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'Vote again' — Kelly

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Because the legality of a secret ballot used by Farmington City Council members to appoint Bayard Tupper to the council has been challenged, councilmen will vote again in public next Tuesday, City Attorney Robert Kelly said Monday.

The public vote will nullify the previous vote which was done by having four council members write their choice of two candidates — Bayard Tupper or John Washburn — on a slip of paper.

Tupper is the father of Richard Tupper, the former councilman who resigned May 17 to devote more time to his mirror-door business in Florida.

Public officials can't use secret ballots to make a decision, according to a 1978 ruling by Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley. Kelley has ruled the process violates the state's Open Meetings Law because it "prevents citizens from knowing how members of a public body have voted."

Assistant Attorney General Paula Reeves told the Farmington Observer last week that the secret vote taken by council members Ralph Voder, William Hartel, William Mitchell and Mayor Alton Bennett was improper because it didn't disclose who they were voting for to members of the public.

City Attorney Kelly says he's not sure if the precedent the attorney general cited applies in this case but concedes that he will advise council members to vote again on the appointment by announcing their choice publicly.

"I DOUBT this is worth arguing over," Kelly said.

Pressed for details, the city attorney said he'd recommend another vote "to avoid any question" about the legality of the secret ballot.

"There's no problem doing it, so we might as well do it," Kelly said.

If council members refuse to vote publicly, said Reeves, of the attorney general's staff, citizens can sue the City Council in Circuit Court or even ask the county prosecutor to bring criminal charges against council members.

If council members vote unanimously in the public election for Bayard Tupper, Reeves said citizens could attempt to seek relief claiming the second election "was a sham election" designed to avoid public disclosure on the initial vote.

Please turn to Page 4A



A heavy thunderstorm flooded lanes on either side of Farmington Road Monday evening, causing hazardous driving for patrons of Farmer Jack's grocery store south of Grand River on Farmington Road.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Storm cuts power

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

A thunderstorm pelted Farmington and Farmington Hills with 1.5 inches of rain Monday evening, downing power and telephone lines and causing cars to stall.

Lightning struck but did not seriously injure a man who was visiting Richard Smithce of 2355 Watt during the storm. The man refused treatment and transportation to a hospital from Farmington Hills firefighters, who said his injuries were not serious. Both the fire department and Smithce refused to identify

Please turn to Page 4A

Dealers have mixed feelings

Metal law puts kibosh on criminals

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

The state's precious metals law, which went into effect less than 10 months ago, helped Farmington police track down and return two missing rings last month.

In addition, the reported theft of 14 sterling silver dinner forks was investigated by police who discovered the goods had been sold to a local coin dealer and broken down into scrap metal.

Because the goods were sold to the dealer at Farmington Assay Office by the son of the woman who reported them stolen, no charges were brought against the 19-year-old Farmington Hills man.

In fact, there were no arrests in any of the three above-mentioned incidents because in every case police found that the son of the person reporting the theft was involved either directly or indirectly in the sale by selling the goods themselves or by getting an older friend to redeem their parent's possessions for cash.

The three June cases are typical, says Lt. Frank Lauhoff, of the types of reported crimes police have been able to solve due to the provision in the precious metal law requiring buyers to provide police with detailed descriptions of all gold, silver and precious gems they buy.

Dealers in precious metals must buy only from adults and sellers must show picture identification and leave their signature. The items are held by dealers for seven days to allow police to

check to see if the goods have been reported stolen.

"IT HAS HELPED," says Lt. Lauhoff. "I've got to believe it's deterring a lot of people from coming in (to coin shops and jewelry stores) and providing information that may convict them. We don't see the people deterred by the fact they have to provide identification upon sale. But we look at the decline in residential break-ins and see it's having an effect."

Lauhoff and the dealers say another reason thefts of gold and silver are down is that the gold and silver standard has dropped drastically. In December of 1980 gold hit a peak price of \$800 and silver sold for \$54 an ounce. On Tuesday, gold was selling for \$305 an ounce and silver was hovering at about \$5 an ounce.

Dealers are required to weigh goods accurately but there are no restrictions on how much they must pay for items they buy.

In the June 14 sale of a 10-karat, yellow gold men's ring containing a 1/4-carat diamond, the seller was an 18-year-old woman, reportedly enlisted by a 14-year-old Farmington Hills youth to sell his father's ring to the Farmington Assay Office.

The ring was valued at \$300 by the family and the young woman was paid \$110 for it because buyer Tony Martini said the stone was cracked.

In the June 15 case involving the sale of a woman's pearl ring valued at \$150, the owner's 18-year-old son received \$15 from DuQuet Jewelers.

THROUGH THE description DuQuet provided police, the ring the woman reported stolen was traced to his jewelry store. The mother of the 19-year-old paid DuQuet \$15 back to claim the ring.

