

Women get one-two punch at Hills city hall

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Farmington Hills City Council broke tradition this week and made history by electing its first woman mayor since incorporating as a city in July, 1972.

Adding a double female punch to the vote which elected Joan Dudley as the city's first female mayor, the council also elected another woman, Jan Dolan, as the mayor pro-tem. Mrs. Dolan will succeed Mrs. Dudley as mayor when she steps down in January.

In a rare display of sentimentality and emotion from the usually voluble council, the city's leaders unanimously praised Mrs. Dudley for her contributions as a city councilmember and as a charter commissioner. She is one of the last of the original

'We all applaud her perseverance in sticking to her principals. It speaks well for her that she is our first woman mayor. She has proven herself.'

—Joanne Smith

city council members left on the city's legislative body. Only councilman Earl Oppertahuser has chosen to run for re-election. Both Mrs. Dudley and Fred Lichtman have opted to step down at the end of their terms.

A PERSONAL friend and sometime political ally, councilwoman Joanne Smith put Mrs. Dudley's name into nomination.

"She has proven her ability as both a councilmember and charter commissioner. She has been an exemplary member. We will have to work hard to maintain the standards set by Joan," said Mrs. Smith.

"We all applaud her perseverance in sticking to her principals. It speaks well for her that she is our first

woman mayor. She has proven herself."

Throughout her tenure on the council, Mrs. Dudley has been one of the most controversial members. She has been known for grasping an issue and sticking with it whether the issue passes or loses.

Traditional political opponent Earl Oppertahuser who, for the most part, has found himself at the opposite end of issues from Mrs. Dudley, also praised her performance.

"We haven't agreed with Joan all the time, but her determination gives her the highest points as a councilmember. She is always well-prepared and informed," he said.

Those serving as mayor prior to Mrs. Dudley have been Robert McConnell, Lichtman, Oppertahuser and Keith Deacon.



JAN DOLAN



JOAN DUDLEY

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13th annual slated

Festival fever strikes cities

From the crowning of a new Miss Farmington to the old-fashioned Sunday-in-the-park, the Farmington Founders Festival is back for the 13th year in a row beginning July 20.

From one end of Farmington and Farmington Hills to the other, thousands of residents from around the Oakland and Wayne county areas will gather to celebrate the gala event.

The festival will lead off with the crowning of the Miss Farmington at Vladimir's Restaurant at 7 p.m. on July 20. The winner will succeed Holly Ann Schmidt who presently is Miss Michigan.

Among popular annual events returning this year is the Jaycee World Championship Rodeo to be July 22, 23 and 24. An added dimension to the

rodeo festivities will be the Four Wheel Drive Weight Pull on July 24. The Masonic Temple Association will sponsor several meals on the lawn of the historic Farmington Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road.

IN ADDITION to many food stands scattered throughout the area during the festival, other gourmet specialties will include the First United Methodist Church ice cream social and their pie baking contest. Our Lady of Sorrows also will sponsor an ice cream social. The Prince of Peace Lutheran Women's League will operate a sausagekraut and knockwurst stand.

Residents can get the entire run-down of events in next week's edition

of the Farmington Observer through the Founders Festival '76.

But to give you an idea of the events in store, the special events include the four day carnival at Duncle Junior High School on Twelve Mile Road. The Kendallwood Shopping Center, Twelve Mile and Farmington, will be the scene of the Farmington Hills Police Department display, while across the expressway at the Orchard Ridge Campus a gigantic fireworks display will brighten the sky on July 23.

The display is sponsored by the Hills Police Department and the Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington.

Dedication of historic markers, record collectors convention and an antique show as well as a wide variety of entertainment on mobile stages will be part of the festival.

A children's Art-In, a bingo tent, an arts and crafts tent, a pet show, square dancing and an historic bus tour of the Farmington area also will highlight the festivities.

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission's Ninth Annual Founders Festival softball tournament, a tennis tournament, gymnastic demonstration, a mini-marathon and a soccer spectacular are among the many sporting events in this year's festival.

The soccer spectacular will pit the Farmington Soccer Club against the U.S.A. Evanston, Ill. team.

PARADE buffs will once again be able to enjoy the parade on July 23 at 10 a.m. The parade will run along Grand River, with Joe Kopez, Grand Potentate of the Shriners as parade grand marshal.

Featured units in the parade include three Shriner Bands, the Scottish bagpipe Band, the Farmington Combined Elementary Summer School Band, the Tri-Club Lions Youth Band of Windsor and the old-fashioned callopie from the Livonia Mall.

The Farmington Elks Precision mini-bike drill team, flours, honor guards and color guards will highlight parade as will many drum, bugle and baton corps.



Broncs and bronc busters will be part of the fun at this year's Jaycee World Championship Rodeo. The chutes fly open July 22. To see more about the old-fashioned western fun, turn to page 6A.

Hills resident fights for black rights

By LYNN ORR

Gabriel Werba is convinced racial polarization has eased since the '67 Detroit riots.

But apathy remains the stumbling block for further progress, says the Farmington Hills resident, which is why he is chairing the membership committee of the Inner-City Business Improvement Forum (ICBIF), Detroit's largest minority development corporation.

"I think the situation in Detroit now is a lot better than the late '60s or early '70s," Werba says. "Even with a realization that the answer is to be found working within the system rather than in the streets."

"All of us have to resolve racial tensions, and most people don't disagree with that," Werba says. "It's that most people are uninvolved or passive—most of us have our own personal lives to live and don't look at how the rest of the world affects that life."

