He also says many of the volunteers have taken extra steps to make sure they are aware of emergencies going on in the community.

"Many of these guys have gone out and gotten themselves pocket monitors, so that when we are away from home we are on the alert," he says.

Presently, each volunteer has a unit at his home where he can be alerted from the

station if an emergency call happens. UNDER THE CONTRACTED PLAN the city would have available a full-time 24 hour ambulance standing by. By the middle of this year, Sloan says, his vehicles will be manned by personnel who are fully EMT trained.

The Hills Ambulance Company also will be equipped with telemetry equipment so that diagnosis can be made on the way. With this equipment a patient can be hooked up directly to area hospital's emergency rooms so doctors can diagnose.

Smith would like to see Farmington Hills have a full-time life support like the City of Southfield has presently.

Another volunteer, Robert Fennmore, also expressed his frustration with the council's decision.

We're not doing this for the money. It's a job in which we take pride. I love a job like this," says Fennmore.

Although Smith talked of the possibility of turning in his gear, Fennmore felt differently.

Once that alarm goes off, nothing else means anything. When you know there is the possibility of somebody being injured or trapped in a burning building, you go, he says.

Last week, after the council's decision, a meeting was conducted by a group of residents who objected to the legislators' move. Annette Sweet, a group member in support of the volunteers, says government support is essential in convincing the council to change its mind.

They hope to put on the pressure in June, when the contract runs out with the ambulance firm. The council will evaluate the service at that time and determine whether it will be continued.

We do need an emergency medical service, but in order to get the approval of the council, we must stimulate the thinking of the community," she says.

I would not like to see the contract renewed after June," she said.

Councilmember Joan Dudley who attended the residents' meeting last Thursday agrees with Mr. Sweet that public opinion is what matters in the issue.

My personal opinion, though, is that the majority of residents aren't willing to pay the taxes needed to support the service," she says.

It's going to have to be a community demand. If the taxpayers won't do it, it's possible. But it would mean a millage increase," says Dudley.



Farmington Hills volunteer firemen, Sargeant Steve Kuzmanovich, left, and Paul Kero check over first aid equipment carried on the Rescue Squad truck based at Fire Station 4 on Twelve Mile Road. (Staff photo by Harry Grant Mauthe)

Crime in city increases slightly, says Byrnes

By RON GARBINSKI

Major crimes committed in the City of Farmington during 1975 increased 3.7 per cent over 1974 figures, says Safety Director Daniel Byrnes.

In the department's year end operations report, Byrnes said that felonies, such as aggravated assault, burglary, larceny over \$50, armed robbery and auto theft, increased only a "minimal amount."

There weren't any murders or rapes reported in Farmington during 1975.

"This is extremely encouraging after a 15 per cent increase in these crimes in 1974 over 1973," explains Byrnes. "The increase reported in other classifications of crimes remained fairly stable."

There were 464 actual major crimes committed in 1975, up 24 from 1974.

Auto thefts showed the largest increase

last year. Thirty seven cars were reported stolen, an increase of 39 per cent. Burglaries were up 20 per cent or 21 robberies. There was a three per cent decrease in larcenies as 458 were committed in 1975 compared to 472 for 1974.

You should use caution when dealing with small numbers as cited in this report. Percentages can be deceptive and very misleading," continues Byrnes.

An example of this is in the aggravated assault category. They were up from 13 in 1974 to 17 in 1975. This is an increase of only four incidents but a percentage increase of 30 per cent.

So in order to accurately measure the criminal activity in our community, one should look at the totals to see what the actual increase is," he says.

The Farmington Public Safety Department solved 30 per cent of all major

crimes committed in the city during 1975. Overall, the national average for clearing cases usually averages about 20 per cent.

A comparison of the two shows that Farmington is well ahead of the national average in clearing crimes.

Offenses such as assault and battery, fraud, vandalism, drug violations, public nuisance and driving under the influence of liquor increased eight per cent overall.

Total reported complaints in this classification of crimes were 1,246, up from 1,192 in 1974.

The largest increase came in malicious destruction of property. Offenses reported in this category rose 130 over 1974 final figures. There were 247 in 1974 and 277 cases recorded last year.

Driving while intoxicated arrests were down 40 per cent or 71 in 1975, the biggest

drop in any criminal offense category.

Public nuisance complaints also decreased from 319 to 173 last year.

In the miscellaneous complaints and of felonies classification, figures rose six per cent overall.

Total offenses numbered 6,185 in this classification during 1975 as compared to 6,009 in 1974.

Miscellaneous juvenile complaints increased 28 per cent, traffic complaints rose 9 per cent and open alarm rose 25 per cent. This increase prompted Byrnes to ask the city council to enforce fines for repeated false alarm reports.

Overall, total reported offenses rose only

3 per cent in 1975. There were 6,187 complaints to the department in 1975 and 7,281 offenses reported in 1974.

Arrests for both adults and juveniles decreased, with youth incarcerations declining 45 per cent. Adult arrests were down 30 per cent.

The number of actual fires were down 30 per cent, but the number of fire runs increased 6 per cent.

"Much of this decrease in actual fires may in fact be a paper decrease due to the formation of the fire marshal position and much better reporting and records keeping," Byrnes explains.

Many of the fire runs in the past years

that might have been unfounded may have been misclassified. Of the 103 fire runs this year, 44 per cent were either smoke investigation, no fire, false alarm or unfounded compared to only 15 per cent in 1973," he continues.

This variance would seem to indicate better reporting and records keeping, he says.

