

Farmington Observer

Volume 89 Number 72

Monday, June 26, 1978

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1978 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Federal fund slash could cut employees

By LYNN ORR

A possible tightening of federal job training funding could force cutbacks in city services.

Spiraling unemployment also could be the outcome of proposed changes in Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) guidelines, warn city officials.

But they're hoping snowballing opposition will freeze the proposals before they reach the House and Senate floors.

The proposed changes would affect funding totaling \$130,000 in the City of Farmington; \$75,000 in Farmington Hills; and nearly \$2 million in Southfield, under 1978-79 budgeting. The bulk of that federal money would be jeopardized under the proposed restrictions, according to city officials.

"Most of our CETA workers wouldn't be eligible under the proposed statutes," says Hills Finance Director Girard Miller. Currently

about 30 per cent, 72 out of 223 full-time city employees, are paid with CETA funds, Miller says.

The Hills might be able to pick up some of those salaries, but the proposed restrictions ultimately would force cutbacks, he maintains.

THE PROPOSED bills, which would replace the CETA Act of 1973, would bar cities from supplementing a \$10,000 salary cap and limit CETA employment to 1½ years.

"The national economy cannot sustain the wholesale loss in CETA jobs under this thing—it would swell the unemployment ranks," Miller says.

Between 90-95 per cent of Southfield's CETA employees are there for permanent type jobs, explains Al Kujala, senior director of staff services. The turnover rate is slight, and the majority of those currently employed would not be eligible under the proposed restrictions, he says.

His staff is preparing a CETA impact study to determine what jobs the city could fund, but cutbacks would be inevitable, he says.

"The problem is that you get something built into the system and it's very difficult to cut it out," he says. "People come to expect services, and when you cut them, they're not too happy."

THE CITY of Farmington went on record in opposition to the proposals, joining other suburban cities and the National League of Cities in an attempt to send their message to Washington.

"If we have to cut back and not use the CETA monies, it looks like we'd be stuck with a tax increase," Councilman William Hartsock said last week.

Hiring public safety officers under CETA, for example, would be foolish, says City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

"If we hire a police officer under CETA for \$10,000, we're supplementing \$3,000 when he or she walks in the door," he says.

At least three months of the officer's first year are involved in training as well. Limiting CETA employment to 1½ years would undermine the intent of hiring a police officer to serve the city for a reasonable length of time, he indicated.

The proposed changes also caught a red flag from U.S. Congressman William Brodhead (D-17th District, which includes Farmington and Southfield). However, he doesn't expect Congressional action before the fall.

"With the conditions these bills are in, and the number of cities going to be hurt, delay is a good thing," he says.

"I don't think these new restrictions are warranted. We need to give cities some freedom to design the jobs to meet the needs of their residents."

THE INTENT of the proposed changes may be a reaction to critics who believe CETA has become a revenue-sharing program, rather than a job training program as originally proposed. Brodhead is convinced the program's critics who want changes are heading in the wrong direction.

"We need better investigation and auditing of how these funds are allocated," he says. "You can clear up abuses and cut off those cities that are abusing the program."

CETA funding of police and fire personnel is a priority that needs to be determined by the city not the guidelines, Brodhead says.

Vandalism drops 'dramatically'

Vandalism and theft in the Farmington schools dropped dramatically during the past school year, but nobody really knows why.

"I wish there was some pat little formula," Supt. Lewis Schulman told the board of education at its last meeting. "Efforts have always been made to cut vandalism and to halt it."

"We were delighted when we did the comparison."

Figures tabulated by the school administration show total costs from theft and vandalism in the district in the 1977-78 school year total \$17,617.87, a drop of \$23,000 from the previous year.

Schulman credits the zealotism of the school staff in tracking down those responsible for crimes as one reason for the reduction. The word gets out among students that they're not likely to get away with it, he said.

But others say there's been a change in attitude.

