

Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 63

Thursday, May 20, 1982

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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Week marked by surprise resignations

Business concern forces out Tupper

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Richard Tupper, a 10-year veteran on the Farmington City Council, resigned his post as councilman Monday night. Tupper said his business required him to spend the next several months away from Michigan.

"Due to the amount of time starting a division of my company requires, I am resigning effective May 31, 1982," Tupper said near the close of Monday night's council meeting.

He is the owner of Mirror Door Products of Jensen Beach, Fla., and Tupper Associates of Farmington Hills. He and his wife, Donna, plan to retain their residence in Farmington but will be spending much of their time in a condominium they own in Florida near the business Tupper started two years ago.

Mirror doors for closets are manufactured at the Florida facility. Tupper said he's shifted emphasis on the Florida operation because the business climate is so bad in Michigan.

"We sell products to the construction industry, and the construction industry is just about non-existent in Michigan,"

Tupper said, "but it's still going pretty strong in Florida."

The remaining four City Council members have 60 days from the date of Tupper's resignation to appoint someone to fill his term, which expires in November 1985. Tupper himself was appointed to the council almost 10 years ago to fill out the term of Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, who left the city post when he was elected to the county commission.

IN THREE ELECTIONS, Tupper, 49, was the top vote-getter, assuring four-year terms of office. Tupper comes from a local political family. His father, Bayard Tupper, 78, is still active in civic affairs as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Tax Board of Review. The elder Tupper was a member of the school board for 10 years and at one point in the late 1950s was chairman of the city planning commission and zoning board and president of the school board, his son said.

"I lived here in town practically all my life," Tupper said. "I knew people on the council and went to all the meet-



Richard Tupper

ings before I was appointed. I just became interested in things, and that led to the planning commission and later the City Commission."

Close friend and fellow councilman Ralph Yoder characterized Tupper's style on the City Council as one of "dogged determination" that stopped just short of stubbornness.

"He's very determined when he made up his mind on something," Yoder said. "He took a dogged approach. If that's the word. Sometimes he capitu-

Please turn to Page 4A

Hopefuls eye seat as Brodhead quits

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

At least two contenders have emerged in the scramble among 17th District Democrats for the seat of Congressman William M. Brodhead, D-Detroit, who announced his resignation Tuesday.

State Sen. Doug Ross, D-Southfield, and State Rep. John Bennett, D-Redford Township, have publicly expressed interest in the post.

With less than 12 weeks remaining until the primary, all are faced with the prospect of making a rapid decision.

"Frankly, I'm interested in running for Congress. But still the most important thing is to decide where I can have the most impact on events," Ross said.

"I'll take a look over the next couple of days and will have to decide by Monday. I have to think over the possibilities and consider where I can have the most economic impact," the 39-year-old former director of Common Cause said.

Bennett Wednesday expressed desire

to run but said he was holding off making a decision.

"I'm interested, but I'm not going to make a decision yet. I have to study the district, and I have 48 hours to make a decision."

State Rep. Joseph Forbes, the House floor majority leader, said Wednesday he decided against running for Brodhead's seat, although he has been approached by several people urging him to enter the race.

The Oak Park Democrat said that even though he thinks he could win, Michigan's economic concerns remain his first priority.

Brodhead, a fourth-term congressman whose district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford Township and northwest Detroit, said he has no fixed thoughts on who he would support as a successor.

"I'll have to wait and see who runs for the office. Sen. Ross as well as some others who have expressed interest so far would make an excellent replacement," he said.

The 40-year-old congressman, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Budget Com-



William M. Brodhead

mittee, said he "kind of surprised" himself with his decision.

"I just didn't want to make a decision that I guess I knew had to be made. I put it off to the last minute. Finally I came to the conclusion that the job was eating up my life."

"I wasn't giving enough to my wife and children. It wasn't fair to myself, my family or my constituents."

Ross said Brodhead's decision "totally surprised and shocked" him.

"None of us had any inkling. My reaction is one of sadness," Ross said.

Please turn to Page 4A

Money shortage means big potholes for drivers

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Farmington Hills' roads will be going to pot-holes due to lack of money during the 1982-3 budget year.

The proposed \$14,475,988 budget allocates \$854,071 for road maintenance and supervision — \$5,000 less than requested by the Department of Public Services and \$18,089 more than included in the current budget.

Presenting the biggest problem is the unavailability of county funds for

the maintenance of major county roads in the city. The Oakland County Road Commission, responsible for the upkeep of 12 Mile, Orchard Lake and Farmington roads, has eliminated resurfacing funds from its budget during 1985.

"Ordinarily, the county would cover almost all of the costs involved in resurfacing. But we'll be getting nothing from the county," said Assistant City Manager Bill Costick.

"There's been a change in the county's priority list which presents an is-

sue we'll have to face in the future. The county has done some patching, but that's breaking up. We're just like sitting on a bomb." Costick said.

Safety has become the county's primary concern, Costick added. Dangerous areas, particularly intersections with a high incidence of accidents, will be first to receive county funding.

Road construction projects identified by city officials include the widening of Orchard Lake Road from I-696 to Grand River; Farmington Road from I-

696 to 13 Mile; Gill Road between Nine Mile and Colfax; Inkster from 14 Mile to city limits; 12 Mile from Farmington Road to Middlebelt; and Drake from 11 Mile to I-696.

