

# Farmington Observer

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## Police union holds out for retroactive pay

The Farmington Hills police negotiations reached another summit of confusion this week as union officials claimed city police officers could each end up receiving the city \$4,000.

The confusion arises because of a payment of \$4,000 to a union member, a court order Judge Robert Templeton and a possible ruling by a labor arbitration panel. Templeton ruled that the city pay its police \$4,000.

An arbitrator in Michigan has the right to order wages, explained Treasurer's representative Joseph Valente. Under the law, the panel's decision for a lower wage would over rule the court.

It's a very critical point, he said. If the arbitrator says the union is right and the city owes \$21,000, the city will be called upon to give that amount retroactive to July 1, 1975.

If the pay is reduced retroactively, the city would owe the city \$4,000 for parking fees, he said.

Farmington Hills City Manager George Williams asked Valente's arguments and speculation.

"WE WON'T PAY until the decision is final," he said. "We don't want to get ourselves into the position of paying the policemen and then getting them to pay us back."

He said at a meeting of the union on Tuesday, he said. "We offered them a three-year contract. They want a two-year contract."

Farmington Hills has offered the police a maximum salary of \$13,100. The

Hills administration sees this as a pay hike.

The policemen see it as a cut from \$21,000.

Valente accuses the city of not recognizing Templeton's order. He cites the Hills declaration to the arbitration panel that the policemen's salaries are \$17,050 as an example of their disregard for the judgment.

The city could have said to the arbitration panel that it was ordered to pay \$21,000 but that it's appealing the decision, Valente said.

The city could have also said that it doesn't want to discuss the subject of a court hearing in arbitration, he said. Valente accused the city of wanting the three-man panel to retroactively cut policemen's salaries.

If that happens, we'll lose money and have to pay the retroactive salary back, he said.

You can't allow the city to do wrong and profit by it. But the arbitrators did accept the judge's order as evidence," he said.

There's no supportive evidence that the policemen are worth less money, that they deserve a warrant a pay cut. There is no evidence to warrant a retroactive pay cut," he said.

THE VALID LEGAL approach by the city would have been to say that it doesn't have the money, Farmington Hills has never claimed inability to pay. If they did, the union would have the right to look at the city's books," he said.



A winning smile

Jay Schoettley congratulates his daughter, North Farmington senior Julie, on being selected homecoming queen. She also is a variety cheerleader. (Staff photo)



Outstanding choice

Teresa Bradbury, Harrison High School senior, has been chosen as homecoming queen this week. Teresa is a pompon girl at Harrison. (Photo by Jim Hug)

## Extra money used for student needs

Although student activities got a financial boost at this week's board meeting, district business manager William Frank warned trustees that using unappropriated funds for the activities could be dangerous.

Trustees voted to use \$27,446 of the extra money for student activities leaving about \$99,900 in the unappropriated funds. The budget is almost at a standstill position. The equity fund will be badly needed a few months down the road," he said.

"I'd like to bring you back to reality. We took \$1,300,000 out of the budget to be where we are at this talking point," he cautioned.

Among the activities being given a boost with the unused funds were the senior high musical, activities fund. Each of the area's three senior high schools will receive \$1,333 for their activities instead of the originally allotted \$2,500.

Junior high students were included in the dispensing of some of the unused money. Each of the four junior high schools' activities funds will receive \$400 instead of \$225 which was originally allotted.

Also receiving additional funds will be the academically able program to help talented junior high students. Their allowance was raised from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

THE BOARD STARTED out by considering a raise for the combined high school activity fund to \$9,000.

The money could be used for such things as the French club, the German club, the school newspapers," said Assistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter.

The high schools could get along on what is allotted to them, Nutter said.

But we were probably restricting some things," he added.

The total was raised to \$10,000 by the board after Trustee Gary Lichtman inquired about the amount of money avail-

able to supply high school musicians.

Which fund do I have to go to, to put in a dollar amount for sheet music for the choir?" he asked.

"I don't want another music teacher tell me that there are high school students washing cars in cold weather to raise money for sheet music."

Would the revised copyright laws help us?" asked Trustee Emma Makinen.

Maybe we could Xerox the music. The copyright law had been revised to allow teachers to copy parts of books and magazines for classroom use without paying royalties.

The law limits the number of things we can copy," Lichtman responded. "We need basic sheet music. If we buy in quantity, we can get it almost as cheap as copying it."

The increase would cover the bands and the choir," he added.

Trustee Dr. Mervyn Huss reminded the board that junior high music students were also standing out in the cold washing cars.

Although the board had increased each junior high's activity fund from \$175 to \$225, Dr. Huss deemed a \$50 raise in appropriate.

They have the same number of choirs and bands and they could also use the money," he said.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander," he added.

Ames there in fact the same number of students enrolled in choir at the junior high as well as the senior high?" he asked.

THERE ARE ABOUT 502 music students in two of the high schools compared to 674 students in two of the junior highs, Nutter said.

