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Union seeks members among Hills supervisors

By LYNN ORR

The Teamsters are seeking to increase their membership among Farmington Hills employees.

According to city hall sources who asked to remain anonymous, employees at the supervisory level are talking to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters about joining the State, County, Municipal Employees Teamsters local.

Some of the non-union city employees behind the union organization movement are top level supervisors, executives, secretaries and a few other employees who were limited to five per cent salary increases this year, sources said. The Hills council voted the five per cent salary cap in May for a list of about 18 non-union employees, a move that caused some turmoil in City Hall. Former City Mgr. George Majors protested the council's action at the time.

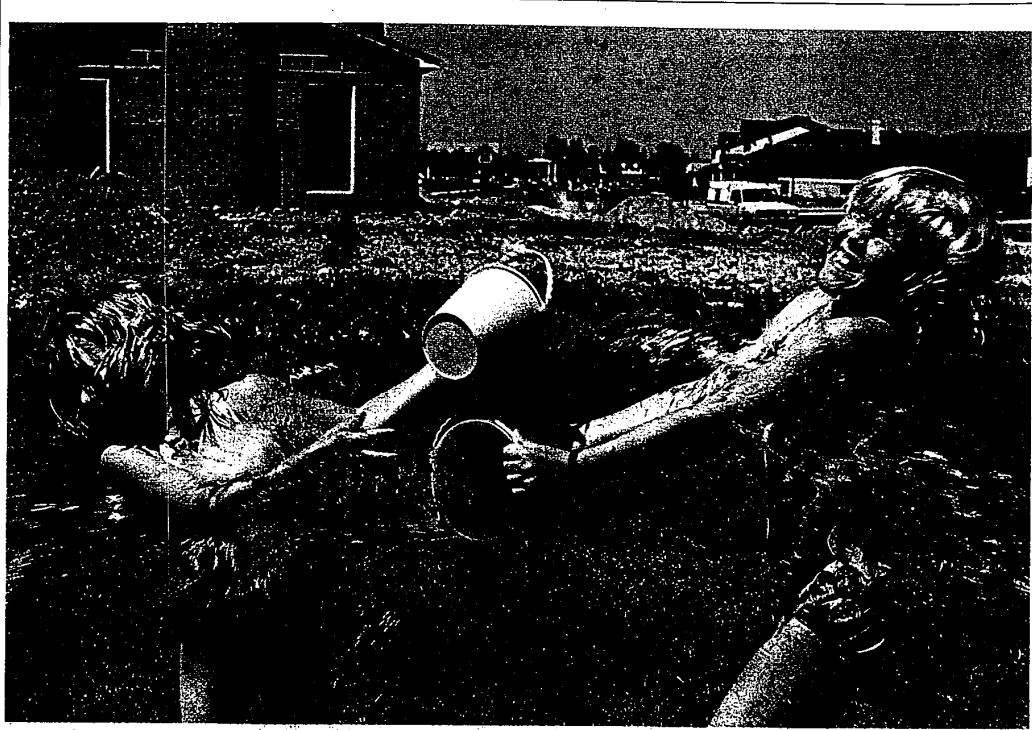
The majority of City Hall employees are members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), while the Farmington Hills patrol officers are members of the Teamsters local.

It was not confirmed whether engineering personnel, who voted themselves out of the AFSCME unit last February, were talking to the Teamsters as well. The engineering non-union employees received between 7-11 per cent salary increases this last budget.

A QUESTION remains as to whether supervisory personnel could be allowed to unionize, according to the sources. If union cards are signed by 50 per cent of the non-union employees seeking to join the Teamsters, the union and city officials would have to determine eligibility of employees before a union certification election could be set.

Rumors of union movement have been circulating since the list of non-union personnel received notice of the salary caps in June. The employees were not interested in joining AFSCME because it is considered a "weak" union, said one source. The Teamsters, who have negotiated salaries near the top of the scale in Michigan for the Hills patrol officers, are regarded as a strong union, sources said.

Teamsters official Joe Valenti could not be reached for comment.



Here's the winner of O & E's first color photo contest



"Water Fight" is the title of this photograph by Canton resident Mary Lemon. It features two of the most distinguishing features of the suburbs—kids and construction. "I had been driving around looking for a good subject," Ms. Lemon says, "and I found it right in my own backyard." The children in the picture are the daughters of Robert and Mary Lemon. Julie, in the multi-colored suit, is 8 years old; sister Courtney is 5. Their brother Benjamin, 3, isn't in the picture because "he was filling his bucket at the time."

This is Ms. Lemon's first photo contest, and she won a \$100 gift certificate from World Camera and Sound for her effort.

Humanism, not feminism, drives activist

By LYNN ORR

Marian McCracken was born Aug. 26, 1920—the day women got the vote. "My mother always reminded me of that," says the 23-year Farmington resident who backs up her feminist convictions with volunteer hours geared to women's rights.

Humanism, rather than feminism, is the motivating force behind her work as a member of the Title IX (federal requirement for equal treatment in education) monitoring committee in the Farmington School District, her trip to Washington D.C. to join those rallying for extension of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and her position as head of the Women's Caucus for the Michigan Education Association (MEA).

But feminism was a personal confrontation for Mrs. McCracken as well. She began teaching in Farmington schools 19 years ago because

she had to work. Her husband had multiple sclerosis, a deteriorating nerve disease, which finally forced him into early retirement six years ago.

