

# Farmington Observer

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## Pair's dream turned sour by police

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

When Ted Kopp of Novi grew tired of making a living in electronics in 1975, buying a 7-Eleven grocery store franchise looked like an appealing business proposition.

By 1977 he and his wife June had taken over the store at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, and had eagerly begun trying to make a success of their venture.

Now, their dream of owning their own business has turned into a nightmare and only the lack of an alternative source of income is holding them back from selling the franchise.

The Koppa contend that Farmington Hills police have unfairly pressured them throughout their tenure at the store, a popular gathering spot for teenagers.

Police deny these allegations, saying the department treats the Koppa's business the same as all others in the city.

"We had to beg, borrow and steal from our relatives to get the store, and ever since we opened we've been living in fear of the Farmington Hills police," said Mrs. Kopp.

"The police sit out there (in nearby parking lots) with binoculars watching us as if we're ruining the community."

"I guess we're just naive people trying to make a living. We have four teen-age sons and are upstanding Novi citizens," she added.

The Koppa enumerated several clashes with police, ranging from delayed or ignored requests for help in the issuing of contested liquor violations.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

June and Ted Kopp blame problems with the police for their decision to sell their 7-Eleven store.

## City attacks sewer crisis

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

Some Farmington residents plagued with frequent basement flooding will pay from \$600 to \$2,000 over the next 20 years to solve their problem.

A plan to alleviate the flooding in the south end of what's called Farmington's Old Town received unanimous city council approval Monday evening.

At a public hearing attended by more than 200 residents in the Farmington High School auditorium, the council voted to build a new storm drain designed to handle rainwater runoff from a 100-acre section of the city.

BUT MANY residents were displeased with the plan, noting that close to half of the homeowners who pay for the drain project will be unable to use it — yet.

Although the pipes to be installed will be of sufficient size to handle the entire district, only houses in the lowest section will be connected to a new separated storm sewer.

That decision was made to reduce construction costs from \$1.4 million to \$875,000.

TWO DISTRICTS have been created:

(A) Properties from which storm water would flow into the newly-constructed sewer system.

(B) Properties whose storm water would not at this time flow into the new sewer system.

This district (B) would only pay for the increased pipe also necessary to service their property in the future.

City Manager Robert Deadman told residents during the public hearing.

District B residents will be assessed at 30 percent for a system they could hook into in the future. They will pay an average \$600 spread over 20 years.

The cost would be \$5.00 a month or an additional \$59.80 a year in city tax.

DISTRICT A residents, on the other hand, will pay an average \$1,960 spread over 20 years. Monthly payments for these residents would be \$19.17 at 10-percent interest. It will add an average \$230.04 annually to the city tax bill.

Assessment is based on lot size. Deadman said. While lot sizes vary from 5,000 square feet to 25,000 square feet, the average lot is 12,000 square feet.

District A residents will pay 16.5 cents per square foot. Commercial property owners will be charged double, 33 cents per square foot.

This district takes in about half of the 100-acre district including homes on Alta Loma, Liberty, Wilmarth, Macomb, most of Cass and much of Oakland.

THE REMAINDER includes busi-

ness property north of Orchard, along Grand River and most of the property south of Shilwassee, but north of Oakland.

District B property owners are being assessed at 30 percent of grounds they are contributing to the flooding of their neighbors to the south. These residents also will be able to hook into the system in the future.

While slightly more than half of the project's cost will be financed by general obligation bonds, smaller sewers feeding into the main line will be financed by special assessments.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS account for 44.1 percent of the project's cost. A 42-inch relief sewer interceptor, costing

\$455,500, will be financed through bonds. The interceptor will stretch 3,235 feet costing \$70 per square foot or \$228,450, paid by the city at large.

Seven other pipe sizes, ranging from 12 to 36 inches, will be paid by special assessment as well as 23 manholes, which cost \$1,000 each, said David Marriner, the city's consulting engineer.

Sewer pipe and manholes will cost an estimated \$438,700, while the cost of replacing 10,450 square yards of roadway will run \$261,250.

Added to that is the 25 percent fee for engineering, administration and "contingencies" which comes to an estimated \$175,000 for a total project cost of \$875,000.

