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Twenty-Five Cents

Sex bias charge may stall Hills' search for police

By LYNN ORR

A charge of sex discrimination may halt testing of police officer candidates for positions in the Farmington Hills police department.

Bonnie Swadling, a Hills Community Service Officer (CSO), is taking her charge of sex discrimination to the federal courts Friday. Ms. Swadling, 28, is asking U.S. District Court Judge John Fikens to stop the testing and hiring of police officers, according to Judith Doran, Ms. Swadling's attorney.

"We've filed suit in federal court charging sex discrimination and violation of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) laws," Ms. Doran says.

Testing of between 570-580 candidates is scheduled to begin Sunday, says Police Director John Nichols. He, along with City Mgr. George Majors and the Hills city council, are defendants in the civil suit.

Nine months ago, Ms. Swadling filed charges with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR), alleging that she was denied the opportunity to become a police officer because she is a woman.

"THIS is the only course I've found that I can take to get some kind of action," Ms. Swadling says. Although she talked to a MDOR investigator more than two months ago, she has not received any information about her case.

"When you have a case which has sat around this long, it's obvious to me that nothing is going to be done through MDOR or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)," Ms. Doran charges.

In her suit, Ms. Swadling asks the court to order the city to promote her to a police officer position denied her one year ago, plus a back pay differential and possible punitive damages, Ms. Doran says.

"I think it's a good case, and I think Bonnie is an excellently qualified person," she adds.

Director Nichols confirmed that he received the subpoena this week and the department will be represented in court Friday. If the court so orders, testing will have to be stopped, he says. Majors and attorney Charles Keller, who is representing the city, were unavailable for comment.

MS. SWADLING's case charges that three male CSOs were promoted to police officer positions, whereas she was denied the same. Officials claim the three male CSOs were former cadets who were made CSOs when a federally funded grant for the cadet program expired.

Ms. Swadling contends that the department failed to promote her to an appointment at the police academy after the three male CSOs received

'I was due for the next appointment at the training academy. However, instead of appointing me, they appointed a man who was not employed with the department.'

-Bonnie Swadling

appointments. She claims she was told a CETA employee would not be appointed to the academy.

Ms. Swadling was hired by the city with CETA funds. The second charge in her civil suit involves violation of CETA laws.

"CETA prohibits discrimination by the employer on the basis of being a CETA employee," Ms. Doran says.

"I'm sure that Farmington Hills will be attempting to prove that Bonnie was not in the same classification as these cadets, but the equal protection laws do not allow artificial distinctions."

One of the questions in the case revolves around the type of test given to Ms. Swadling when she applied for the CSO position. She took a patrol-

man's test, but was later informed that it was no longer used to test police officers.

"If that's so, why didn't the former cadets have to take the same test I took to become a CSO?" Ms. Swadling asks.

The former cadets in question, Timothy Swanson, Charles Nebus and William Duffy, received badge Nos. 401, 402, 403, respectively. Badge No. 404 was assigned to Ms. Swadling. All four persons were designated CSOs.

In fall 1976, the department placed an advertisement for police officers. Between then and May 1977, all three men were appointed to positions at the academy.

"I was due for the next appointment at the training academy," Ms. Swad-

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Water study reveals

Hydrants lack power

A study reveals that some areas of the City of Farmington's water system are grossly inadequate when it comes to providing water for fire fighting.

City council members will take another look at the problems at 7 p.m., April 3, in a special study session.

The council has commissioned the Plante and Moran auditing firm to do a water rate study. The firm will investigate what kind of water rate hikes would provide principal and interest payments on a \$1 million bond sale to fund improvements for the system.

Water flow and pressure available from fire hydrants in some areas is drastically below official standards, the water system study indicates. Farmington High School and the downtown area, in particular, are vulnerable to fire-fighting problems.

A hydrant located on Shawwassee in front of the high school provided 810 gallons of water per minute in a 1976 test. That hydrant should provide 3,000 gallons per minute, according to Insurance Services Offices (ISO) of Michigan standards.

