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With force 15 years

Byrnes resigns as Farmington's chief

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes, who began his career 15 years ago as a public safety officer and was promoted through the ranks, will resign from the \$30,000-a-year top post in two weeks.

Byrnes, 39, said he has no immediate plans for the future but will probably end up with a law enforcement job somewhere in the state.

He is expected to announce his Oct. 12 departure at the Farmington City Council meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in city hall.

Lt. John Santomaro will act as interim chief until Byrnes' position is filled.

"You reach a point in life when it's time to make a change," said Byrnes. "I'm about to hit the magic 40. You've got to evaluate where you've

been, where you're going."

Byrnes said his first order of business will be to "take a nice long vacation."

"I will probably remain in law enforcement in Michigan. It depends on what comes up."

He has spent the past eight years as deputy chief, and chief of the Farmington police force.

"I have mixed feelings about leaving

After 15 years, it's hard to leave," he said.

"I COULD WRITE a book about the many pleasant memories I've had here."

The force now includes 21 officers and 7 civilian employees.

"When I began, there were 12 men and two cars. Often, you'd be out on the street alone. We depended very much on one another then."

Farmington City Manager Bob Deadman said the city already has begun to advertise for Byrnes' replacement.

"I hate to see him go," Deadman said. "He worked hard for the city."

"He was a good director — very innovative. I wish him the best."

Deadman said no decision has yet been made on a replacement.

"It's a very important position. We're going to take time to fill it."



DAN BYRNES

Redlining gets boot from Dems

By JACKIE KLEIN

A resolution to support legislation banning insurance redlining in Southfield, Detroit, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Redford and other communities was passed last week by the 17th District Democratic Party.

"The insidious practice of redlining — discrimination in insurance coverage — has spread to neighborhoods in Southfield, Redford, Detroit, Farmington and Farmington Hills," according to the resolution.

Lawrence Goldsmith, director of Southfield's Home Information Center, however, denies that insurance redlining is practiced in the city.

"Categorically, no automotive or homeowner insurance redlining is occurring in Southfield," he claimed.

"But our city is close to Detroit, and we will monitor the situation. We believe in identifying a potential problem to prevent it from happening."

Thomas Frommeyer, director of Southfield Human Resources Department, maintains no complaints about redlining have ever come to his attention. Some individuals, he said, may not be accepted by insurance companies.

But, he claimed, there's nothing to substantiate the contention that there is discrimination by insurance agencies in certain areas of the city. That contention could have a negative impact and create fear in the community, he maintained.

Many residents of the district, according to the Democratic Party resolution, received notices of cancellation or non-renewal of their insurance policies. Others received bills for premiums which are much higher than those for identical coverage in other communities, the resolution states.

THE 17th DISTRICT Democratic Party supports legislation which would guarantee objective statewide standards for the availability of homeowner's and automobile coverage. The party supports legislation forbidding the use of arbitrary criteria such as age, sex, marital status, race or geographic location in determining the rates or eligibility for homeowner's or auto insurance.

The resolution was adopted during last Wednesday's meeting in Southfield sponsored by the party. Included in the panel discussion were: Erna Henderson, president of the Detroit Common Council and chairwoman of the Statewide Coalition on Redlining and Neighborhoods; Scott Schragger, lobbyist for the coalition; and State Sen. Jack Faxon and State Rep. Michael Bennane, both Detroit Democrats.

"Southfield and surrounding territories are already being hit by redlining," Mrs. Henderson maintained. "More and more people throughout the state are recognizing the struggle of dealing with insurance companies."

"There are 100 percent differences in premiums from one side of the city to the other, in fact within two or three blocks. Availability of coverage differs from one community to the other. We must close the gap with understanding. It isn't true that insurance companies charge higher rates in the suburbs to subsidize Detroiters."

Detroit, Mrs. Henderson said, was once described as the highest crime area but conditions have improved.

"We're interested in seeing the crime rate lowering in Southfield and other suburbs. If this problem isn't dealt with," she maintained, "it's only a matter of time before the suburbs will feel the real impact of the redlining fight."