## Residents split over the remedies

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

The sewer lines were drawn.

For more than two hours, 200 Farmington residents facing an increased assessment bled in the auditorium of Farmington High School.

At issue is how city residents should

pay for a new storm drain that would ease the burden on an existing storm drain/sanitary sewer.

Persons whose basements flood frequently said the relief was long overdue. For the most part, they thought

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CRAG PIECHURA/staff photographer

Bill Corliss, a resident of Alta Loma No. 4 subdivision, aired his complaints during the meeting.

## Hills man named AAA executive chief

Farmington Hills resident William M. Skillman, current board member and a past president of the Automobile Club of Michigan, was elected to head the nearly 23 million-member American Automobile Association Oct. 14 at its 80th annual meeting in New Orleans.

As president of the world's largest motorist organization, Skillman will govern national and international affairs of 175 AAA clubs in the U.S. and Canada, which sent 1,000 delegates to the three-day meeting.

Skillman, senior partner in the public accounting firm of Skillman, Zietlich

and Co. of Troy, has been a director of the Automobile Club of Michigan since 1967. He served as president in 1975-77.

He is the fourth Auto Club director to become national AAA head. The others were the late Ralph Thomas Sr., owner of Speaker-Hines and Thomas Inc., in

1952; the late Charles L. Wilson, founder of Wilson Dairy Co., in 1956, and William B. Bachman, retired executive vice president at D'Arcy-MacManus and Masius Inc., in 1970.

Skillman is active in many community organizations, serves as a vice presi-

dent of the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Detroit and the William R. Angell Foundation, which manages North Manitowish Island in Lake Michigan, and is a director of the Detroit Zoological Society. He is a trustee of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and is director emeritus of Brighton Hospital. He also is a director of the First State Bank of Charlevoix.

A native Detroit, Skillman attended the University of Michigan and was graduated from Wayne State University in 1945.



William M. Skillman

### oral quarrel

## Can local initiative help nuclear freeze?

In recent months seminars are popping up around the suburban area protesting the building of nuclear weapons in both the United States and the USSR.

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU THINK MICHIGAN RESIDENTS DEMANDING A NUCLEAR FREEZE WILL HAVE ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE ON THE BALLOT QUESTION?

To answer this question call us at 477-5486. You have until 1 p.m. on Friday to call Oral Quarrel. Look in Monday's Farmington Observer to see how your neighbors think about this issue.

Today's Oral Quarrel Question is:

## Stabbing victim improves; 1 held

A tow-truck driver stabbed twice in the abdomen during a robbery Friday evening in Farmington Hills was listed in stable condition Tuesday night at Botaford Hospital.

Less than 14 hours after the tow-truck driver, Malcolm Hawkins, 30, of Detroit was stabbed, police in Rochelle, Ill. arrested David Lee Tigenmeyer, 23, of Novi as a suspect in the crime.

On Tuesday prosecutors issued a two-count warrant charging Tigenmeyer with armed robbery and assault with intent to commit murder. Both crimes are felonies which carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment upon conviction.

Sgt. Albert Havner of the Farmington Hills Police said the stabbing victim is an employee of a Standard gas station at 10 Mile and Middlebelt who responded to a call for road aid placed

by a customer at Greene's Hamburgers in Farmington.

At the restaurant, the caller told Hawkins his car had broken down near 13 Mile and Halsted.

The two men got in the tow truck and drove to the area, Havner said. The passenger told Hawkins to turn down Schroeder St. As they drove down the side road the driver was ordered to stop and informed he was being robbed.

AFTER HANDING OVER approximately \$70 in cash from his wallet, Hawkins was stabbed twice with a knife in the abdomen, Havner said. The assailant then ordered Hawkins to drive him to the public library on 12 Mile where he pushed Hawkins out of the truck and drove away.

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### "VERY GOOD RESPONSE"

"Had advertised in another paper for 7 days, only had a couple of calls. Begun having calls early Monday morning and the first call bought. I am still having calls." J. Heleman was very pleased at the response he received on his Observer & Economic classified ad to sell his lawn tractor. Remember...

One call does it all



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