FLORAL PARK subdivision is another area of the city which lacks a good fire fighting supply of water, says City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

The water system study, submitted by the consulting engineering firm of Orchard, Papke, Hitz and McClintock, Inc. and commissioned by the city, projects a \$1 million cost to improve the system. Improvements would

include construction of water mains on Shawwassee and Grand River; an automatic valve for linkage with the Oakland County Water system; emergency remote control operation of the booster pumps; and construction of reinforcement mains.

"We've not made any major improvements in the water system since we connected with Detroit in the early 1960's," Deadman says.

Although water supply to residents is adequate, the system's deficiencies are readily apparent during fire demands, he adds.

Lack of water at the Valley View Condominium blaze late last year was one problem encountered by the city's firefighters, he says.

While the improvements would bring the system up to ISO standards, they also would improve water supply and pressure to residents, he adds. Council has not reached a decision on whether the water rates should be increased to pay for the improvements.

"It's my opinion that revenues should be raised through water rates," says Deadman.

THE EXISTING system was divided into three sub-systems by the study's purpose: the area west of Longacre (including Chatham Hills) referred to as the Westside system; the area south of Nine Mile and east of Farmington Road, referred to as the Southside sub-system; and the rest of the city, referred to as the Main City sub-system.

The Westside system receives its water from the Oakland County water system, while the Southside system is

dependent on the Detroit water system for its supply and pressure. The Main City sub-system is supplied through the Detroit system. A booster pump station at Nine Mile west of Farmington Road increases pressure to serve the area.

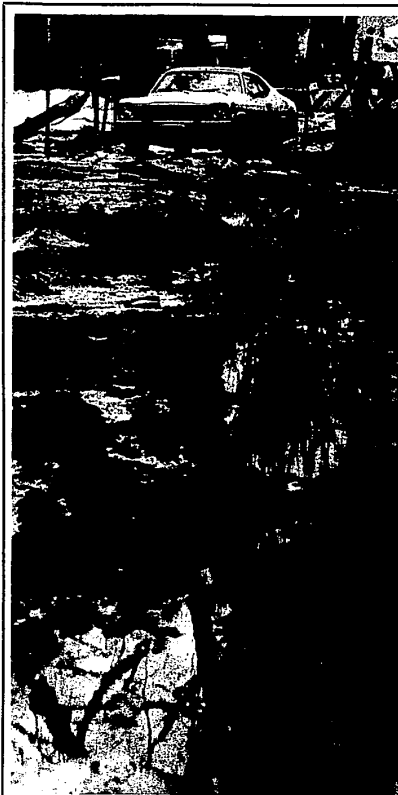
"The analysis was carried out by substituting the ISO required fire demands at various locations throughout the system and studying their effect," the study reads. The analysis shows that the Main City sub-system is the area of greatest deficiency.

"The required fire flow and pressure is severely limited by lack of adequate transmission mains," the study continues.

The old mains in Grand River would be abandoned, if the recommended improvements are made. Those mains are between four and six inches, while recommended transmission mains are 12 inches. The old mains were constructed of iron pipe which bolts together. Bolts now are corroded and cause additional problems when leaks are discovered, Deadman says.

Recommendations include the construction of a 12-inch main along Shawwassee from Farmington Road to Powers and eight-inch water mains along Shawwassee from Prospect to Lake Way, and from Orchard Lake to Hawthorne. An eight-inch transmission main should also be constructed in Grand River from Warner to Mooney, the study recommends.

"These are the minimum mains which will provide adequate capacity for fire demands in the general areas of highest deficiency," the study reads.



Residents of Waldron street were greeted by the sight of knee-deep mud during the recent thaw. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Mud onslaught augurs spring

After the winter's record snowfall, most Farmington area residents are breathing a sigh of relief as it all begins to melt. But residents of Waldron street are beginning another battle against the elements.

Instead of being snowbound, they're mudbound.

Residents expect some mud on the streets in the spring since the unpaved road is in the flatlands of southern Farmington Hills. The area has battled mud since homes were first built there in the '30s, according to residents.

Measures to alleviate the situation through the construction of the Waldron Drain have temporarily added to the problem.

A quick thaw has added water to the area which is being dug up for the drainage project, explained Farmington Hills Administrative Assistant Michael Dorman.

