

Farmington Observer

Volume 91 Number 83

Thursday, July 31, 1980

Farmington, Michigan

68 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

© 1980 Schenck Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Firefighters petition for emergency care

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington Hills firefighters have overcome the first hurdle in their campaign for a city-run emergency medical service.

City Clerk Floyd Cairns notified the City Council Monday evening that the firefighters had submitted petitions with 3,900 signatures.

If a sufficient number of the signatures are verified as legal, a question will go on the November ballot asking voters to approve implementation of such a service.

Presently, Farmington Hills relies on privately run carrier service that is spread across several cities.

The firefighters, led by Richard Marinucci, say they haven't any qualms with the privately run services. But they contend the record shows that Farmington Hills personnel usually reach an emergency situation before the private carriers.

Under the present system, the firefighters are trained to give only life-saving aid. Private carriers are trained as paramedics who are qualified to work directly with hospitals in giving emergency aid.

Farmington Hills firefighters want to be upgraded to that status under a new system where they would provide a seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day service.

ALTHOUGH CITY COUNCIL members generally supported the concept, many expressed reservations as to the cost of such a program.

"We just won't have the funds for the

next couple of years," said Mayor Joann Soronen. "I've explained to them (the firefighters) that cost is the most important thing," she said.

Although Councilman William Lange also expressed reservations about the cost of such a program, he said a proposal should be on the ballot.

"I have no objection to putting it on the ballot. I would like to see the cost involved in the question," he said.

Firefighters envision a plan where the present fulltime staff would be doubled from its present eight-member staff. They estimate the cost would range from \$120,000-\$200,000.

The department, they maintain, already has the proper equipment. It is not being fully utilized because firefighters aren't allowed to perform the same services as private carriers, they said.

Michigan cities eye Farmington's public safety

By MARY GNIEWEK

Several Michigan cities are looking at Farmington's public safety department this year as a model of a successfully combined police/fire service that saves tax dollars in the long run.

Proponents of the public safety concept, in which officers are cross trained in police and fire prevention work, say its savings are long term. Some of the greatest savings aren't dollars and cents as much as worker productivity.

"Instead of sitting in a fire barn, we put our men on the street. I think it accounts for our relatively low crime rate," said Lt. John Santomauro.

Farmington's 23 public safety officers might be called to extinguish a house fire or arrest a shoplifter depending on the turn of events in a given day. Three to five public safety cars patrol the city's three square miles around the clock.

"Seventy-five percent of our fires can be knocked out with a fire extinguisher by public safety officers who can respond quicker than a truck — and cheaper," Santomauro said.

For big fires, off-duty personnel are called back to work and other departments, like Farmington Hills, provide additional manpower.

"We find the frequency of call-back is rare," Santomauro said.

PUBLIC SAFETY has worked in Farmington since 1957 when the city disbanded its volunteer fire department and began cross training officers.

Because the force grew with the city, Farmington avoided labor disputes with unions representing separate police and fire interests — a pitfall many departments converting today must face, especially in labor-strong areas.

"Farmington provides good basic police and fire protection," Santomauro said.

For that reason, recently converted departments like Centerline and Grosse Pointe have used Farmington as a role model.

"We're in a cross training period now and we're extremely pleased," said Charles Beer, Centerline city manager. Labor contracts are being renegotiated with Centerline's 27 police and

fire officers. No layoffs are planned, but Beer sees a reduced work force in the city's future.

Centerline city officials were toying with the idea of public safety last March. A May visit to Farmington confirmed their decision to move full speed ahead.

"The concept is probably being studied by 20 departments nationwide at all times," said Bob Deadman, Farmington city manager.

"We always receive a lot of inquiries," Canton Township and Grand Traverse County are now studying the concept. Oak Park, Beverly Hills, Fraser, Escanaba and Huntington Woods are recent converts to public safety.

FARMINGTON HILLS isn't considering cross training its 61 police and eight fulltime firefighters to public safety officers.

"There's advantages and disadvantages to both," said John Nichols, chief of police.

"As fire equipment becomes more sophisticated and police work requires more training, it would be difficult to master both."

Acting Fire Chief Tom Johnson agrees. But Deadman doesn't buy that theory. He believes an officer can be trained in both fields.

"Size of the force doesn't make it lose its effectiveness, it simply requires more specialists with fulltime police or fire functions," he said.

He cited Durham, N.C., and Sunnyvale, Calif., perhaps the largest public safety forces in the country with more than 200 public safety officers on the streets.

Economies doesn't provide much incentive for Farmington Hills to change. Public safety accounts for 35 percent of Farmington's \$2.7 million operating budget and 35 percent of Farmington Hills \$12 million budget.

