

Volunteers make plea

Rescue decision is delayed

By STEVE BARNABY

The fate of the Farmington Hills human rescue service remains a question mark after a presentation by the volunteers before city council this week.

Volunteers turned out in force to pack the council chambers and present an earlier decision by the council authorizing the city administration to investigate the possibility of entering into a contract with a private rescue service.

After the volunteers spoke, the council agreed to wait before signing a contract until after another session with the volunteers next Monday at 8 p.m. The firemen will present arguments on how best they can provide human rescue service.

In a report read by a number of volunteers, the group protested the way in which the private service proposal was presented. The volunteers maintained in their report that they could provide as good or better human rescue service to the city.

THE CITY is negotiating with the Farmington Hills Ambulance Company to contract for human rescue service until the end of the fiscal year in June. The city would pay \$2,000 a month.

The fire department strenuously ob-

jects to the manner in which the council was presented information regarding human rescue service on Jan. 26," said the report.

"The subject was never reviewed with any responsible fire department officials, and in fact, it is the department's understanding that the council had not have a forwarding that the matter would come up until the beginning of that very meeting."

The proposal was brought up under the city manager's report during the Jan. 26 meeting. Under the present agenda items in the manager's report are outlined while criticizing the way in which the city manager brought up the original proposal, the volunteers' report noted that copies of their report were made available Thursday before the meeting.

Department officials said they are willing to provide immediate 24-hour, seven-day a week ambulance service to Farmington Hills Monday's report, they say, will show how it can be done.

"The fire department is preparing several alternative detailed proposals concerning human rescue service for the city."

"The department feels the council should be given choices other than a one-

shot proposal. There will be complete with advantages, disadvantages, estimated costs, and time schedules," said the report.

The volunteers' presentation also called for formation of a public safety commission.

"The city now has many commissions. Perhaps the subject of public safety—including police, fire and human rescue—rates at least of equal importance. This would allow the full and free public disclosure and communication in the future when the topics such as this and others regarding police, fire and human rescue operations come up," said the report.

The volunteers said the council was forced into making its Jan. 26 decision.

"IT APPEARS that the city manager, as a part of his report, presented information that, in summary, in the opinion of the fire department, amounted to figuratively pointing a gun at the heads of the council and said that if you don't authorize a \$2,000 a month subsidy immediately, this very evening, to the Farmington Hills Ambulance Company, this company will pull out of service to the city and leave the city with-

out ambulance service."

Also speaking at the Jan. 26 meeting were Barney Slobo, owner of Farmington Hills Ambulance Company, and an anesthesiologist public doctor from Buford Hospital.

The volunteers report defended their credentials, saying that three of their ranks hold Emergency Medical Technician certificates issued by the Michigan Department of Public Health. Six members of the fire department are enrolled in the basic-emergency medical training course at an area college. They will finish their training in April.

Another man is enrolled in the American Red Cross multi-media instructor's course while still another is the advance emergency medical technician training course at Oakland Community College.

Sixty of the volunteers carry American Red Cross advanced emergency first aid cards, says the report.

It seems to the fire department that the city council should be setting up policy to at least partly reimburse and encourage these firefighters who try to be of better assistance to their fellow taxpayers rather than completely putting them down and defaming them as the action taken two weeks ago would do," said the report.



Perfection
Tom Tomkow, a North Farmington student, is rapidly becoming one of the best recognized gymnasts in the country. To read about his accomplishments turn to the sports section on C-5 Staff photo by Harry Mauthe.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 14 Thursday, February 12, 1976 Farmington, Michigan 72 Pages 25 Cents

City maps out 6-year construction strategy

A capital improvement program prepared by the Farmington Planning Commission calls for the scheduling of more than \$16 million worth of new or on-going construction in the city over the next six years.

The program, outlined in a major planning report completed by the commission, recently was presented to the Farmington City Council for its approval. The council will study the report and consider imple-

mentation of the improvements for inclusion in next year's budget.

"The feasibility of these improvements depends on several factors, primarily the availability of city, county, state and federal funding," says City Manager Robert Deadman.

All the individual recommendations of the commission won't receive funding, but they will be considered for implementation

over the next six years.

The planning commission's report is a continuing project. Each year the panel submits a revised program to the city council.

THE COMMITTEE'S top five programs to be considered during the next six years are: improvements in local and major streets, construction of separate sanitary and storm sewer systems, downtown rede-

velopment and modernization of utility plants.

Its first priority is curbs, gutter and storm drainage on several local roads including Raphael, Maple, Lakeway, Hawthorne and Valley View.

According to the commission, funding of this project would come from special assessments on local property owners and community participation in general bonding obligations.

Widening to five lanes Eight Mile from Farmington Road east to the city limits and Orchard Lake from Grand River south to Ten Mile is another important concern of the commission.

These projects will be sponsored jointly by the city and the Oakland County Road Commission. Oakland County will provide more than \$3 million to complete the improvements and city \$500,000.

Freedom Road east of Halsted also will be widened and resurfaced. Several other road improvements are also scheduled for completion.

Construction of separate sanitary and storm sewer systems within city limits is awaiting action by Oakland County.

The federal government has established legislation which provides funding to communities for correction of water pollution problems, according to the report. Farmington tentatively has approved this funding and a study to determine the necessity and cost effectiveness of the program soon will be undertaken.

