

# Halverson tapped as Hills police chief

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

A chance meeting at a social affair one year ago has led to the appointment of Col. John Halverson, retiring Michigan State Police director, as the new Farmington Hills director of police.

Hills City Mgr. George Majors announced the appointment of the 48-year-old police veteran who will be taking the helm in Farmington Hills beginning May 2. Halverson will relinquish his state post in early April.

He will be paid \$30,000 for his law enforcement duties, according to Majors.

Obviously pleased with his catch, Majors said he met Halverson last year at a party in Lansing and since that time they have grown to be friends.

"I took a lot of trips to Lansing and everytime I had an opportunity, I dropped in to to say hello to Halverson," said Majors.

Although saying he thought Halverson could make more money in other police jurisdictions, he said Halverson was coming to Farmington Hills because it was an attractive community in which to live and work.

MAJORS HOPES to concentrate on youth problems when Halverson takes over as police chief.

"The allocation of scarce police resources to the apprehension of youth offenders could be more effectively applied to programs of prevention," said Majors.

Majors and Halverson plan to meet with local school and other youth-related community agencies to develop a coordinated approach to the problem, said Majors.

The Hills chief administrator launched his quest for Halverson after he heard that Halverson was eligible for state retirement in January of this year, he said.

"We couldn't get a finer man, he is well-qualified. We will attempt to work with him. We will attempt to do whatever he wants us to do," said Conway.

Farmington Hills police union official Jerry McKenzie also said he was pleased with the appointment.

"We're happy to hear about the appointment. I've heard a number of rumors about the appointment. I hope to meet him before May 2."

Both McKenzie and Majors said they doubted Halverson's appointment would have any effect on police union negotiations which are tied up in arbitration hearings and a court suit.

"We hope to have that settled be-

fore he gets here. I expect the negotiations will be settled in a few weeks," said Majors.

HALVERSON STARTED as a state trooper in 1952 and was promoted to corporal in training assignments in 1959. In 1965, he was promoted to sergeant and took command of the training division in 1968 when he was promoted to captain.

He was appointed as state police director in 1974 by Gov. William Milliken.

He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and has lectured on police affairs throughout the country.

Halverson is married and has two children. He was elected to the Okenos Board of Education in 1971 and has served as its president.



COL. GEORGE HALVERSON

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Mrs. Lois Kliver and her sixth grade students look back upon their excursion to Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center. The Longacre students

learned how to survive in the desert, read nature's signs and keep their living area clean.

## Students learn outdoor's secrets

Besides learning about the mysteries of the great outdoors, Longacre students who took part in a four-day excursion at the Walled Lake Education Center brought back enough stories to sustain them until next year's outing.

The sixth graders watched a blacksmith shoe a horse, learned to identify

rocks and trees and to interpret nature's signs.

"My favorite part was watching the blacksmith shoe a horse," said Marie Kowalewski. "He started with a metal bar and shaped it."

Her classmate, Sandra Komodziej took up that tale.

"He clipped the horse's toenails."

"And he's smacking a lot of his own toes," said Marie.

The students learned to gauge the depth of last winter's snow by looking for the place on the trees that was nibbled by rabbits.

RABBITS NIBBLE The part of the tree that is closest to the ground, according to sixth grade teacher Lois Kliver. When the snow melts, the tell-tale bare spots in the trees reveal the depth of the snow.

The students were joined by classes under the direction of Brian Sprague and Rose Pisani. If the students have a chance to survive in the desert after the outdoor weekend.

"We learned how to build a shelter, how to get water and to make traps," said Debbie Gentry.

Survival class and gun safety instructions were cited as favorites by Erin Berger.

"I'd like to try shooting someday," said David Cutting. "I think I'd like to try it out."

The students were shown how to use a gun safely but actual shooting was not included in the program.

A scavenger hunt gave the students a chance to show off the skills they had acquired through the course. All 84 of the students who participated in the class were sent out to find such

items as bird's feathers.

But to Denny Quinn, the excursion also meant earning the coveted golden dust pan award. The students were assigned to keep their dormitories clean and to wash dishes.

STUDENTS WHO EXCELLED at keeping their living area clean were given the golden dustpan.

"Each side of the dorm tried to keep theirs clean. The left side opened the door and swept the dirt into our side of the building. We shoved it back," Denny revealed with a triumphant grin.

Laura McDougall will remember waking in the dormitory and seeing a mysterious shape over the exit sign that glowed all night long. It turned out to be a hat that Mrs. Kliver put over the sign to protect the sleepers from its annoying glare.

Kathy Coyle and Caroline Burt are still laughing over the tissue paper fight that erupted one quiet evening on their side of the dormitory.

But who's to blame Peter Tangoray for feeling a little let out? Peter had the chicken pox during the trip and was forced to stay home.

His thoughtful friends called him to let him know what everyone else was doing at Walled Lake.

"They told me they wished I was there," said Peter.

## Downtown Farmington beautification planned

Shoppers in downtown Farmington will be able to survey the Grand River scene from park benches on tree-lined walks when the city council approves the beautification plan's financing.

Council approved recommendations by Oakland County Planning Department, which are a spin-off of landscape architect Christopher Wascany's plans.

Wascany presented his plans to the city council during last year's discussion of the downtown improvement.

Although city officials are willing to spruce up downtown Farmington, they haven't decided on the project's financing, which would be \$33,300.

In addition to the city's expense of \$41,200, the plan involves beautification work on private property. This would cost \$12,100, according to City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

The council has received five suggestions for financing the project:

- Central business district property owners footing part of the tree planting project;
- Combining the special assessment with city funds;
- Combining the assessment with community development funds;
- Project financing achieved by downtown business district taxation through the Downtown Authority (the Authority, under consideration by the council, would include city administrators, business district landowners and merchants);
- Investigating, by the council, the possibility of new CETA funding. The CETA program is project-oriented and would pay for labor and if

per cent of the materials, according to Deadman.