"We went through World War II, everyone got married, had kids, moved to the suburbs, voted for Eisenhower, and everything was going to be great—but for me it wasn't."

UNEQUAL pay was an issue then, much in the same way economic issues are the backbone of ERA support. Mrs. McCracken says. ERA supporters have shed the "Cinderella" or need-to-be-protected image, she says.

"Interestingly enough, many Republican women are pro-abortion but anti ERA—because they don't see it as an economic thing, and that's what ERA is all about—economics," she explains.

The teachers' unions have equal

pay for men and women instructors. But at the top posts, the men have the higher paying jobs, she adds, unlike 20 years ago when women dominated administrative jobs like school principals.

That transition was economically motivated when men began to seek jobs in education as the pay scale improved. Now, school districts such as Farmington are male dominated at the top, despite the fact that women constitute the majority of teachers' ranks, she says.

"Who's sitting at the typewriters and getting the coffee in the administration office?" she asks. "Nipping away" at sexism is the only answer.

"You have to raise awareness," she explains. "Anyone who is in education isn't going to make inappropriate remarks about blacks or anti-semitic

slurs. But there's a whole lot of folks who don't know enough not to make sexist remarks."

Some change is evidenced by the reception of Title IX workshops and concern for women's rights. And her experiences in the classroom at Eagle Elementary School indicate a change for youth, she explains. Her units on minority understanding and women are well received.

When it comes to minority understanding, sixth graders have a sense of fairness, she says, but 11-year-old boys are "little male chauvinist pigs."

"It's a male supremacy thing at that age, but it's different for the girls. Five years ago they wanted to be mothers, teachers and nurses. Now they want to be veterinarians and lawyers."

She tries to impress on her female

students that they may have to support a family, and she attempts to offer the burden for the adolescent boys. The choice of supporting a family shouldn't fall entirely on the male, as our society dictates, she says.

POLITICAL activism attempts to improve awareness, but getting the facts across is difficult, she adds. Big money behind the anti-feminist forces assists in clouding the issues.

"Look at the realities of why women work. Child support is practically nil, and after five years most are not paying at all. Who are the people in poverty? It's women in poverty," she maintains. Unions have helped equal salaries for women, but women aren't getting the jobs.

"I get concerned about girls. I don't want them to give up their dreams, but the reality is that they're probably going to have to work, while some of them will want to work," she says. Despite society's presentation of the all-American family in the media, statistics show the family is in trouble and in the minority, she adds.

To work for her goals, she pushes for legislation, works for the candidacy of feminists in public office, and attempts to make sure the laws on the books are followed, either at the district level or the state level.

Having her daughter join her and other feminists in the ERA march last month was a morale boost, while the rickety-gritty of plugging away at human rights is a day-by-day effort, she says. But if the U.S. Senate fails to extend the ERA deadline, she's not fearful of losing the battle.

"We're not going to go away," she says. "In this kind of thing there aren't short term goals: You just keep ripping away at the system. People used to laugh at the Title IX workshops. They don't laugh any more."

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NEWSLINE.....322-5400
CLASSIFIED LINE.....591-6900



Hilda Alto, who lost her Farmington Hills home to a fire last week, is comforted by a neighbor. For story and photos, see page 3A.

Cause determined in infant's death

A five-month-old baby who died of dehydration and malnutrition last week, was in and out of Botsford Hospital during the month before her death.

The baby's parents have been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the child's death. A preliminary hearing was set for them on Aug. 25 in 47th District Court.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH Tranchida pleaded innocent at their arraignment before Judge Michael Hand on August 15. Bond for each parent was set at \$7,500. The parents were taken to Oakland County Jail in lieu of bond.

According to police reports, Marie Tranchida stayed in the hospital from July 3-8. She was taken by her father Joseph Anthony Tranchida, 19, to the

hospital and admitted because she was suffering from sudden weight loss and dehydration.

On July 9, the child's mother, Annette Tranchida, 19, took her to Botsford because the baby's rectal temperature had registered at 101 degrees.

Although doctors had filed a complaint, the Southfield Police Department lost track of the family's whereabouts when they moved to Farmington Hills.

Funeral services for the child were conducted last Friday at the Haley Funeral Home, Southfield.

The child was the granddaughter of Joseph Tranchida, of Southfield, who was selected as that city's First Citizen in 1976 for his service to the community.

The baby was dead on arrival Aug. 13 at Botsford Hospital. Doctors told police that the child had been dead for about 10 hours before she was brought to the emergency room at 2:30 p.m.

Tranchida, who was living in the Rainbow Park Motel in Farmington Hills, told police that he had fed the baby at 1:50 p.m. that Sunday. A few minutes later he heard the child crying. When he investigated, he discovered that the girl had stopped breathing.

Mrs. Tranchida was out of town when the child died, according to police. She returned last Tuesday and was arrested.

Farmington Hills police checked the motel room where the family was living, last week. They said they found a

"filthy room," with cockroaches and flies.

Tranchida told police he was an unemployed bricklayer.

The couple has another child, Joseph, 18-months-old. The child was placed in Oakland County Children's Village in Pontiac suffering from minor medical problems.

While the family lived in Southfield, doctors told the parents that Marie was underweight, according to Southfield Police Det. Sebastian Ales. They recommended feeding the baby twice a day.

Tranchida explained to Southfield police that it was difficult to feed the baby because she was having problems with her mouth. She was spooned rather than nursed with a bottle, he told police.