We must consider the number of performances, the variety of performances and the skills of the students in the music classes," Lichtman said. "The senior high schools have such clubs as chess club, lab-

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## For Northwestern Highway

## Group widens environmental concept

By JUDITH BERNE

Plans for a new environmental impact statement on the area affected by a proposed extension of Northwestern Highway have been adopted by the Northwestern Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

At the same time, the question of how many consultants will be hired to carry out the open-ended plan remains up in the air.

At a meeting Tuesday night, CAC members present voted 11-3 to accept an amended Northwestern Environmental Impact Study Design drawn up by the highway's Technical Advisory Committee—a group composed of technically oriented area residents.

The document makes some major changes in the original plan, including expansion of the general study area and alteration of study objectives and general procedures.

Details of how the study should proceed have so far been left intact, with the understanding that amendments can still be added.

VOTING AGAINST ADOPTION of the study including the changes proposed in

September by Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council member George Snyder were Mark C. Schlusel, concerned citizen from Southfield, Wayne Blvd. West Bloomfield representative to the advisory group, and Earl Kreppe of the North Oakland County Chamber of Commerce.

Another section on getting general resident input into the environmental impact statement seems destined for alteration at the committee's next meeting.

Sheila Outley, representing Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield, said an opinion survey, as presented in the technical committee document, is not required for an impact statement and would be costly.

"If it is not required, why spend money on it?" she asked.

She was taken to task by Schlusel who said, "It seems to me we have a sudden fear that the general public's interests might be contrary to this committee's. We are really subverting the point of being here. I think it is appropriate to have the survey."

Schlusel, in fact, suggested taking two surveys. One before the environmental impact study got under way and another near its completion.

"I don't want anyone to think I don't want all the people of West Bloomfield to give their opinion," Mrs. Outley said.

She later offered to work on some new language to include other methods of gaining opinions as well as a survey.

THE QUESTION of how many consultants are needed for the study is also destined for future debate.

EDWARD KAZENKO, coordinator of the impact study for the Michigan Highway Department, attempted to kill the two consultant approach after making an inquiry on a nationwide basis.

The conclusion reached from these sources is that the two consultant approach for the conduct of an environmental impact assessment has not been tried in this country or, for that matter, abroad. The response from all sources as to whether the approach would be practical was unanimously negative," he said.

Kazenko cited cost and redundancy and added, "Under most circumstances, negative and positive impacts cannot be so easily compartmentalized."

Also, according to Kazenko's report, there would be strong potential for setting up conflicting positions that could only be resolved through a third study.

SNYDER ARDENTLY DISPUTED Ka-

zenko's conclusions, saying having one consultant for and one against was what the committee was looking for.

"The environmental impact statement is not designed to make the decision for or against Northwestern's extension," he said. "That is the highway commission's job."

"We're giving them a tool to be able to make that decision," he said. "Our job is to bring forth the alternatives. It is the exposure of these trade-offs that I'm concerned with."

The committee, composed of 10 resident advisers representing areas which would be affected by proposed extension of Northwestern Highway, has been meeting since April to study impact of the highway, select a consultant and approve a final draft of an impact statement.

Its next two sessions have been scheduled for Nov. 30 and Dec. 11.

## Characters may determine outcome of this election too

When you were a kid which fictional characters did you hunt the libraries for, Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Tom Sawyer, Black Beauty, Mrs. Puddle, Wiggle, or Harriet the Spy?

Which books did you crawl down to the foot of your bed with, flashlight in hand?

Elementary school children in Farmington and Farmington Hills will vote for their favorite books, heroes, and heroines as part of a Wayne and Oakland County

survey to determine children's literary interests.

But more important, Denise Mott, a children's librarian at the Farmington Hills Branch Library, hopes the vote will draw attention to Children's Book Week, Nov. 7-13. Additional copies of the most popular books will be ordered.

Voting will take place in the libraries Nov. 14 and the results will be announced on Nov. 2.



## Making a decision

After listening to the debate between candidates for the 17th District congressional seat at North Congregational Church, these two won-

on discuss the issues. To see what happened at the debate, turn to page 3A (Staff photo by Harry Maathe)

## Electrical fire guts Hills home

A fire gutted the attic and damaged the lower floors of a home at 3731 Halstead, Farmington Hills, Monday afternoon.

Residents who rented the home were using electric heaters which overloaded the electrical circuits, according to Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort.

Water and heat were turned off in the home after it well broke. Residents were forced to go to a nearby gas station for their water, according to neighbors' reports, Van De Voort said.

The blaze started in the walls and traveled to the attic. The wall partitions of the old home were built to open up in the attic, he said.

After "smothering" out in the attic, the fire traveled down to the living area, Van De Voort explained.

Fire Engines Three and One were called to the blaze which resulted in an estimated \$28,000 worth of damages.

"It was a rotten fire, a smoky fire," the chief said.

"About 80 per cent of the house was damaged. The roof and the partitions are badly damaged. The home had plaster board ceiling and they fell in during a fire," he said.

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