"Our No. 1 concern is to fill in the gaps on 12 Mile Road where it fluctuates between two and three lanes," Costick said. "Some gaps are more critical and affect traffic more than others, such as the area near Harrison High School."

"Our intent right now is to close the gaps and resurface the area between Farmington and Middlebelt."

Budgeted by the city for that project is \$40,000 — which hopefully will cover the cost, added Costick.

The widening of Orchard Lake Road looms as the largest potential expense for the city.

Cost per mile for widening comes to

about \$2 million per mile, according to Costick. The construction of a four-lane segment of Orchard Lake Road from I-696 to Grand River would total approximately \$5 million.

Under a federal aid program, 78 percent of the expense involved in county road improvements traditionally was supplied for the city. Lamentably for Farmington Hills, federal assistance for such projects is falling prey to the falling health of the nation's economy.

NO FUNDS are available for nearly \$30,000 worth of drainage and culvert improvements targeted for immediate attention by Walker Karolak, Farmington Hills' Department of Public Works superintendent.

Problem areas requiring flood-prevention measures include the Old Homestead and Dukes Forestbrook

Hills subdivisions; Shawassee east of Middlebelt; Nine Mile at Drake; Grayfield east of Middlebelt; Halstead south of 14 Mile; Glencrest at Newell Circle West, and the Colgate area — Arctur near Purdue and Hamilton.

A master storm drainage plan to be introduced by the city this summer will address flooding in subdivisions worsened by the numerous nearby creeks — many of which need cleaning.

Many other problem areas not addressed by the master plan exist on private or flood control property requiring further funding, Karolak said. Budgeted for the cleaning of drains is \$10,000 — \$5,000 less than requested by the DPW.

The contracting of equipment necessary to dredge out drains — an obligation inherited from the county when Farmington Hills became a city — costs the city \$70-\$80 hourly.



Homemade jewels

Frank and Kim Yanke discuss a new jewelry design in their Farmington Hills home and workshop. To read more about the handcrafted de-

signs they manufacture in their home, please turn to today's Suburban Life section.

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Less than 40 couples are expected to attend Saturday's \$100-per-plate benefit for the new Farmington Historical Museum, according to Wall Koning, co-chairman of the event.

The 1970 Governor's Ball will be held under a tent on the grounds of former Gov. Fred Warner's home on Grand River which houses the new museum which will be officially dedicated at noon Saturday.

Many persons active in the Farmington Historical Commission and historical-preservation efforts have criticized the price tag for the banquet and ball which will follow.

Of the five City Council members, only Farmington Mayor Alton Bennett has promised to attend. Nancy Leonard, secretary of the historical commission, has said "the price of the ticket is too high."

Margaret Walker, chairman of the historical commission, said the Farmington Lions Club is to be commended for planning the fund-raising activity but added that the controversy over the ball fee may cause some residents to stay away from many free activities this weekend.

The public may attend the museum dedication at noon Saturday, and enjoy a free calypso concert in Masonic Temple Park 7-5 p.m. Saturday. A host of free activities are planned on Sunday 1:30-

5:30 p.m. including music, a magic show, dedication of the gardens and a sing-along.

Performers will dress in period costumes and play music of the era at the ice cream social held on the museum grounds Sunday. A nominal fee will be charged for ice cream and ginger ale.

THE BALL and banquet, however, are open only to patrons who pay the tax-deductible \$100 donation. Koning said "over 70 will be seated" at the banquet, and additional donations have been made by persons who will not be attending.

"We've exceeded our break-even point at 30 (persons)," Koning said.

Please turn to Page 4A

Body found in Detroit

Police probe murder of Hills man

A 45-year-old Farmington Hills man was found slain in his car at 11:30 p.m. Saturday in northwest Detroit.

Arthur Bierschbach, a contractor for a northwest Detroit realty firm, died of multiple stab wounds to the chest and throat, according to Sgt. Ralph Woolfolk of the Detroit Police Department.

"He could have been robbed, because no wallet or identification was found on the body, but we're not necessarily suspecting robbery," said Woolfolk.

"We can't rule it out, but we have

reason to believe it may not have been robbery."

The body was discovered by a private security guard who was patrolling in an industrial area northeast of Fenell and Telegraph roads. Bierschbach's 1980 Corvette was found parked to the rear of a business at 15400 Dale.

Police have no suspects and have made no arrests.

It is estimated Bierschbach died between 11 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday. "There were no homes around where

he was found. His car was parked at the dead end of a side street in a light manufacturing area," Woolfolk added.

"We assume he either drove himself there, or someone drove him there and left."

He was dressed in casual clothing.

Bierschbach of 24803 Verdant Square, Farmington Hills, worked as a contractor, remodeling homes for Meyer-Hill Realty Co. in Detroit, which purchases, repairs and rents homes. His boss was unavailable for comment.

Police would release no other details, pending further investigation.

Bierschbach is survived by sons Arthur Jr., Dale, Donald and daughter Pamela.

A memorial service was held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Village United Presbyterian Church in Redford Township.

Arrangements for burial were being handled by the Wilkie Funeral Home in Detroit.

what's inside

- Club circuit 4B
- Community calendar . . . 3E
- Editorials 20A
- Exhibitions 11C
- Inside Angles 3A
- Obituaries 2A
- Recreation news 6A
- Sports Section C
- Suburban life 1B

D. Moss placed an ad in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers classified section to advertise his electrical services for basements and additions. "The response was extremely good. The ad was worth every penny!" He also decided to run a larger ad because of the response!

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