

# Farmington Observer

Volume 10 Number 65

Thursday, June 1, 1978

Farmington, Mich.

44 Pages

Weekly Five Cents

1978 Subscriptions: Farmington Observer, 42 Pages Per Year

## Pay raise clash hits Hills city workers

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

Farmington Hills City Council has ordered that the maximum raise for non-union city employees for the next fiscal year be five per cent.

The action, taken at this week's council session, will cause "serious consequences" to the city, according to City Mgr. George Majors.

The confrontation between administration officials and city legislators has been growing since city council learned it was facing a \$10 million budget for 1978-79.

Originally, the administration had submitted a wage list for the 31 non-union employees. The raises averaged 7.96 per cent. Majors, in earlier budget discussions, said increases would average seven per cent.

Fourteen of the employees averaged more than the seven per cent, with one employee listed for a 22.08 per cent increase.

IN A DEBATE which began after a public hearing on the budget, Councilwoman Joanne Smith challenged the concept of across-the-board seven per cent increases.

"We're going to come out to the point where we will price ourselves out of people we can afford. It is always pointed out to us that union personnel are these kind of increases," she said.

"But I think we should resist the temptation to be blackmailed by the administration that they won't be content."

"We've come to the point where we have to hold the line. Some of these raises are just too excessive," she concluded.

Council veteran Earl Oppenheimer defended the raises, saying it was important for the city council to defend administration officials.

"I find it difficult to penalize management personnel for not being in a union," said Oppenheimer.

"We must be realistic. If they are doing the job, they should be paid for it. If they aren't, then we should get

*'Morale is important to the functioning' of the city. This team has provided good service to the community. I wouldn't want to lose them.'*

— City Mgr. George Majors

somebody to replace them," he said. He pointed to the cost of living which increased by 5.9 per cent last year and said that, in reality, they only would be getting two per cent raises.

Non-union employees include city executives, division and section heads, secretarial and Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) employees.

But Oppenheimer was in a minority, with the rest of the council supporting Smith's contention that the raises were too high.

Councilman Keith Deacon recommended that the proposed budget could be pared down by limiting the raises to five per cent and by cutting the recommended four fire personnel increase to two.

Another proposed cut would be to publish the city newsletter twice a year rather than three times.

"We don't want to set the precedent by setting seven per cent so union negotiations will start out at that point," he told Majors.

Councilman Joe Altshuler said that raises for administrators should be based on a merit system.

"I agree that raises should, in some way, compensate for the cost of living. But merit also should be taken into consideration. A person should be rewarded for good work," he said.

But Majors warned that his employees' morale was at stake.

"Morale is important to the functioning of the city. This team has provided good service to the community. I

wouldn't want to lose them. To add to the council.

Majors presently is paid \$34,000 a year. A seven per cent raise would have put him at \$41,500. A five per cent increase would make his salary \$40,225.

Parks and Recreation Division Director Douglas Gaynor was listed for a 6.25 per cent raise. He presently is paid \$42,010. The raise would have put him at \$44,679.

Gaynor's division is a newly instituted one, established after a breakaway from the Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

City Clerk Floyd Cairns, who earns \$24,040, was slated for a 7.96 per cent increase. His raise would have put him at \$25,920.

City Mgr. Majors is the only employee, who presently is paid \$34,000, his 22.08 per cent increase would have brought him up to \$41,500.



Passing Glory

Left: Back: Rogers of the 1st Post American Legion and other participants in the Farmington Memorial Day parade. Staff photo by Harry M. Miller

## Board scrutinizes land sale

By LYNN ORR

One of Farmington School District's oldest structures will be demolished to make way for an elderly housing complex, if the school board approves the sale Tuesday night.

Forest City Drive, Inc., a private development firm, has offered to purchase nearly three acres of property on Thomas Street in downtown Farmington.

The firm offers to pay \$225,000. The firm plans to build a 100-unit low-income senior citizens housing complex. The purchase offers a complete remodeling of the land to be used for the construction of the complex.

The board's building committee will vote Tuesday night to recommend to the full board that the purchase offer be accepted. Dr. Martin Rose, chairman of the committee, directed

the board to accept the offer. The offer is the highest offer received for the property. The board's building committee will vote Tuesday night to recommend to the full board that the purchase offer be accepted.

The board's appraiser, William Bolt, appraised the property at \$225,000, while a \$150,000 appraisal was given by the development firm's appraiser. The discrepancy between the two appraisals is not unusual, according to Bolt.

Committee members Helen Probst and Richard Wallace said they were satisfied with the Forest City Drive offer.

The offer to purchase is contingent on approval of a federal rent subsidy contract, and remaking of the land and site plan approval by the Farmington City Council.

The school board will continue to hold on to the site and build a Farmington High School. The Farmington Training Center for mentally retarded children. The development firm will construct the basis of demolition of the building, clearing off the tree-lined connection between the two buildings, and building a road, street up to the proposed entrance.

DEMOLITION of the building is estimated to cost between \$4,500 and \$5,000.

The funds generated by the proposed sale must be allocated to the building and steel fund under state law because the original land purchase and school building construction was made with bonded funds, rather than local or state revenues. William Probst, assistant superintendent of finance and treasurer, could not be reached for questions.

