

'Hasty' vote causes split in Chamber

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Opposition to participating in a federally funded program to use infrared photographs to measure heat loss in homes and businesses in Farmington and Farmington Hills has been voiced by Thomas Duke, real estate broker and member of the local chamber of commerce.

Duke convinced members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce board of directors to oppose the cities' participation in the program at a Thursday meeting. Just over half of the chamber directors attended that meeting.

The federally financed program was another example of the federal government using tax money to duplicate services already available from private businesses, Duke said.

CHAMBER PRESIDENT Margaret Halava and Charles Williams, chamber vice president and Farmington Hills councilman, said Thursday's vote was premature. Formal opposition to the program will be reconsidered at a meeting tomorrow morning, he said. Any chamber member may attend the meeting.

"It was a rather hasty decision made based on one person's emotional appeal," Williams said Friday afternoon.

After Thursday's vote, city managers from both cities met with business leaders to explain the program in greater detail. An application for the federal program already has been made by Farmington Hills. The Farmington City Council will consider joining the federal program tonight.

City administrators are worried that if the program appears controversial in Farmington and Farmington Hills, state officials will eliminate the two cities in competition for the grant.

THE PROGRAM would use infrared film to take heat photographs, called thermograms, of every house and business in the city. White spots appear on the photographs wherever heat is escaping.

"Obviously, they need business support for something like this," Halava said Friday.

Farmington council members will consider at today's 8 p.m. meeting whether they wish to submit an application for consideration by the Michigan Department of Commerce, which administers the program in the state.

The deadline for applying is July 31. The state agency has enough money to photograph 2,100 miles of roads, but many more communities are applying to participate than the budget allows.

If all homes and businesses in Farmington Hills are photographed, it would mean 270 miles, said William Costick, assistant city manager of Farmington Hills.

Such an undertaking in Farmington would mean photographing 80 miles of streets, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman.

"FROM WHAT I heard this morning I'd have to be for the program," said Williams, a frequent critic of federally funded programs.

Williams said he wants statistics on whether the thermogram program encourages people to seek energy assistance from groups like Detroit Edison or whether it duplicates efforts that already exist.

Deadman said that in Plymouth, where a pilot thermogram project was conducted, 46 percent of the community attended city-sponsored seminars where infrared photographs of their homes and businesses were displayed.

Further, said the Farmington city manager, 22 percent of the city's residents responded to an energy survey. Deadman called the response "a phenomenally high response, damn near unheard of."

Of the group responding to the survey, Deadman said, 82 percent stated they'd done something to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and 78 percent thought the program proved cost-effective.

"IT SHOULD stimulate the homeowner to go further to see what he can do to reduce heat loss," Deadman said. "Hopefully, it'll stimulate them to go to Detroit Edison, Consumer's Power or, if they're a businessman, to go to a private engineer to determine what's causing the heat loss."

No money will be granted to either city, Deadman said, because the money has already been granted to the Michigan Department of Commerce by the old Department of Energy, which was recently dismantled by President Ronald Reagan.

Since the money has already been allocated, said chamber vice president Williams "Somebody's going to get it," and he would like to see that somebody be Farmington Hills and Farmington.



Denise Jones

The big lick

With the temperatures in the mid 90s, it's natural that people try to cool off any way they can. Layne Zabner wants her mom, Cindee, to share in her own remedy to the heat — chocolate chip ice cream. It may be only a temporary fix, but it's a pleasant way to spend a hot summer afternoon.



Staff photos by RANDY BOST

Celebrated tradition Ice cream lovers revel in season

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

When the thermometer hits the 90-degree mark, ice cream is removed from the realm of luxury and becomes a refreshing necessity.

What better time to enjoy the creamy, cold treat than last week, which just happened to be National Ice Cream Week (July 11-17).

People were observing the occasion all over town without even knowing it.

Eating ice cream has been described as a sensual experience by some. Without going that far, many persons have fond memories and strong feelings about their favorite flavors of ice cream and the memories ice cream evokes.

Sharing a scoop of Haagen-Dazs chocolate, chocolate chip at Tally Hall Friday afternoon was Cindee Zabner of West Bloomfield and her daughter, Layne, who's almost 3.

Layne (the "s" pronounced) was busy picking out the chocolate chips with her index finger because she liked them best. Her mother chuckled and asked her to stop it, but Layne insisted on plucking "just one more."

Chocolate chocolate chip is the current favorite of both mother and daughter ("I don't know, I just like it," explained Layne). But her mother remarked even more fondly the time she ate a crepe in Carmel, Calif., with vanilla ice cream covered with hot butterscotch topping.

ZABNER FIGURES she can indulge in the extravagance of ice cream after bicycling an average of 40 miles per week. She calls herself an unabashed "ice cream freak" who went so far as to choose an apartment in Boston be-



Lori Theis



Frederick Troke



Debbie Jones

'I like dripping ice cream and getting it all over your fingers'
—Frederick Troke

cause it was close to three ice cream shops.

"I like dripping ice cream and getting it all over your fingers and everything," said Frederick L. Troke, 49, of Farmington Hills between slurps on a single scoop of vanilla chocolate chip.

Ice cream brings out the kid in everybody, Troke said, and he's no exception. His all-time favorite flavor is Rainbow ice cream, he said, because of the colors, but he often chooses chocolate and orange sherbet.

He confesses he has been known to dip the bottom of an ice cream

cone and slurp the contents through the hole.