Another factor adding to the mess is a halt in construction caused by a strike in the plant which produces the sewer pipes. That dispute was settled this week, according to Dorman.

SINCE the contractor is responsible for the road's condition for the duration of the project, Clearhout Brothers Construction, Inc., has sent out crews to put gravel on the mud road, according to Dorman. Last year, the city spread slag on the road.

Until crews went out on Tuesday, residents were concerned about the ability of emergency vehicles and family cars to plow through the mud.

"I'm going to rent a canoe," joked Mary McEvoy, president of the Section 36 Homeowners Association and Waldron resident.

"I can't get into the street from Grand River. There's about three feet of mud on the street," she said.

Despite the mess, residents are stoic about their annual bout with mud.

"We can tolerate it," said Yvonne Gilbert. "But when you get something like these conditions, it's pitiful."

On occasion, backyards will flood in the spring.

"We're lucky, we have an Oakland County drain tap in our yard so the water will go down. But our neighbors are stuck with it until it evaporates," said Mrs. Gilbert.

Young writer coins festival slogan

By LYNN ORR

The youngest winner of the Farmington Founders Festival slogan contest has lived in Farmington Hills for five years, more than half his life.

Matthew Feiler, 9, a student at Wood Creek Elementary School, outdid 47 other contestants with his slogan: "Farmington is a treasury of beautiful people, places, and sights (sic)."

For his efforts, young Feiler will receive a \$5 U.S. savings bond and a spot in the festival parade. Matt, who will celebrate his 10th birthday in April, was surprised with his win.

"You always think it happens to other people," he says; but his teachers and parents weren't surprised. His creativity has been consistently apparent.

"We know he's very creative," says Anna Marie Cradginton, She and Janet Woldt are team teachers in Matt's fourth grade class.

Judith Feiler is very proud of her son. And his father, Michael, granted Matt a celebration—a dinner outing for steak.

WRITING comes naturally to Matt. Currently in the intellectually gifted program at the elementary school, he's working with political cartoons.

"I'm analyzing cartoons and writing letters to cartoonists," he explains. He already wrote to Detroit News car-

toonist Draper Hill to find out "a little more about him," Matt says. He's making a scrapbook with cartoons on one page and an analysis of the symbols on another. A cartoon of Uncle Sam suspended by coal, "like 'Coma,'" a current film, Matt explains, is one of his favorites.

"That really gets the idea across. Coal is a big broad word and it shows the power," he says.

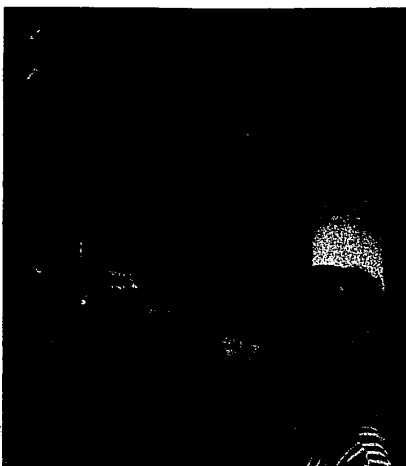
Science fiction is another hobby, along with vocabulary.

Asked why he chose the word treasury for his slogan, he replied: "I thought it was a really pretty word to use."

SELECTING a festival slogan is only one of the early preparations for the upcoming summer festival, says Terry Sever, general chairman. Letters have been sent to area business asking for support. The committee hopes to elicit enough financial support to prepare a thorough program of the festival's events. The festival will run from July 28-30.

"If an organization intends to participate and hasn't received any communications about the festival, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 474-3440 as soon as possible," Sever says.

The festival's next general meeting is open to the public and is scheduled for 8 p.m., April 3, at the Holiday Inn in Farmington Hills.



"Farmington is a treasury of beautiful people, places and sights," is the 1978 Farmington Founders Festival slogan, thanks to Matthew Feiler. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

inside

"OVERWHELMING"

Good news from Kay at Computel Products. They were "overwhelmed" with calls, she said, when they advertised in the help wanted section of The Observer & Escanaba. The position was filled immediately.

When you're looking for someone, look no farther than the pages of your hometown newspaper. Our classified section reaches more than 150,000 families throughout the suburban Detroit area. Call us today.

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