The city has applied for funds from the new program, said Deadman, although it would be a while before any answer is received.

Meanwhile, Farmington City Council has accepted plans to install 32 planting areas along Grand River and Farmington Road. Five additional planting areas are on private property.

There are four types of planters to be used in the project, according to Deadman.

"THE LARGEST planters will consist of two trees planted within a 20-foot area surrounded by red paving bricks and a wood or concrete bench between the trees. The plan calls for two of these types," he said.

"The plan also calls for 13 planters, which are similar to the first type except that they do not have a bench, and 17 individual trees surrounded by red paving bricks are another type of planter."

Farmington's planters would be similar to those in downtown Birmingham.

Birmingham's planters have a concrete aggregate base to allow water to drain to the tree's roots. But the base is crumbling after five years of use, according to Deadman.

Farmington's plan calls for an iron grate around the base.

Sidewalks will be removed to allow for the trees and the installation of red bricks. The brick would be tightly set to eliminate maintenance problems associated with that material, according to Deadman.

Setting the bricks close together would insure against buckling.

## Catastrophe predicted if school millage fails

By LYNN ORR

Three administrators, along with the heart of Farmington's education program, will be eliminated next fall if Farmington voters fail to approve the four-mill renewal on April 5.

The Board of Education approved the pink-slipping of four administrators at Tuesday night's meeting but indicated they would rehire three of the employees if the millage passes.

"Should this election fail, this district will be faced with a horrendous catastrophe," claimed Supt. Lewis Schulman.

Failure to approve the millage would cost the district about \$2 million in revenues plus funds that would have to be allotted to unemployment compensation, he explained.

"Whenever valued employees are being considered for lay-off, it's regrettable to present that information," Schulman said. "But it's necessary to present the board of education with the pinkslips in accordance with the master contract and Michigan laws."

Administrators facing layoffs must be notified 90 days before expiration

of their contract in accordance with the master contract and state laws.

The recommendation for layoffs included a clause to immediately rehire three of the four administrators if the renewal election is successful, but board members agreed with Trustee Mervyn Ross who suggested postponing the rehiring until the next board meeting April 5.

"I AM ALL FOR this recommendation, but I don't think it should be acted upon at this time," Ross said.

"I think it would be inappropriate to take action beyond that which is indicated presently. There are too many variables involved."

Board members all indicated their support of returning the staff members if the millage passes, and Schulman agreed with their assessment.

Administrators facing termination are: Phillip Townsend, principal of Middlebelt Elementary; Carolyn Piesch, principal of Highmeadow Elementary; and administrative assistant Richard Tyler and John Summerlee.

Another administrative position was eliminated when the board approved the transfer of Dr. LeRoy Bartman, director of personnel, to the position of director of Administrative Services effective July 1.

Harry Stultz, manager of Buildings and Sites, will retire effective Sept. 30, and his position will be absorbed by Bartman's new job. The position of director of personnel will be eliminated and the responsibilities of the

job will be transferred to other members of the staff, Schulman said.

"The net administrative savings is one position," Schulman said. "There also will be some minor savings on the changing of job descriptions."

BARTMAN'S NEW position encompasses the former director of Plants and Services, plus additional responsibilities.

Trustee Michael Spiece expressed his approval of the administrative move with high praise.

"I'm proud of our administration," he said. "It's to their credit that they took a look at this and determined it would be possible to save the district some money instead of maintaining the bureaucracy."

Other board action included the approval of the proposed \$27.5 million budget for the 1977-78 school year.

The budget includes a shortfall of about \$550,000, but Schulman indicated the administration is preparing alternatives should the funds not be forthcoming.

The budget will be presented in April to the County Board of Allocation which determines the amounts of revenues allotted to districts from county funds.

Trustee Spiece suggested that the presentation include a request for more than is usually allotted, since the county has a \$2 million surplus. The Allocation Board determines the allowances for each school district, based on the revenues collected from 15 mills.

## Review board hearings scheduled through month

Farmington Hills residents will have until March 21 to request an appointment with the city's tax review board and until the end of the month to keep that appointment.

The decision to extend the deadline from March 17 was made by the city council this week after complaints from homeowners who received notification of the hearings last Monday.

Originally, the hearings were scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

The six-week delay was blamed on the volume, about 16,000 parcels in Farmington Hills, and the switch to a computerized system run by Oakland County, according to Hills assessor Robert Roemer.

"The hearings aren't necessarily limited to just three days. Last year, the board met for 12 or 13 days before closing the rolls," he said.

The board of review has until April 1 to hear appeals, according to state law.

Councilman Fred Lichtman made the motion to extend the deadlines for hearings and was supported by the rest of the council. Councilman Earl Oppenhausen said an extension was the only "fair" way to handle the situation.

"I have been approached by three different people. I think we should do everything possible to permit residents to appeal and ask for a hearing to express their opinions and, otherwise, it would be unfair and inequitable," he said.

The average Farmington Hills homeowner will be receiving a 10 per cent increase, according to Roemer.

## Centennial families sought by commission

Farmington families whose ancestors came to Michigan 100 years ago or more are being sought by the Farmington-Hills Historical Commission.

Nearly 90 families have already identified themselves and will be the subjects of biographical studies in a forthcoming publication, "Farmington's Centennial Families."

Interested persons can register the family with the city clerk's office at 31555 W. Eleven Mile in Farmington Hills.

Included in the study will be 100-year families residing in the City of Farmington as well as families living in the 30-square-mile area which was originally Farmington Township.

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