THE COALITION, Mrs. Henderson said, is urging all residents to push hard for a law banning redlining. The

house and senate, she said, passed different bills, neither of which adequately protects neighborhoods from the "scourge" of redlining.

Coalition lobbyist Schragger said that last Wednesday legislators, insurance company representatives and consumer advocates hammered out a compromise legislative proposal. The measure, he said, was designed to insure that all Michigan residents are able to buy auto and home insurance. But, he claimed, the proposal isn't a complete victory.

"There's an inherent unfairness in the tentative compromise settlement," he argued. "The agreement wasn't reached by the majority of legislators but by political parties. The compromise should be passed by both houses."

"The coalition was hoping for a proposal which would force insurance companies to cover any house for its replacement value if the owner demanded that. Instead, the compromise would allow insurance companies to decide if it would offer to insure the house for its replacement value or its market value."

The plan will be presented to the state senate in about two weeks.

THE PROPOSAL forbids insurance companies to reject drivers on the basis of sex or marital status. It says companies can't divide the state into more than 20 sales areas. The rates charged in the most expensive areas could be no more than 22 times the rate in the least expensive area, according to the proposal.

A bill introduced by Faxon, which was passed by the state senate, was sharply criticized by members of the panel. The measure, according to opponents, doesn't provide collision and comprehensive coverage for cars and doesn't cover homeowner's insurance.

Another measure passed by the senate would make homeowner's insurance available through a pool. But, Mrs. Henderson said, insurance companies could still deny a person coverage based on where he lives and the insured would have to pay more for less coverage.

The state house version, Mrs. Henderson said, wouldn't allow insurance companies to reject clients based on address. But companies can use territory rating systems in which city residents pay more than suburbanites for the same coverage.

Bennane maintained there are some holes in the compromise plan and he wanted to review all particulars. The measure, he said, would make Republican support from both state houses.

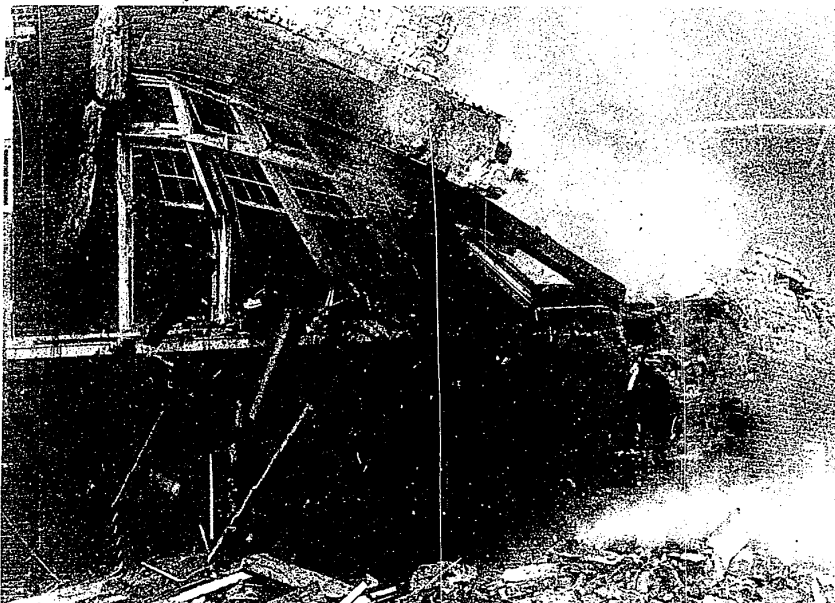
Faxon claimed his bill failed to get Republican support in the state senate. Under an amendment he sponsored to the senate version of the bill, he claimed, companies would no longer be able to use location as a criteria for charging higher rates.

The house version, he contended, would allow up to 20 rating territories with a rate differential of 40 percent from the highest to the lowest. Urban residents, under the proposal, would charge urban residents more for identical insurance coverage.

"My bill is a vehicle for what we're dealing with," he said. "It's important to introduce good legislation and not to use this forum to place the onus on me."

Bennane said he wouldn't support Faxon's bill because it fails to address the purchase of insurance at average, equitable rates.