The total dollar loss for all fires in the city during 1975 was \$73,826, down 49 per cent or \$23,413 from 1974.

There were only four call back fires in 1975 as compared to eight in 1974. These fires require the calling of all duty regulars and reserves and usually cause the greatest amount of property damage.

Around-the-world escapade spawns exciting tales

By HY SHENKMAN

Farmington resident Warren Pierce thinks he could be the first man to fly around the world on a commercial airliner without changing planes. Pierce, a WJR disc jockey, says he covered 20,567 miles in 59 hours and 57 minutes.

"People ask me what I accomplished. I accomplished more in 80 hours than sitting at home," he said. "I talked to pilots of several countries. I chatted with people from several continents."

There was a passenger on a Pan American 747 which stopped at 11 airports during the 48-hour trip.

He flew over New York, San Francisco, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Delhi, Tehran, Istanbul, Frankfurt and London.

HE WAS FORCED to use all his dexterity and coordination to change clothes in the plane's tiny washroom.

During his flight, 1,842 passengers awoke and disembarked from the plane. "It never hurts to ask," he said. "I called the airlines and got all the information I needed for the trip."

Pierce, one of the first students to graduate from Farmington's Dexter Junior High, said he did not have to pay for his flight. He obtained a government transfer order which is usually used by military personnel transferring to a different post or by civilians on government sponsored



WARREN PIERCE

trips. With the order, the airline permitted him to fly free of charge.

He says the publicity was the last thing on his mind, but he doesn't see anything wrong with all the attention. "I'm in business to provide people with interesting information and that's the name of the game. Look at the automobile or the oil industries—the more publicity they get the more successful they are."

At each stop of the trip, Pierce bought a

souvenir which would best represent that particular country.

"Before I left, I received calls from listeners suggesting what to bring from each country and I heeded their advice. With me, it is a conversation piece and an interesting one. I learned many things."

PIERCE SAYS THE TRIP brought far away places closer to him. "It is altogether a different experience than reading about the countries in a book or seeing them on television. The trip was part of my radio work. I learned many things which left a lasting impression on me."

"Students can be taught about religion but when they travel and face those places in person, they not only see them with their own eyes, but they can feel it and live it," he said.

He doesn't believe his quick trip around the world has made him an expert in foreign affairs.

"I realize the traveling around the world in 80 hours isn't like taking six months to achieve an objective, but then, I don't claim to have become an expert, nor do I intend to write a book about the world. I like to accomplish something one year. I hope this will get into the Guinness Book of World Records."

Unlike the multi-millionaire whose two wishes were money and more money, Pierce would like to have health and happiness. "When you have that, money isn't really that important."



Farmington Hills DPW worker, Brad Burnham, perched high above the ground in his heavy-duty cab, loads the city's snowplow trucks with salt piles located at the new DPW Maintenance yard on Halsted Road. The city

uses about 100 tons of salt per year, but probably will exceed that amount if record snowfalls continue to hit the city. (Staff photo by Harry Grant Mauthe)

In-service training improved

Commission group names new member

The Farmington City Council recently approved the appointment of William T. Ingalls, 2548 Alta Loma, to the Historical Commission.

Ingalls, a registered architect, replaces John A. Allen, who resigned, leaving the commission without an architect member. Allen's unexpired term runs to March 11, 1977.

During 1975, the Farmington Public Safety Department improved its quality of service as it started several new programs and continued the extensive in-service training every officer receives.

In 1975, the department created a fire marshal position, and along with the new post, improved its fire prevention program, says Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes.

Last year, Fire Marshall L. Mike Gullmette and other public safety officers made 114 fire inspections.

Gullmette set up a schedule of weekly in-service training sessions, including a apparatus and equipment maintenance program, another program in which each officer receives 72 hours of training annually, and the training of 18 public safety reserves to respond to call-back fires.

Four officers were sent to the Evidence Technician School, and with their training, each platform now has the capability of processing crime scenes without the need to call in off-duty detectives.

These technicians have relieved some of the workload of the investigations division and reduced the overtime necessary to process crime scenes, Byrnes explains.

The department now has five crime prevention specialists trained to assist residents with simple, inexpensive ways to protect their property.

Also during 1975, the 18-man reserve unit underwent extensive fire training and now is equipped and trained to respond or assist.

and in fire suppression duties.

In addition, these men contributed 2,999 hours to the community. Of this amount, 2,354 hours were spent on patrol assignments. The command personnel of the reserve unit have also spent time in other communities advising and assisting in the organization of reserve units.

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ACCOUNTABILITY

Farmington Observer & Eccentric Editor Steve Barnaby thinks the school district should be made accountable in the recent election of a 13-year-old East Junior High School student. To see what he has to say turn to page 7A.

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County election to be conducted

Voters in the northwest section of Farmington Hills will be going to the polls Tuesday to select candidates in the 39th district county commissioner's race.

Residents in precincts seven, 14, 15 and 20 will vote in the Feb. 3 primary to choose the Democratic and Republican candidates for the March 23 special election. The race is for the seat being vacated by Commissioner Lew Coy.

Republican candidates are LaVerne DeWard and Dennis Murphy, both of Novi. Democratic candidates are Frederick

Morehead of Wixom and Sueten Haas of the DeWard has served on the Novi School Board for eight years. Murphy is a vice-president of public funds for the Bank of the Commonwealth.

Morehead is a Wilson city councilman. He works in industrial management for Anchor Coupling of Plymouth.