But the jeweler can foresee a problem in the future if he pays someone a larger sum, say \$1,000, for a ring that appears to be legitimate but turns out to be stolen.

"What if the guy arrested hasn't got two nickels to rub together and I've got \$200 or \$1,000 invested?" DuQuet asks.

"Say they stole the ring from you. You don't want to pay to get it back. The police don't want to pay me. We could have real trouble in the future over that aspect. We'll probably definitely have to go to court," said the jeweler.

While that loose end of the law bothers DuQuet, he is an ardent supporter of the legislation and even testified in its behalf prior to its passage.

"I feel a lot more comfortable now when someone comes in with something to sell that it's their jewelry," DuQuet says. "For a while, things got so bad I felt there were more coming in here with stolen goods than people selling their own jewelry. The system is working and I'm tickled to death."

Since the law went into effect, DuQuet estimates he's returned a dozen items to their rightful owners and figures the provisions of the law requiring sellers to produce picture I.D. and leave their fingerprints helped to solve three-fourths of the cases.

The key to returning stolen objects is the provision requiring dealers to de-

scribe items in reports turned in within 24 hours of purchase, he said.

"I DON'T MIND the extra effort because the excitement of being able to return stuff to its rightful owner is

worth it," DuQuet said. "I don't need to buy stolen stuff from creeps to make money. I'm making good money al-

Please turn to Page 4A



Allen R. DuQuet, owner of DuQuet Jewelers in Farmington, says a law requiring sellers of precious metals to be fingerprinted and show identification is curbing redemptions of stolen goods.

High-tech West German firm to locate in Hills

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The recent groundbreaking for the proposed Robert Bosch R&D Automotive Applications Center in Farmington Hills "represents in the most encouraging way faith in the economic future of Michigan."

So said Michigan Department of Commerce Director Norman Berman,

Gray Panthers seek to change U.S. society

By Betty Monson
special writer

"I was born a rabble-rouser," proclaimed Grace Warfield, 72-year-old vice chairman of the Gray Panthers National Steering Committee.

"In 1916, when I was 6 years old, my father told me that (being a female) I couldn't vote when I got older. That did it. I decided I'd help make a law about voting when I grew up."

"Age and Youth Together for a Change" was the theme of the Gray Panthers' Third Annual Mid-America Conference at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills last weekend. The conference was hosted by Southeast Michigan Convener Asho Craine and Metro-North Convener Lillian Rosinger. Side-

line groups currently operating in the corporation's Southfield office will move to the \$4.8-million Farmington Hills site.

"Farmington Hills was chosen because it is very close to our major customers," said Marc Robling, supervisor of applications engineering and gasoline fuel injection for Robert Bosch.

"As a community, Farmington Hills fits the Robert Bosch image. We're a high-technology corporation that's well suited to the area. Another factor that influenced our decision is the availability of technically disciplined people here."

At the outset, Robert Bosch will employ 30 specialized scientists and engineers from its existing facilities in Charleston, S.C., Chicago, (headquarters), Piscataway, N.J., Salt Lake City, Utah, Madison Heights and New Bern, N.C.

Provided the auto industry gets back into gear, Robert Bosch eventually will expand its operation and employ up to 200 persons at the Farmington Hills industrial park site.

The development represents Robert Bosch's commitment to furthering its penetration into the U.S. market, Robling said. Currently, the company's fuel-injection systems are used by heavy-equipment manufacturers John Deere and International Harvester as well as Volkswagen, Rolls Royce, BMW, and Datsun.

Please turn to Page 14A

INCLUDED IN THE 25,000-square-foot facility will be several dynamo-

rooms enabling engineers to test vehicles and engines under simulated driving conditions for reliability and performance.

Test results processed and printed by a computer will be available to customers, who may witness hands-on testing of automotive components including diesel and gasoline fuel systems, starters, alternators and other electrical equipment.

In addition to automotive equipment ranging from air-conditioning com-

ponents to fanfare horns and headlight-washing systems, the 96-year-old company manufactures household appliances, packaging material, electromedical equipment, television cameras and bathroom and kitchen fixtures.

It began producing power tools when its founder, German-born engineer Robert Bosch, "decided nobody made them good enough for him," said Robling.

"Bosch started in the business mak-

ing electrical parts with primary goals that exist in the corporation today," he added. "The product must be of extreme quality — essentially perfect."

Members of Farmington Hills' Economic Development Corporation are especially pleased about the corporation's decision.

"The land, building and equipment were funded through the EDC — a \$7-million bond was issued. So as far as

Please turn to Page 14A

what's inside

EARLY CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Due to the July 4th holiday, the Observer & Eclectic Newspapers will be closed Monday, July 5, 1982.

Our classified lines will be open Tuesday, July 6, from 8 - 5:30 p.m. to place your classified ad for Thursday, July 8.

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Marc Robling