"The community's becoming more and more aware that the schools

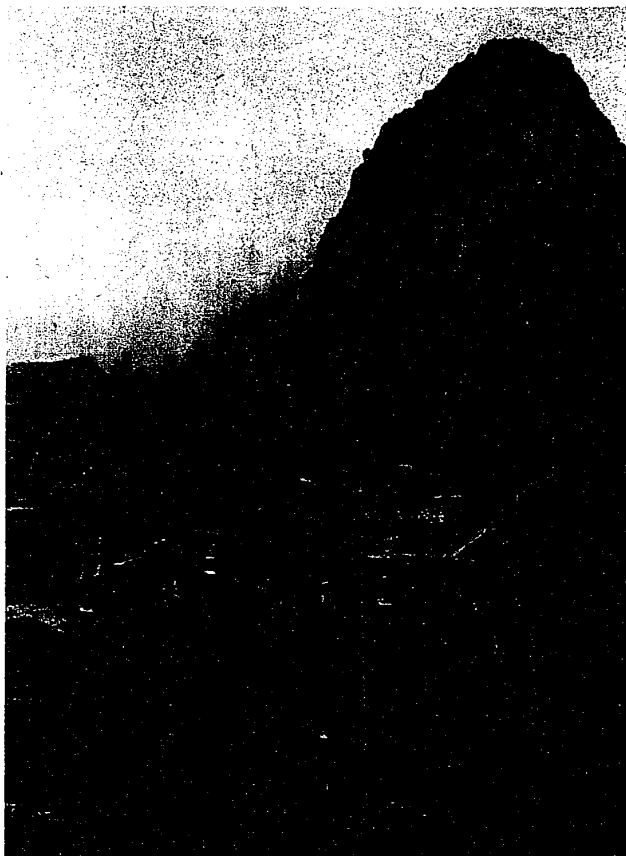
belong to everyone," said Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent for elementary education. "We haven't increased policing to any fantastic degree."

Assistant Supt. of Finance William Prisk said he noted a "changed atmosphere" at high school graduations this year.

He suggested that the way the schools try to teach proper attitudes might be having an effect. "We don't know the exact reason," he admitted.

Administration figures show that of the total cost of vandalism for the year, the cost to the district was \$8,669.33. The remainder was paid by insurance, the perpetrators or by students and staff members in replacing personal items.

Of the \$17,617.87 total cost of the crimes, \$3,583.32 was reported by elementary schools, \$3,051.58 was reported by junior highs, \$8,874.62 was reported at senior high schools, and \$2,008.15 was reported at other buildings owned by the district.



Youths explore Inca ruins

Driven by a thirst for adventure, two Farmington youths loaded up their van last fall and headed "south of the border" to Central and South America. On their five month journey, they explored places like the ancient Inca fortress (above) located in southern Peru. Although the function of this fortress

is still up for speculation, scientists found the population inside to be primarily women (10 to 1). It is believed the women were sent to the fortress during the Spanish invasion. Turn to page 3A for a story on the adventure.



This friendly critter saw fit to hop a ride to see what the eastern establishment was all about. (Staff photo by Harry Manthe)

Woodchuck hitches ride east

By DENNIS ROSENBLUM

A woodchuck who wanted to see the world is going to be the latest addition to Detroit's much-heralded renaissance.

After a 1,500-mile trip from Wyoming to Farmington, the furry brown rodent with the overpowering waddles found himself a bunch of friendly people and—after a few days—a new home in the inner city.

His name is P.D. and he's scheduled to move to Detroit on Tuesday.

P.D. MADE IT here by hitching a ride from Greg Murland of Farmington, who was on vacation until last Tuesday with a friend in Yellowstone National Park.

The Rocky Mountain marmot—a type of woodchuck native to the western states—crawled into the engine compartment of Murland's van and just wouldn't leave. A frustrated park

ranger decided it wasn't worth the trouble and told Murland to keep him. So, for the entire trip back, the marmot settled into a corner atop the battery, except for an occasional foray along the front wheels or down the drive shaft.

"We stopped at a gas station in Jackson, Wyo. and had the attendant check the oil," Murland said. "He opened the front end and jumped back 10 feet."

"Every time we stopped at a gas station, people were trying to get him out. After awhile, we just decided he wanted to go to Michigan."

And the trusty marmot, in a modern twist on the early American pioneer spirit, stuck with it and ended the three-day trip in fine shape.

One of Murland's neighbors came up with the nickname P.D. after more futile attempts to coax the animal out

of the van, trying both friendly persuasion and a water hose, Murland went to veterinarian John Richardson.

