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Chamber switches heat vote

The Chamber of Commerce took a 180-degree turn this week and voted to support a federally funded program which it opposed last week.

In a 7-4 vote, the chamber board of directors endorsed the program, which would test for heat loss in homes, businesses and municipal buildings in the sister cities.

Last week, the chamber board had voted against the program after a plea from trustee Tom Duke that the service would be a duplication of effort and a waste of taxpayer money.

Duke said utility companies already conduct energy audits for homeowners who request it.

The turnaround came after city officials and chamber members absent from last week's session protested.

Chamber endorsement was essential before government approval would be given, according to city officials from both Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Deadline for applying for the program is Friday.

The state has enough federal money to photograph 2,100 miles of road, so many applicants will be denied. In combination, Farmington and Farmington Hills have 350 miles of street.

Under the program, infrared film would be used to take heat photographs, called thermograms, of every house and business in the city. White spots appear on the photographs where heat is escaping.

"IF WE HAVE no commitment from the business community, we have no chance to get the program," Farmington City Manager Bob Deadman told chamber trustees Tuesday morning.

"They'll say, 'Why go into a community with controversy?'" he said.

Deadman was backed up in his assessment for the need of the program by Farmington Hills City Manager Larry Savage.

"Down the line we are going to have problems," he said, referring to the need for energy conservation throughout the nation.

"We can make a tremendous difference by lowering our needs and conserving," he said.

But Duke stuck to his guns, despite statements from other trustees they had changed their minds and were ready to endorse the program.

"We can't start complaining about taxes until we start complaining about programs," he told chamber trustees Tuesday.

"The directors acted wisely (last week)," he said, noting that cost figures on the program never were given.

"We were expected to vote approval for this program without cost figures. We still haven't been given any cost figures. As a director, I just can't vote for it," he said.

WHILE DUKE estimated it would cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to photograph Farmington and Farmington Hills, city officials said it was difficult to estimate how much it would cost because it was a service being provided rather than a money grant to perform the service.

The program has been tested in several communities in the state, including Plymouth, where it received a favorable response from the residents, Deadman said.

Approximately 85 percent of those responding to a survey in Plymouth who had used the service said it was worthwhile, he said.

After the photographs are taken and analyzed, residents who have heat-loss programs are urged to contact their utility company to determine what's causing the loss and what should be done about it.

Presently, both Consumers Power and Edison have energy audit programs. Under those programs a utility employee comes to a home, examines it and advises on what can be done to cut down on heating bills.

Neither utility uses the thermogram method.

City officials have argued that some municipalities are going to get the money since it has been allocated, and Farmington and Farmington Hills might as well be two of those communities.

But Duke disagreed.

"WE LIVE IN THE second most affluent county in the state. If the state can do only 2,000 miles, I really wonder if our community is the most needy on the list," he said.



A summer treat

Joey Pongracz, 6, knows where it's at when it comes to taking a break during the summer. He

heads for the ice cream parlor. Helping out the Troy resident at Tally Hall is Mike Gaskill.

RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Model spreads the word on looks and health care

By Steve Barnaby editor

She's soft-spoken, graceful and the perfect image of what most persons envision a professional model to look like.

But when it comes to health and weight control, Delaney Provencher talks with an intensity equaling the most militant evangelist.

"Being overweight is pure laziness," she says, while relaxing with a hot cup of water with lemon after finishing her early-morning radio talk show at WCAR in Garden City.

"Foods are so processed that we aren't satisfied after eating them. People are actually too lazy to chew."

Originally from Ohio, Provencher came to Michigan five years ago after retiring from modeling to "raise children."

But a strong belief in her cause has put the Farmington Hills resident on the health circuit in metropolitan Detroit. Traveling from one health shop to another, from shopping center to mall, she spreads the gospel of keeping fit. "I came from an obese family," she says candidly. "It always was a real fear of mine. I never wanted to be like that.

And so far, she has managed to remain fit. But she admits that over the years, her motive has changed.

"I used to diet just to keep off the calories. But now I do it for my body, both inside and out," she says.

JUST BECAUSE many persons in your family are overweight doesn't mean that you have to be the same way, she says.

"You don't have to be fat if you care," she says, noting that more men and women are becoming aware of how they look but still aren't sticking with a healthy way of life.

She pictures herself as somewhat of a local Richard Simmons, popular TV exercise artist, out to make sure that everyone who gets a chance to become healthy, both inside and out.

Her radio program is an integral part of the plan. Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. she goes on the air to interview a



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Delaney Provencher talks about health and weight control with a smile during her radio call-in talk show.

person with expertise in the health field, whether it be food, makeup, exercise or clothing.

Provencher wants to talk with persons in many areas to stress the point of beauty being more than skin deep.