For Werba, 47—French born, schooled in Texas, and a former New Yorker—personal satisfaction and a sense of obligation prompted his involvement with ICBIF in 1967.

"I think I appreciate the U.S. to a much greater degree than Americans who were born to all this," Werba says. "There's a freedom of professional mobility you can't find in most of the world, which has created in me a sense of obligation to repay what I've found here."

LACK OF EXPERIENCE, training and access to the business world, however, curb mobility for black entrepreneurs, Werba explains. By providing managerial, technical and financial assistance, ICBIF aims to provide blacks with a stake in the economic system.

"What was really needed was to create a sense of participation in the black community within the economic mainstream," Werba says. In recalling the formation of ICBIF after the riots,

"Blacks worked in factories, taught school, and business administration majors ate in midwestern restaurants. Most blacks are limited to the inner city, and the money market is in the suburbs, so they have to face the high-



GABRIEL WERBA

est crime rate and the highest insurance.

"When you put this whole thing together, it's a miracle that black small businessmen can survive."

Funded by New Detroit, government and corporate grants and private funds, ICBIF offers minority businessmen advice, assistance and sometimes capital to start or expand business ventures.

Werba believes one of the group's major accomplishments over the past 10 years is the breaking down of credit barriers—both by the establishment of the First Independence National Bank, the first black-owned bank in Detroit, and pressure from ICBIF and other organizations to break the lack-of-credit, no-loan cycle in the banking world.

Working within the black and white communities is the key to ICBIF's success, he adds, a two-pronged effort that materialized when the Economic Development Corporation, a white parallel organization, merged with ICBIF, the grass roots black organization, in 1975. ICBIF's charter was expanded to include all minority businessmen at the same time.

ICBIF helps the minority businessman in various ways, Werba explains. "We can call on people from Wayne

State to provide managerial courses, and we can help by breaking down barriers. A black supplier may not be on the bid list and doesn't belong to the country clubs where he would meet buyers."

"The auto companies have been very helpful by bringing in people to help new suppliers get set up."

Once a minority businessman has his foot in the door, ICBIF's staff can train him to gear up for expansion.

"For instance, if he's an automotive supplier and we get him a contract for \$200,000, he has to know how to get the equipment, staff, and set up financial controls," Werba says.

AS A MEMBER of the Board of Directors since 1967, Werba's involvement as a white is unusual but not unique. "I was never made aware of my whiteness," he says. And he sees his involvement as a necessary commitment.

"I'm not a do-gooder," he claims, maintaining practicality as motivation for his volunteer work.

"The majority of people in Detroit are black, and you can't just shut out the majority from the economic mainstream. You can look at South Africa to see that it can't be done. It's to our own benefit to get involved."

In his new position as membership chairman, he intends to reach out further into the community to get the message across.

"We intend to go out front to a much greater degree to try and impress on the public the relationship among education, social factors and economic development," he says. "If millages keep getting turned down in Detroit, education is going to suffer, and the technical ability of the working force is going to suffer."

"The big problem is money, money and money. We have to publicize to the business world that we're getting it done and that it isn't a hopeless cause."

Persons interested in joining or contributing to ICBIF's activities can write to the Inner-City Business Improvement Forum, 3049 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit 48202, or call 872-4700.

ICBIF, however, isn't Werba's only commitment. As the executive vice-president of Anthony Francis, Inc., the largest public relations firm in Michigan, Werba handles accounts for the Michigan State Bar and specializes in investors relations activities. He's currently working on the State Bar's new

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Eat your hearts out, armchair roadsters

Varruum. Whooosh. Brupbrupbrup. Farmington Area Jaycees are raffling off a pint-sized bundle of noise in the guise of a scaled down Jeep Renegade go-cart during the Founder's Festival Four Wheel Drive Pull, July 24.

With its three-horsepower engine, the four-wheeled drive vehicle has a gas tank that will hold a whopping half gallon of fuel.

The little fiberglass body buggy will serve another purpose besides giving the winner a conversation piece. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward providing recreation for senior citizens and the handicapped, according to Walter Koning, of the Jaycees.

If enough money is raised, the group will donate the proceeds to help the Farmington YMCA provide increased senior citizens' recreation. Possibly, the money could be used to help the YMCA construct a larger facility in the area, according to Koning.

Other plans for the funds include aiding community living centers or the Gathering Place for seniors in Farmington.

CHOOSING SENIOR activities as the focus of this year's drive was an extension of Jaycee efforts for the elderly, according to Koning.

"Jaycees are involved in senior citizen transportation and a few other programs, like the Gathering Place. Now we know that there is a definite need for more senior citizen facilities in Farmington. It's a worthwhile project," he said.

Helping to provide for some of these needs in the near future rests on the amount of raffle tickets that the group sells, according to Koning.

Part of the funds from the raffle will be used by the group to purchase the mini-Jeep from its manufacturer, American Motors Corporation, which retails the buggy for \$700.

The off-the-road vehicle can be driven by persons who don't have a driver's license, according to Koning. Raffle tickets for the yellow buggy can be purchased at the rate of three for \$1 at the Farmington area stores which offer tickets for the Heels and Wheels Weekend, featuring a rodeo and a four-wheel drive pull, according to Koning.

BESIDES A CHANCE TO own the go-cart, ticket holders can win \$100, \$75, \$50 or \$25 gift certificates from Scott Colburn Saddlery, Farmington.

The sixth prize is an official Heels and Wheels T-shirt, emblazoned with the event's emblem.

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