Lori Theis, 23, of Birmingham said it may not be ice cream, but she's partial to strawberry soft-serve with toasted almonds on top served at Dairy Queen. At Haagen-Dazs in Tally Hall she's opted for a cup of chocolate chip because "it's too hard to eat with a cone; it usually ends up flipping off."

THE BEST scoop of ice cream Debbie Jones, 16, of Farmington Hills over ate "tasted like Oreos cookies." The flavor was called Cookies and Cream, she

said, and is available at Swensen's Ice Cream Parlor.

She and her sister Denise, 18, were at the Silver Dairy in Farmington eating a swirl of chocolate and vanilla topped with nuts in the largest cone available for 96 cents.

Sitting at the next table was Jim Evans, 22, of Farmington, who didn't want to talk about what he liked to eat but finally admitted he usually orders a strawberry malt because "you just drink it down."

That's the scoop on National Ice Cream Week.

Parking spat spurs council to crack down

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The rising number of complaints regarding the absence of handicapped parking spaces at Farmington Hills shopping centers has given rise to an ordinance introduced at last Monday's Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

While handicapped parking is required for all new construction, the ordinance would make it mandatory for existing shopping centers to provide parking for the disabled.

"Originally, the state's handicapped

parking law addressed all new construction. A couple of years ago, a new law passed enabling municipalities to adopt ordinances requiring shopping centers to provide in existence to establish handicapped parking. It was a void that wasn't filled," said Bill Costick, Farmington Hills assistant city manager.

The city did receive a letter some time ago from a state association of handicapped individuals requesting that we consider the adoption of an ordinance to effectuate that policy," he added.

COUNCILMEMBERS WILL vote on

whether to adopt the ordinance which is based on provisions of state law at tonight's meeting.

Cases regarding the abuse of handicapped parking spots have become commonplace at 47th District Court, according to Howard Aldrich, court officer for District Judge Michael Hand.

"A lot of tickets are written for handicapped parking. Many people think because they are temporarily handicapped with a headache, broken arm or sprained ankle, or because they're pregnant, they're allowed to use the handicapped spaces," he said.

Persons legally using handicapped parking spaces must receive certification from a doctor verifying a permanent handicap or disabling injury which entitles them to a sticker from the Secretary of State's office.

Dated stickers for temporary disabilities also are issued.

"In a lot of instances, we're told firsthand of people who will take their grandmother's sticker, and put it in the window of the car when nothing is wrong with them, and the handicapped person isn't even in the car.

"It happens more than we'd like to think. People who've been doing it think it's kind of a joke. It saves them from walking a long distance," Aldrich said.

In 47th District Court, such cases usually are dismissed and the \$25 fine dropped after a warning is given by the judge.

Aldrich says stricter enforcement is needed, and points to Southfield and Livonia as cities in which cases are rarely dismissed.

"The fine here is \$35 — we're not lenient on them at all," said 46th District Court deputy clerk Ann Savinimi regarding offenders in Southfield.

"The only way to have a case dismissed is to produce a valid handicapped sticker issued by the Secretary of State."

In Livonia, a \$20 fine is usually assessed, according to 16th District Court administrator Beatrice Matt.

"A lot of times it's a senior citizen that is handicapped and neglects to get a sticker or is in the process of getting one. If it's a valid reason, it's dismissed or the fine lowered.

"But the norm is the person off the street who claims they didn't know the law for parking in a handicapped area. They've fined the maximum \$20."

Beauty supply shop hit again

Howard's Beauty Supply store in downtown Farmington was broken into sometime Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning by a skinny burglar, police theorize.

The store showed no signs of forced entry, but police noted that a 35-inch wide-by-14-inch section of the front window broken earlier had been removed and then replaced intact. Police say the thief must have been young or thin to fit through the opening.

The July 13 or 14 break-in marks the third time the store has been robbed and the second instance in the past year. The two previous incidents were armed robberies which occurred while the store was open for business, according to store employee Lynn Ann Thompson, 20, of Farmington.

Thompson reported the break-in Wednesday morning when she and a co-worker, Terry Lynn Webber opened the store. They noticed items they'd placed

on the shelves were awry and the cash box was missing.

Stolen items included \$120 in 24-karat gold-plated chains, a professional hair sealer worth \$58. A total of \$95 in bills and change and a grey cash box valued at \$10.

"IT WAS PROBABLY during real late night or real early morning," Thompson said of the break-in "because the place they broke into is right in the front of the store facing Grand River."

Police said a safe inside the store was tampered with but not opened. Mail was moved inside the store but not taken or opened.

The crack in the plate glass window wasn't caused by the thief, according to employees who said it had been broken a long time.

The break-in was the second business broken into that night on Grand River in Farmington. The previous evening a

"polite" gunman held up Pennywise Discount Beauty Supplies in downtown

15-year-old raped in Hills subdivision

A 15-year-old Farmington High School student was abducted while riding her bike in Farmington Hills recently by two men driving a beat-up four-door dark blue Ford sedan.

She said the driver parked in a darkened subdivision and forced her into the back seat, where she was raped.

The girl was leaving Farmington City Park and riding along Shwassee

Farmington, just five doors down from Howard's Beauty Supply.

The car's passenger, a 6-2 white male, approximately 35, with a thick Fu Manchu mustache, black collar-length wavy hair and a thin to medium build, got out of the car and retrieved the girl's bike.

As he secured the bike to a rack on the rear of the car, the driver slid across the seat, grabbed the girl and pulled her in the car.

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