A dogeared copy of the Vitamin Bible rests on the desk in front of her. Her guest this particular morning was Betty Mathadi, of Betty's Grocery in Birmingham. They talked excitedly about rice cakes, krolie garlic vitamins.

Part of the show is devoted to interested listeners calling in and asking questions. A portion of the program is provided for listeners to run to the scales and weigh in for the week.

Air time completed, she dashes from the studio, ready to spread the word.

TO KEEP FIT and on the go, Pro-

vencher varies her exercise routine — one day working out with weights and the next doing floor exercises.

"People have to vary their exercises or they become bored and quit."

Attitude counts more than just about anything else she says.

"Some people complain about being overweight and then they talk about where they're going to eat," she says.

Peer pressure and competitiveness also are key factors when fighting a weight problem.

"You must really want to quit eating. Attitudes change when you lose weight. You gain more confidence," she says, after losing weight, many persons change their hair styles, makeup and accessories.

"You've got to do more than just want to look good. You've got to work for it."

Howard Thayer, civic leader, is dead at 67

By M.B. Dillon Ward staff writer

Farmington's Howard Thayer, who died of a heart attack Saturday at 67, believed in planning ahead and putting others first. His funeral, attended by hundreds of relatives and friends Tuesday, reflected that.

Director of the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington for 46 years, Thayer made it easy on his family by making his own funeral arrangements. He made it easy on the people of Farmington by requesting that the ceremony end at the funeral home.

He didn't want his funeral procession to tie up traffic en route to Oakwood Cemetery.

A graduate of Farmington High School, Thayer received his state embalmer's license at 21 without the benefit of formal embalming training. Through high school he assisted at Heene Funeral Home and later at Detroit Funeral Home and the Farmers Funeral Home in Pontiac.

Thayer served on the Farmington City Council 1959-69 and as mayor pro tem 1968-69. While in office Thayer was instrumental in reducing taxes, obtaining water from the city of Detroit, paving streets and sidewalks, and constructing City Hall and the Public Works Building.

He served on the Farmington District Library Board, the Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals and as president of the Farmington Exchange Club.

Descended from a family which settled in the area in 1825 when Farmington was known as Quaker Town, Thayer belonged to the Huron River Hunt and Fish Club of Farmington, Farmington Lodge F & AM No. 151, the Farmington Elks Lodge No. 1986 and the Lago Mar Beach Club in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

THAYER'S DEATH leaves his stepson and partner, Robert Rock, 29, on his own as the new president of the Thayer-Rock Corp. It is a transfer of many ways Thayer helped people, said he'll miss having Howard around to answer questions.

"I got the job (at the funeral home) through Howard's son, John, who married my stepdaughter," Rock said.

"I was having problems at home, and we got to be very close friends. He took care of me as a son, and I felt the same way about him. I was never legally adopted because I was too old."

Thayer encouraged Rock when he showed interest in the business, put him through college and took his protegee on as a partner in 1977.

"I took care of me, and since his retirement five years ago, I've taken



Howard Thayer was proud of the business which he built in the center of Farmington.

care of him. I just wish I could have repaid his favors longer than I did," said Rock, who plans to continue running Thayer-Rock as a family business.

"Over the years he told me many things I can reflect back on now. He taught me that setting goals and working hard to meet them helps you to reach higher pedestals in life."

District Judge Michael Hand remembers Thayer as "a man of principle who stuck to his views."

"We didn't always agree, but you can disagree without being disagreeable. He had a wry sense of humor," said Hand.

"It was always a pleasure to run into Howard. He was one fine man, and his death is a great loss to the community."

Rock, who is planning a memorial for the funeral home to illustrate the many ways Thayer helped people, said he'll miss having Howard around to answer questions.

"He always said, 'Don't be so proud that you can't ask questions,' Rock said. 'It's better to say you don't know for sure than to give someone the wrong answer.'"

Among Thayer's other survivors are his wife, Joyce; son John; stepdaughter, Nancy Douglas; grandchildren, John and James Thayer and Melanie Rock.

Memorials can be made to the Farmington Community Library, C/O Howard W. Thayer Memorial Fund, 23550 Liberty Street, Farmington 48024.

Undercover officer suspended by Hills

Police officer David Loe has been suspended with pay from the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The suspension, effective July 8, will continue throughout an investigation being conducted by Farmington Hills Sgt. John Kohls.

Kohls and Richard Thompson, assistant Grand County prosecutor who is overseeing the investigation, declined

comment pending the outcome of the case.

This marks the second suspension in the Farmington Hills Police Department in eight months. Sgt. Ray Cranston was placed on an eight-week paid suspension during investigation of a criminal sexual conduct charge filed by one of the department's female dispatchers. Cranston is back to work; no warrant has been issued in that case.

what's inside

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