Gilda Jacobs, appearing on behalf of State Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, who was out of town, said he supports the compromise and it's an objective criteria for insurance coverage.



The walls came tumbling down

This was the scene at School Street and Thomas last week as the wrecking ball did its work on the old Farmington High School built in 1918. The site will be used to house a senior citizens housing unit. To

see more pictures and read about old students' reactions, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Will accompany Cardinal Dearden

Sorrows parishioner to see pope

When Pope John Paul II says mass in Chicago's Grant Park on Friday afternoon, Oct. 5, Sorrows parishioner Helen Marks will be seated in the reserved area.

Miss Marks will be one of five official representatives of the six-county Archdiocese of Detroit, which represents 1.5 million local Roman Catholics.

Cardinal John Dearden, archbishop of Detroit, will lead the group to Chicago.

"I'm looking forward to it. It will probably be one of the most overwhelming experiences of my life," said Miss Marks, who was selected because she is an officer for the Archdiocesan

Pastoral Council, which is an advisory group to the cardinal.

For two years, she has coordinated the religion curriculum for Our Lady of Sorrows grade school and adjoining Beahan Junior High in Farmington.

Miss Marks characterized the pontiff's upcoming U.S. tour as "a spiritual event that will emphasize the unity of the church in America with the Holy Father."

"The Holy Father is doing a symbolic thing. He's reaching out to the world. We think of ourselves as a pilgrim people."

"The Holy Father is moving through time and events as a messenger of Christ."

MORE THAN 1 million people are expected in Chicago to see the pope.

Friday, Oct. 5, has been declared a holiday for the city with a population of 2 million Catholics. Choirs and concert groups will perform in the park before the Mass.

Miss Marks said she is not sure how close she will be able to get to the pope, but Cardinal Dearden will be among 350 American bishops to meet with Pope John Paul before Mass.

"I'm sure Cardinal Dearden will talk to the Holy Father. They have a friendship that began when the Pope was known as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla."

The Detroit crew will drive into Chicago Friday morning and return home Saturday.

"This will link us very much with our brothers and sisters throughout the world," Miss Marks said. "It's an exciting opportunity for us to express our faith in the church and in the Holy Father."

Cardinal Dearden extended an invitation to the Pope to visit Detroit. Miss Marks said he declined because of the shortness of his visit.

"He has promised to come again to the west and south. This visit is aimed at large centers of Catholics — in New York, Chicago, Boston and Washington."

I think Des Moines was chosen because it's the symbolic rural heartland of America.

"Whether he'll come to Detroit, I don't know."

Free shots next week

Oakland County Health Division will offer a free immunization clinic in Farmington at the First Methodist Church, Warner and Grand River on Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Immunizations for measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough are available.

A parent or legal guardian must accompany a child under 18 years of age and bring any previous records of immunizations.

If you are going to bring a child other than your own, a release form must be obtained either from the Oakland County Health Division or personnel at the clinic.

City posts agenda

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
23600 Liberty
8 p.m., Oct. 1

Minutes of Other Boards

- Farmington Building Authority minutes of Sept. 18.
- Board of Education minutes of Sept. 11.
- Farmington Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees minutes of Sept. 19.

Petitions and Communications

- Letters from Mrs. Joyce Cornwell and Mrs. Dan Darnell of Tall Pine in reference to proposed pedestrian safety improvements for school children.
- Resolution from city of Birmingham in reference to House Bill 4834, Auxiliary Police.
- Letter from Farmington Community Library, Lois E. Carey secretary, Board of Trustees in reference to joint meeting with councils.
- Request from BEI Public Relations

requesting Sweetest Day Proclamation.

Reports from City Manager

- Resignation: Director of Public Safety.
- Bid Results: Water system improvements.
- Health Insurance proposal for retirees.

Miscellaneous

- Public Comment.
- Committee Report: Deferred payments.
- Appointments: Community Development Committee.
- Tabled Resolution: Postage for Absentee Ballots.

Resolutions and Ordinances

- Adopt Ordinance C-452-79 amending traffic code.
- Proposed Resolution: Special assessment deferred payments.

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