

Cities swap mayors during Michigan Week

Royal Oak's mayor lauds Hills code

Although they are only a few miles apart, Farmington Hills and Royal Oak are very different kinds of cities.

That was the observation made by Royal Oak Mayor Pecky Lewis at this week's Mayor Exchange Day luncheon Tuesday. The exchange of city officials from various cities is held annually as part of the Michigan Week celebration.

Pecky, who has been mayor for 2½ years, made his observations at Farmington Hills' Steak and Ale.

His entourage was treated to a full day of tours around the high spots of one of Michigan's youngest cities.

"One of the features which impresses me the most is the height limitation on buildings here in Farmington Hills," said Lewis.

He noted that some other new cities, such as Troy, are being hampered by overdevelopment of high-rise structures. Hills ordinance calls for a 50-foot height limitation, with the exception of senior citizen housing, which can go as high as 60 feet.

Pecky, who is president of Liberty Tool Co., came to Farmington Hills

with his city manager, Bill Baldridge, and Parks and Recreation Director Jim Perry.

The contrast between the two cities exists primarily in the open spaces of Farmington Hills.

"I really enjoy the open spaces here. Royal Oak is a much older city and is mostly developed," he said.

One of the most common denominators between the two municipalities, he said, was the length of council meetings—lengthy.

Noting that this week's Hills council session lasted until 2 a.m., he recalled a visit by the mayor of St. Joseph to Royal Oak a few years back.

"He was used to a 10-minute council meeting in his town. When he came to attend our council meeting it went on into the wee hours," he joked.

Among the sites visited by the Royal Oak officials were the library, the DPW facility, the senior citizen gathering place at Mercy Center, Oakland Community College, the industrial park and the city's fire stations.

The evening ended with dinner at Botsford Inn.



Taking a break in front of the Farmington Community Center are Jim Higg (left) mayor of Plainwell and Farmington Mayor Dick Tupper. (Staff photo by Harry Manthe)

Plainwell's head shows flip side

By LYNN ORR

Jim Higgs presented his flip side to the Farmington City Council during Mayor Exchange Day this week.

Higgs earns \$130 a year as the mayor of Plainwell, a small town about 10 miles north of Kalamazoo. But each morning at 6 a.m. he spins the Top 40 on radio station WKMI, Kalamazoo's top AM station.

Programming is his civic responsibility as well, says Higgs, 33. With a current population of about 4,500 in the 2½ square mile community, Plainwell has experienced a 37 per cent growth rate over the past seven years.

But the government has failed to grow accordingly, Higgs explained to Farmington council members during a luncheon Monday.

"We're trying to handle services with an organization set up in 1934. We don't have a city manager, and the council is entirely responsible for everything. It's ludicrous."

A council member for 7½ years, Higgs, like Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper, was elected mayor by his peers. He was born in Plainwell and has spent most of his life there.

LAST WEEK Tupper, several councilmen, and City Mgr. Robert Dead-

man had their tour of Plainwell. Higgs, his wife Sue, Plainwell councilmembers Dory Sachs and Harley Pallett, and city employees Thuri Cook, Dale Cook, James Lamson, and their spouses spent a day and a half touring the Farmington community and exchanging information.

While no one admits that the exchange day is a highly serious undertaking, the tours did alter some images.

"Those of us outstate think of Farmington as being another suburb of Detroit, and we're finding it different today," he told the luncheon gathering of city and school district officials.

"I'm getting used to the Presidential suite as well," he quipped after spending Sunday evening in Botsford Inn.

An interest in preserving the past is shared by both communities. Farmington officials were impressed with Plainwell's renovation of an old mill. And Higgs was impressed with the city manager-elected council form of government in Farmington.

"We're trying desperately to bring our government up to date," Higgs says. "I spend eight or nine nights a month going to meetings, and the finance committee has to review all the bills before checks can be written."

Farmington raises water rates

Water bills of City of Farmington residents will be going up at least seven per cent after June 15.

However it's not the cost of the water but the cost of treating sewage that's causing the rate hikes.

Both the City of Detroit and Oakland County have raised their rates again, which City of Farmington officials are passing on to residents. Last week, council members approved a new water and sewer rate, as outlined by auditing firm Plante & Moran.

"The rate will result in a seven per cent increase in a minimum bill and a 13 per cent increase in the rate of consumption greater than the 6,000 gallon minimum," according to City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

The rate hike raises the total minimum bill to \$15 per quarter.

The City of Detroit raised rates about 21 per cent, while Oakland County raised rates about 16 per cent, according to Deadman. Farmington's low cash reserve in the water and sewer accounts, plus the suppliers' rate increases, prompted the water rate analysis by Plante & Moran.

THAT ANALYSIS determined that about 45 per cent of the water and

sewer expenditures are incurred in providing water service and 55 per cent in providing sewer services. The new rates will reflect the cost differential.

"The basic rate structure is more in line with the cost," Deadman explained.

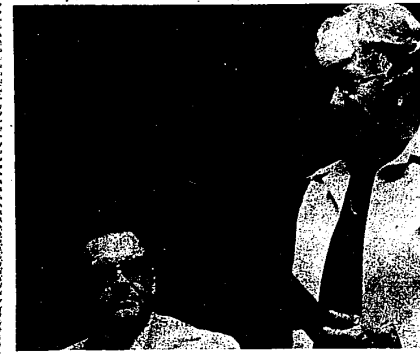
The city's minimum quarterly water bill will be reduced from \$6.60 to \$5.35, with a charge of 56 cents for each additional 1,000 gallons of water used. The sewer rates, formerly 100 per cent of the water rate, will be raised to 145 per cent or \$6.69 per a minimum bill. The 125 per cent rate applied to the

basic 56 cents for water will produce a sewer rate of 70 cents for each 1,000 gallons or fraction thereof over the base rate.