Dr. Richardson supplied a tranquilizer for P.D. and Murland was able to grab him with a pair of hockey gloves. Even when I was grabbing him, he never tried to bite me," Murland said. "He is kinda cute."

Richardson kept the marmot until last Friday at his office on Mooney, and then turned him over to Hartley Thornton, a former state conservation officer.

The problem facing all these people was just what they would do with P.D., who was by this time half-tamed, eating apples and sunflower seeds, and grabbing attention with an occasional piercing squeak.

Nobody wanted to just let him out in the woods since he might not be able to survive here. The Detroit Zoo didn't want him. And Murland, a student at Michigan Technological University in Houghton who is home for the summer, didn't think P.D. would get along too well with the family dog.

BUT A TALE about an orphan mar-

mot was just bound to have a happy ending.

Wolfgang Mattes, senior naturalist at the new Belle Isle Nature Center, was glad to add a marmot to animals that he uses to teach groups of children about wildlife.

"He'll help bring a little bit of the environment to the people. We'll take good care of him," Mattes said. P.D. will be kept indoors at first but will eventually get out with a group of other creatures.

The big question remaining, of course, is whether a little Rocky Mountain woodchuck can find love and happiness in the big city.

From a life amid Old Faithful and hot sulphur springs, he's going to end up with a commanding view of Ren-Cen and Great Lakes freighters. He does, however, obviously like cars.

And Murland, P.D.'s temporary foster father, was delighted to hear the outcome.

"Oh, great," he said. "I'll go see him."

Now, who ever said there's no good news?

Senior citizens highlight meeting

FARMINGTON HILLS

Council meeting
7:00 p.m. Monday
11555 Eaves Mile

The council will hold necessary hearings for road improvement in Kendallwood No. 4 and for a sewer in Briar Hill subdivision in Section 4.

There will be consideration of amendatory ordinances for 30411 Twelve Mile from Moritz and Eva Cohn; 34350 W. Eight Mile between Gill and Cass from Mary Dahish; 33200 W. Eight Mile between Gill and Halsted from W. Allan Tuomala. The council will also consider purchasing a car for parks and recreation.

Under new business, the council will hear a presentation on a Senior Citizen Care and Homemaker Program, and a grant application request. Council members will consider renewal of a senior adult contract for Mercy Center, renewal of the senior adult transportation contract, a resolution creating a cloverleaf interchange at Orchard Lake Road and I-26, traffic controls for stop and yield signs at various intersections, approval of Meadowglen subdivision PUD agreement.

Final approval for Meadowglen subdivision Section 30 (northwest corner of Nine Mile and Halsted), approval of

preliminary plat for Woodland Trails subdivision in Section 8, a request by the Woodstream Franchises Homeowners Association to close Woodstream Drive at Oak Home Lane for a July 4 celebration and bicycle parade, Establishment of a special assessment district for Old Homestead subdivision for a sanitary sewer, a request from the Farmington Country Club for a fireworks permit for July 3, approval of Country Ridge planned Residential Development escrow at \$69,999 with completion of the parks two years after each preliminary plat as submitted, setting goals and priorities for future city programs

and services, a resolution opposing a citizens' committee plan for an M-275 alternate, a resolution requesting an additional interchange with I-696, a report on city pest practices regarding major road improvements, a review of Grand River traffic modification between Hayes and Tuck.

Rid proposals for police department vehicles, approval of 1275 associates consent judgment, a consent judgment in the case of Ruler vs. Farmington Hills, a review of older special assessment fund balances, a resolution amending the 1977-78 budget and appointments to boards and commissions.

inside

Community calendar	2B
Editorials	4A
Letters	4A
Obituaries	4B
Suburban Life	Section B
Sports	Section C

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Due to the extended holiday week-end, our deadlines will be earlier than usual for the next week. Editorial copy for Thursday, July 6, is due in the office at 5 p.m. on Monday, July 3. Deadline for the Business Directory is Friday, June 30, at 4 p.m. and classified ads will be taken until 4 p.m. on Monday, July 3. Space reservation deadline for display advertising in the July 3 issue is noon on Thursday, June 29, and at noon on Monday, July 3, for the July 6 issue.