

Workers move city hall offices

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

It's moving time in Farmington Hills' City Hall.

After a year of construction and patient waiting workers and administrators last week moved into their new wings to the rear of the city's offices.

The move will give them more privacy and roomier offices while making way for further renovations, according to Administrative Assistant Michael Dorman.

Vacant city managers' quarters will be altered to give the Hill's City Clerk's office and finance office more room in their offices off the lobby area of the city hall. That phase of the city hall fix-up will have to wait until the new wing is completed.

Offices and employees were moved earlier than expected because of the threat of a strike by telephone company employees, according to Dorman. If administrator's phones couldn't follow them into new offices, the confusion of moving day would be compounded.

AN EARLIER moving date means that while the city offices have moved in, the wing has not yet been turned over to Farmington Hills city ownership by the construction managers, Pyramid Construction Co., who are finishing their work.

Meanwhile, small moments of heroism and added little luxuries emerge from among the half unpacked boxes and half filled filing cabinets.

In addition to moving their department from the small house to the rear of city hall, Recreation Department employees also helped the City Manager's office move their equipment.

City Mgr. George Majors' secretary Barbara Balmforth saved her time and sanity by insisting that the movers from the Recreation Department transfer her filing cabinets without taking out the contents to make them lighter to carry.

"It's not like a regular business where you can shut your doors for a couple of days and unpack. You can't close," said Mrs. Balmforth. Sitting in her barge and turquoise office, Mrs. Balmforth surveyed her central position between the reception area, the city manager's office and the administrative assistant's quarters.

"I DON'T FEEL claustrophobic, now. I see people," she said, as she surveyed the series of doors that she looks at daily. The doors bother her less than she originally thought they would.

She's sure her boss, City Manager George Majors will enjoy his new surroundings. There's more privacy at the rear of the building so the office will pick up fewer wanderers from the main lobby, such as the dog that visited Majors one day.

"This collie walked into the city

manager's office one day and held up his paw. So Mr. Majors took it and shook it," she said, in disbelief.

The move will be a good one for city hall morale, she added.

"We're more of a team now. We're back together," she said.

Majors' office is decorated in beige and deep blue with blue and green tweed carpeting. He was unavailable for comment.

His administrative assistant has the luxury of a window in his office. Now, Dorman can look out at CETA workers who are landscaping the area outside his window. Majors has a similar view of the small wooded area outside of city hall.

Across the hall, in the Recreation Department workers are daring to wear good shoes to work again. DURING THE winter and spring, they were quartered in a small white frame house in the back of city hall. The path to the house was usually muddy or wet, so workers took to wearing older shoes.

"I don't miss the old office at all," said Dave Justus. "I don't miss the walk back and forth (from the building to city hall) to the jobs. I don't miss the freezing weather and I don't miss the mud."

"It's good to be part of city hall, again," said Barb Adler, another recreation department employee.

Most of the workers gaze at the plain walls and vow to buy some decorations to make the new office look less stark. But Georgina Young, secretary to Building Department head Ralph Magid, is one step beyond that phase of moving. Her department was the first to move into the new wing. For a few weeks, she and her co-workers had to adjust to living in the middle of a construction zone.

"I love it," she said of her new quarters.

She wasn't alone in her assessment of the new wing. Workers from Zoning, Engineering, Department of Public Services, Court Clerks, Probation, and Personnel also moved into spanking new offices last week.

PROBATION and Engineering moved out of cramped quarters in a portable classroom that will be returned to the school system.

The addition increases the first floor by 11,400 cubic feet. The basement has added 4,254 cubic feet. Zoning employees moved to make way for an addition to the police department. Zoning's old neighbors on the second

floor of the city hall complex.

Employees gained a larger basement store room and police locker room. Plans are being made for a employees lounge in the basement.

While all the hustle and bustle of moving day and continuing construction swirl around the wing, City Manager's secretary Nancy Avery remains calm. Mrs. Avery has moved six times in 10 years. Five of those six times she and her family moved to different states.

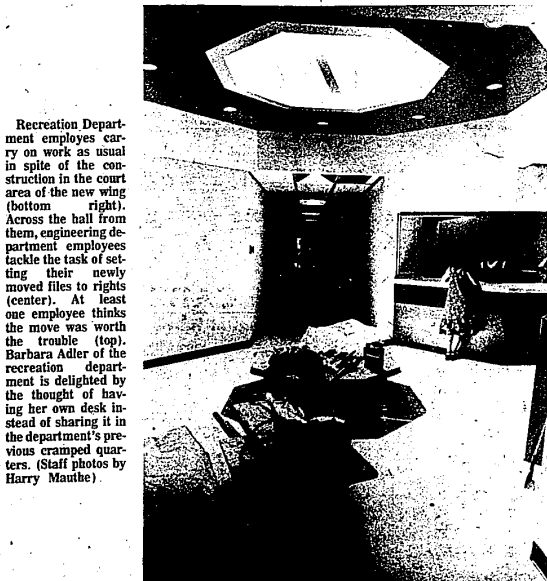
"I've moved so many times, it doesn't bother me anymore," she said.



Some departments still have a stack of work waiting for them (top) but City Mgr. George Majors' secretary Barbara Balmforth has the moving problem licked (bottom). She insisted that her file cabinet be moved while they were filed.



While city workers move in, construction workers move along putting the finishing touches on Farmington Hills City Hall's new wing. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Recreation Department employees carry on work as usual in spite of the construction in the court area of the new wing (bottom right). Across the hall from them, engineering department employees tackle the task of setting their newly moved files to rights (center). At least one employee thinks the move was worth the trouble (top). Barbara Adler of the recreation department is delighted by the thought of having her own desk instead of sharing it in the department's previous cramped quarters. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

HUDSON'S AUGUST HOME SALE

NOTEWORTHY SAVINGS
ON NORITAKE CASUAL
STONEWARE AND
STEMWARE.

20% OFF

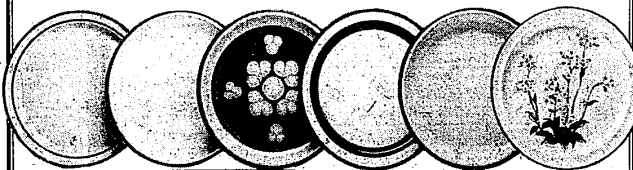
Seven popular patterns in Noritake stoneware to start a set or fill in on the one you already own. Buy by the 5-piece place setting, also save on selected pieces of open stock at the same 20% savings. All pieces are fully oven-safe, including microwave and detergent-safe. Desert Flowers, Mountain Flowers, Fjord, Tundra, Safari; 5-piece place setting, reg. 17.95, sale 14.29. Equator and Tina; 5-piece place setting, reg. 13.95, sale 11.09. Casual China.

4.39 reg. 5.50

Noritake Perspective casual stoneware, available in the four most popular colors—amber, avocado, blue, sepia. In goblet, sherbet or wine. In Hudson's Stemware.



Desert Flowers



Tundra

Tina

Safari

Fjord

Equator

Mountain Flowers