CITY ENGINEERS estimate the cost of the sewer separation program will be approximately \$2.1 million. The commission requests the federal government, through its grants-in-aid system, to pay about \$1,575,000 with the balance funded through the city's water and sewer fund bonds.

The city recently received a design and redevelopment study conducted by Howard L. Green & Associates. This report dealt with improved parking facilities, street and parking lot light, purchase of additional off-street parking and landside improvements throughout the central business district.

Funds for these projects will be financed by private, special assessments and city operating money.

Adding park facilities by constructing new shelters and benches at Sloan Ave. Park also were recommended by the commission.

Using funds provided by the general fund, the commission wants the city to develop a mini park on Vaux Street near Grand River. At this park would be swings, a slide, sandboxes, picnic tables and a playground.

Continuing civic center improvements that began several years ago, the commission recommends an off-street parking lot on State south of the new Community Library. This lot would provide extra parking for residents visiting the library or the civic center.

THE CITY'S four-year Christmas decoration program will be completed this year. The project includes the purchase of 15 new decorative garlands to be installed on the street lighting posts during the holiday season.

Funds also would provide for the installation of outdoor new studies on north buildings for the new Christmas lights.

Two of the commission's recommended projects call for the construction of a public refuse storage building and the purchase of additional heavy duty equipment.

The construction of a garage and storage building for DPW equipment and inside storage for cars are high on the commission's list of priorities.

THE CITY hopes to implement a job sharing program with Oakland County in an area wide solid waste disposal plant project. The program would include a total county program with job sharing stations. Landfill site reverts to city and maintenance.

The city is working with Oakland County and several other local government to complete this project.

Construction of a swimming pool, locker room, and a study pool at a new sports center are included in the city's own report for expansion of recreational facilities.

The committee has been asked to Farmington Hills in providing the funds for these facilities.

Senior citizens housing, also included in a primary concern for the city, will be a priority.

Constructing 250 new housing units and provide senior citizens with housing is the commission's goal. This project is expected to be a joint effort with the city and funding would come from private, city and state sources.

Recommendations for area recreation interchange were listed in the commission's last major program. This project would allow for interchange and exchange of the constructed for south and east of Farmington Road and Freedom Drive.

The commission wants this project to help provide access to the central business district and eliminate area parking lands of massive problem areas in the existing interchange.

Construction funds for the project would come from the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation.



An act of love
Tina Marie Larson, a kindergartner in Mrs. Gene Tyler's class at Grace, tells a favorite person "I love you" in her class project for Valentines Day. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Community library begins programs

The Farmington Community Library offers several programs this month for residents of the Farmington area.

A variety of free activities will be provided for pre-schoolers on the first Monday of each month. No registration is necessary. Pre-school nursery classes are encouraged to make appointments.

Whether or not they have a pet pre-schoolers can join the library staff Thursday, Feb. 19 at 10:30 a.m. for pet films. Three films, "A Night in the Pet Shop," "Monter Dog," and "Scruffy" will be shown.

School-age Saturday programs will continue on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 2 p.m. No registration is necessary.

On Saturday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. stories of friendship for Valentines Day will be read. They will include "Valentine from Mr. Laverne Galtway" and "Mr. and Mrs. Kangaroo."

To learn how many Americans span their arms come to the Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. arm span contest.

Free programs for pre-schoolers will be held on the first Monday afternoon and the third Thursday morning of each month. No registration is required, though pre-school nursery classes are asked to make appointments.

On Friday, Feb. 13 at 10:30 a.m. the library will celebrate Creeps Friday. There will be movies, stories and creative drama.

The three H.L. Hunt Award Honor and Homer will star in movies to be shown Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.

Open programs for school-age children will be on the third Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. No registration is necessary.

On Feb. 21 movies about animals will be shown. Three movies of the Sea-Iwee I Had a Little Ape and Pours are the scheduled films.

All Farmington area families are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day by enjoying magic performed by Greg Howerton. Live drama will be performed by the Orchard Ridge Theater Guild and refreshments will be served.



Don Umphrey, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Umphrey of Farmington Hills, was named director of public information of Lubbock Christian College, Texas. Umphrey, a 1964 graduate of Farmington High School, was a reporter and editor for two suburban Detroit newspapers. He attended Eastern Michigan University and graduated from David Lipscomb College, Nashville, Tenn. in 1969.

inside

BY GEORGE

...and by Abraham, too, don't miss our special Presidents' pages included in today's paper. They're full of bargains offered by merchants in the Farmington area.

News	Section A
Editorials	10
Columns	10
Behavior Life	Section B
Club Circuit	2
Community Calendar	3
Sports	Section C
Classified	12
Real Estate	Section D
Supplements	Section E, F

Historical group sponsors contest

The Farmington Historical Society is sponsoring a writing contest to gain more written local history for the bi-centennial.

All entries must be true, unpublished stories about the Farmington area. The stories can be either personal reminiscences or second-hand accounts about people, places, or events in the district or recent history of the area. Interviews are also acceptable.

Grammar, spelling, and length won't be taken into consideration during judging. The executive board and members of the Historical Society will judge the entries.

The entries must be postmarked by April 30, 1976. They must be typed (double spaced) or legibly written.

Entries should be sent to Mrs. Robert Briggs, 2815 Oxford, Farmington Hills 48034.

The winners will be announced at the annual dinner meeting in May.

First prize is \$50, second, \$25, third, \$15 and fourth and fifth prizes are \$10 each. Sixth through 10th prizes are \$5 each.

All entries become the property of the society.