The new rate will be effective for all water and sewerage billed after June 15.

Hand jive

The duration record for walking on hands is 871 miles by Johann Husinger, who, in 55 daily 10-hour stints averaged 1.58 m.p.h. from Vienna to Paris in 1900.



Reading the proclamation welcoming Royal Oak Mayor Pecky Lewis (left) to Farmington Hills is Mayor Jan Delan. (Staff photo)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

"ZINGER of the week goes to the folks over at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division. On the last page of the booklet promoting their summer activities program is a little slogan which should be remembered for time immemorial. It says "Let's Park and Recreate." Sounds interesting, anyway.

"BIKE RIDERS and Jaycees in the Farmington area are cashing in their rain checks June 10, when the bike rodeo gets into high gear at 10 a.m. on the Bel-Aire Lanes parking lot. The last date, May 13, was a real washout when rain prevented the event from taking place.

"SPEAKING OF JAYCEES, in keeping with the national trend, the annual Farmington Area Jaycees "Walk for Farmington" will be measured in kilometers this year. A newly mapped route for the annual event, scheduled for June 3, will be 20 kilometers or approximately 12½ miles. The walk will start from the Board of Education parking lot at Shawasssee between Power and Farmington at 9 a.m., with registration starting at 8 a.m. Sponsor cards will provide an area for walkers, under 18, who must have written consent from their parents. All interested walkers can acquire sponsor sheets from area schools, Farmington Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, YMCA and the Farmington Area Advisory Commission. Walk chairman DENNIS KLEPFINGER can be contacted at 478-6912 or 559-8500.

"HOLIDAY READERS will have to act fast or do without that Memorial Day book. Both Farmington libraries will be closed May 27-29. They will reopen on May 30.

"MODERN GOURMETS, circle June 1 on your calendar. The Farmington Community Library is presenting a program about microwave ovens and microwave cooking on that Thursday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Farmington Hills branch, 2227 Twelve Mile. MRS. VIRGINIA RICHARDS, a graduate home economist for the Detroit Edison Co., will give a cooking demonstration. She also will talk about the energy saving aspects of microwave cooking.

"NOSTALGIA will be the order of the day on May 31, at 7:30 p.m. in Fairview Elementary. It will be conducting its last open house. The school will be closed at the end of this semester. Prior year parents, students and teachers are invited to take part in the function. Fairview is located at 28500 Crest Court in the Olde Franklin subdivision.

"CONGRATULATIONS TO Detroit Country Day School student JOHN SINARD of Farmington Hills. He recently won third place in the ninth annual Lawrence Institute of Technology Mathematics Competition. He competed against 199 students from 64 Detroit area high schools. He won a \$25 savings bond for his effort. He is a 1978 silver

medal winner in the Michigan Mathematics Contest.

"LET'S HELP OUT an avid golf fan see his dream come true and support a good cause at the same time. Farmington Hills resident MARC ELLER has been named a team captain of the Greater Detroit Life Insurance Agents Committee to sell tickets for the J.P. McCarthy Wabec Detroit Police Athletic League (PAL) Tournament. The captain whose team sells the most tickets will win a \$500 playing berth. That means that if Marc wins, he will be playing golf with the likes of former President GERALD FORD, sportscaster JOE GARAGIOLA and entertainer JACKIE GLEASON.

"POETS, LISTEN UP. A \$1,000 grand prize will be awarded in the poetry competition sponsored by the World of Poetry, a bi-monthly newsletter for poets. Poems of all styles and on any subject are eligible for the grand prize or for 49 other cash and merchandise awards. Rules and official entry forms are available by writing to World of Poetry, 2431 Stockton, Department D, Sacramento, Calif.

"SORRY, WE GOOFED. In the May 22 edition of the Farmington Observer, we printed an incorrect phone number for those wishing to join the Crafters Corner during the Farmington Founders Festival. To contact Mary Turton, dial 474-9133.

"SOCCER FANS, here is a way to hone those skills. A comprehensive new youth soccer training kit, called "Go for Goal," has been developed by the United States Soccer Federation and the Coca-Cola Co. Instructional materials include five 16 mm films, 250 slides, 10 wall charts, 64 coaching cards, a teaching guide and a youth soccer handbook. It is based on the teaching philosophy and coaching techniques of internationally acclaimed German national soccer coach KARL HEINZ HEDDERGOTT. For a free brochure on this material write to Mr. Kurt Lamm, USSF, 350 Fifth Ave., Suite 400, New York, N.Y. 10001, or call him at (212) 735-0915.

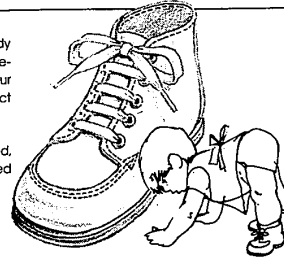
"EXPECTANT PARENTS will have an opportunity to learn what parenting is all about when the Oakland County Division of Health offers its summer series on that subject. Classes will be held weekly, on Monday and Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 p.m. beginning June 5, at 27725 Greenfield, Southfield. To register call 424-7058 or 424-7000 before May 30. Preregistration is advised as classes are limited in enrollment.

Don't forget us at THE INSIDE ANGLES, P.O. BOX 88, SOUTHFIELD 48077. We will be waiting to here from you.

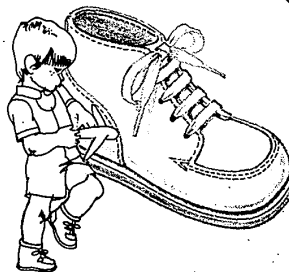
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