"It's very difficult to determine exact financial savings because we never had a fulltime fire department," Deadman said.

"Per capita cost is where we have savings. We have no duplication of rank structure, no duplication of records." Effectiveness of the two services increases," added Bob Seifert, Farmington public safety director.



A Scribbles salute

Scribbles the Clown, also known as Eddie Weber of Farmington Hills, drew scads of smiles as he skeddaddled down Farmington Road Saturday morning during the annual Founders Festival Parade. For more parade pictures, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Races wind up for primary

Farmington area voters will select Republicans in two local races and decide the fate of a millage renewal for Oakland County parks in Tuesday's primary election.

Polls will open at 7 a.m. and remain open until 8 p.m.

The election is being held for congressional, legislative and county officials that will be decided in November and to elect delegates to the county

Democratic convention.

Here's a look at some of the races.

• 17th District Congressional seat. William Broedhead, Democrat incumbent, unopposed.

Arve Bakken, Republican from Redford Township, Bakken, 55, is vice chairman of the Republican Party in Redford Township. He is employed as a supervisor in reliability control at Ford Motor Company in Livonia.

Raymond Cockran, Republican, 34, of Detroit. He's an accountant with a master's degree from Wayne State University and has experience in private industry and municipal government.

L. Patterson, Republican, 24, of Detroit. He's a graduate of the Florida Air Academy Military School, and business owner.

• 64TH District state House seat.

Karen Artinian, Democrat, unopposed.

Wilbur Brotherton, Republican incumbent, 57, of Farmington. State Representative, attended Northwestern University. He was Oakland County Commissioner for seven years, mayor and a Farmington councilman for 14 years.

(Continued on Page 2A)

Local Kennedy delegates want open convention

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

The move toward establishing an open Democratic national convention in New York has aroused the support of delegates and alternates from Oakland County who are pledged to Senator Edward Kennedy.

An open convention which would allow delegates to cast their votes for any candidate flushed out the guarded hopes of Kennedy supporters.

"I'm all for it," said Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills, an alternate to the convention.

Existing Democratic Party rules require that delegates vote for candidates they are pledged to support as a result of the primary vote.

Delegate Joanne Smith of Farmington Hills calls the move to saddle delegates to their original candidates a motion to "close the convention. That's (President's Jimmy) Carter's move."

"The Democratic convention has always been open. No one has had to take a loyalty test, a blood test or a skin graft," she said.

Ms. Smith, a whip on the convention floor, has been instructed by the Kennedy forces to work toward keeping the convention open.

"It always has been what the Democratic party has stood for. If things move swiftly, then the delegates can vote for whoever is the most viable candidate," she said.

AN OPEN convention wouldn't guarantee Kennedy's nomination, Vagnozzi said.

"The new wisdom would be to select another candidate. It doesn't necessarily follow that in an open convention Kennedy will get it."

"There's an outsize chance. He's the underdog. He's within striking distance,

but the nomination is Carter's to lose," Vagnozzi said.

If no other candidate were to come out of the convention, Vagnozzi says he could support U.S. Representative Morris Udall of Arizona, or Vice President Walter Mondale.

But Mondale's nomination is highly unlikely, Vagnozzi added.

"I think he's in the same position Hubert Humphrey was under (President Lyndon B.) Johnson. He has got to follow the policies of the administration. A vice president's job is to be loyal to the president."

Ms. Smith takes a cautiously optimistic stance.

"I live optimistically and with hope always. Anything is possible in a convention. Realistically, I'm not sure it would ever happen."

"If he can't make it, I know he would work to get the best candidate possible for the country," she said.

AN ALTERNATE committed to Kennedy, Susan Reznick of Southfield, has mixed feelings about the open convention issue and its ramifications for her candidate.

"If you run for someone, it means you're committed to that person," she said.

Events in the past few weeks work to improve Kennedy's chances, she said.

Persons were reluctant to support a candidate other than Carter because they were worried about the situation in Iran. As long as the situation was in the forefront of the news, persons were

more apt to stick with Carter, she suggested.

Kennedy's stance on the draft, Israel and women's rights attracted her support.

(Continued on Page 4A)

what's inside

Amusements . . . Section D
Classified Ads Sections E-F
Community Calendar . . . 3C
Inside Angles . . . 4A
Editorial Opinion . . . 14A
Sports . . . Section B
Suburban Life . . . Section C

When you have a used car to sell, you want to do so quickly and easily. Mrs. Robert Wilson did just that because she advertised in the classified section of her hometown newspaper. Her Ford LTD was gone by 9 a.m. the same day. Call us today with your ad.

644-1070



JOANNE SMITH



ALDO VAGNOZZI