## Fishing derby promises more prizes than ever

More prizes than ever are being offered youngsters aged 6 to 14 in Saturday's Tom Sawyer Derby. That's the Fishing Derby on the shores of Newburgh Lake.

Prizes for the largest fish of each species, there will be awards for the boy and girl who dress most like Mark Twain's shyness character, Huckleberry.

Prizes are the Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the parks and recreation departments of municipalities in the Middle River Region basin.

The derby team and derby will each receive a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry.

Prizes are the Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the parks and recreation departments of municipalities in the Middle River Region basin.

The derby team and derby will each receive a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry.

Prizes are the Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the parks and recreation departments of municipalities in the Middle River Region basin.

The derby team and derby will each receive a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry.

Prizes are the Western Wayne County Conservation Association and the parks and recreation departments of municipalities in the Middle River Region basin.

The derby team and derby will each receive a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry, a red and red from Huckleberry.

Prizes for species of fish not previously listed in the Observer will be awarded. A large landing net, fishing tackle, tackle box, with lures, a small outdoor bucket and a red and red from Huckleberry's Village, Cuddeback, Huckleberry.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

Large outdoor tank, shakedown from the conservation club.

## History fan defies publishing perils

By LYNN ORR

Lee Peck has one friend when he published his first book, "Farmington: A Personal History," in 1971.

"The work's great to me because I didn't put his name in the book," Peck explains with a shrug.

Peck's book, the author, the 140-page book, generated a different response from the reviewers at HISTORY

club built in the area. They gobbled up the first 500 copies within a few weeks.

Peck freely admits the book is "a rather than 'the' history of Farmington, in which he outlines some of the tangents of the past. The book has been noted particularly for its multitude of historical photographs which capture the vanished elements of the community's heritage.

Comments ranged from a Mr. Peck

more fan letter to a woman who said "Oh, it's just perfect," referring to the book's typography.

"She gave me the short shrift," he says. "Some people write letters to the paper condemning me for not putting anything in about the community center and not much about the library. But most of the readers were very gracious."

Comments ranged from a Mr. Peck

In addition to the misquoting prepositional phrase, the Enterprise listed every license number of the cars that drove through the town.

"The style is so fond it kills me," he says. He used that account in the history book that has others prepared for his next publishing venture.

Comments ranged from a Mr. Peck

PECK DID exhibit some criticism in publishing the book himself.

"I haven't an inferiority complex about substandard quality publishing," he says. "Some of the most famous authors in the world, such as Darwin, have used it. I was always interested in books and writing. One of my interests always had been to publish a book."

The result produced little financial gain but many interesting moments. It took 11 days to get through the book, coming in the library of Congress in Washington, D.C., while transcribing the project, he studied various theses and experienced a thrill.

His favorite comment about the book was "We're looking forward to you now," he says, and he has plans for paperback books on Farmington architecture and a "Farmington History Book."

On the latter, he hopes to use some of the numerous photographs (which he has collected during his historical research).

A possible shortage and possible delay in publishing the book is a possibility. He is still waiting for the book to be published, according to the book's editor, the Farmington Observer.

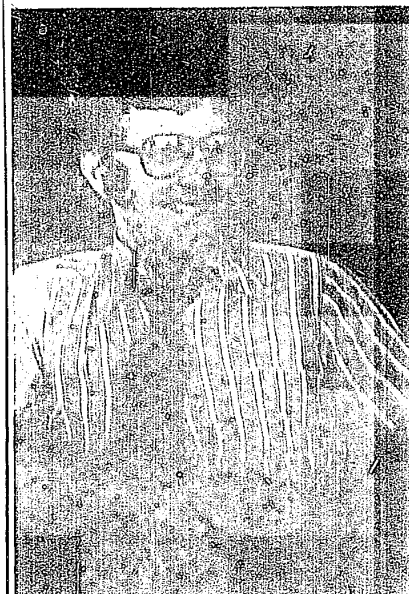
While there was a lot of praise and criticism, Peck still in the project of completing the book. He is still waiting for the book to be published, according to the book's editor, the Farmington Observer.

While there was a lot of praise and criticism, Peck still in the project of completing the book. He is still waiting for the book to be published, according to the book's editor, the Farmington Observer.

While there was a lot of praise and criticism, Peck still in the project of completing the book. He is still waiting for the book to be published, according to the book's editor, the Farmington Observer.

While there was a lot of praise and criticism, Peck still in the project of completing the book. He is still waiting for the book to be published, according to the book's editor, the Farmington Observer.

While there was a lot of praise and criticism, Peck still in the project of completing the book. He is still waiting for the book to be published, according to the book's editor, the Farmington Observer.



Lee Peck, Farmington resident, commenced planning and publishing his first book, "Farmington: A Personal History," in 1971.

inside

JUST ONE PHONE CALL

If you don't have phone call the book that you're looking for, call the 1070 Farmington (1070) number in the book for the best price. The book will be sent to you right away.

And you'll have the book right away. And you'll have the book right away.

DIAL DIRECT

644-1070