

Merchants wait for truck strike impact

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"It depends on how the media play it up and create a rush on the stores, if they're going to play it up like there's a shortage," he said. "Having been in business 55 years we have made some provisions."

A possible alternative to the trucking system would be to ship the supplies by rail, which is slower, Gregory said. "The major impact of the strike is on produce, which is virtually shipped all by trucks," he said.

Truckers have been taking "added

precautions" that have been delaying shipments, such as driving during the daytime and taking different routes, Gregory said.

"Smaller markets couldn't see any alternatives for them if the strike continued."

"You sell what you got and that's it,"

Stocker said. "I imagine the government will step in before people have to go without."

"You do what you can," said Donald Hillier, manager of the Orchard-10 IGA in Farmington. "It will affect everybody, but we'll survive."

Hills garbage causes heap big problem

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Williams' own survey revealed that other cities "are providing some limited type of garbage pickup for apartments and businesses."

"The city of Farmington picks up from all its apartments and picks up a

limit of six bags a week from businesses. Personally, I like what Southfield is doing. Refuse collection is not included in their general fund expenses, but they have it as a special assessment. That way those who receive it pay for it," he said.

Gold has tried to convince Farmington

ten Hills officials to use a system similar to Troy's.

"Somerset Apartments in Troy get a rebate on a portion of the property tax they pay. I talked to the owner, so I know that what we're proposing is not a novel idea," Gold said.

"We approached the city several years ago (asking for the same arrangement) and they said no. Basically, that's why we filed a lawsuit."

FOR INDEPENDENCE GREEN and Estates, complying with city policy means piling up 1200 bags of rubbish along Halsted each Monday.

"Lots of people take pictures of it. The pile is probably about 150 long, 10

feet wide and five feet high," said an Independence Green maintenance employee.

Moving trash the half-mile from the apartments' 1,120 units to the curbside is an eight-hour job requiring 10 maintenance workers two vehicles and two trailers at a weekly labor cost of \$400, he added.

Gold is among those who've photographed "garbage row."

"It's a real mess. They keep a big pile of cellophane over it to prevent rubbish from flying around — it's a health hazard."

"For us it's just not a viable alternative," he said.

Channel 56 names area go-getter

Ellen Hechler of Southfield has been named go-getting chairwoman in the Farmington, Farmington Hills area for the 15th annual Channel 56 auction, airing April 8-10.

"We need over 8,000 items to insure a successful auction," Hechler said, "and I'll be in charge of a group of volunteers who will seek donations from area merchants."

"Right now, we're looking for more volunteers from our area to canvass neighborhood businesses for auction items. Go-getters learn valuable business and communications skills and make business contacts through this volunteer work."

"Merchandise donated to the auction should be brand new and valued at \$50 or more. Almost any type of item can be donated, including appliances, sports equipment, artwork, toys, jewelry, furniture, and more." To donate or volunteer, call auction central at 873-7200.

Hechler has been a Channel 56 volunteer for seven years. She teaches in Detroit and enjoys racquetball, ceramics and travelling.



Ellen Hechler

Caddy wins scholarship

A senior from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Farmington Hills, is one of 32 Michigan caddies (seven of them women) to win a Chick Evans College Scholarship.

Sandra Lawrence, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Lawrence, 260 Escondido, Pontiac, who has caddied at Forest Lake Country Club for four years, has elected to attend the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on her grant.

An Evans grant covers full tuition and housing in the Evans Chapter House either at the University of Michigan or Michigan State University, East Lansing. If renewed for four years, the total grant would be worth \$7,000.

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It's Tax Time

by Charles H. Williams, C.P.A.

CHOOSING AN ACCOUNTANT

Who'll prepare your tax return this year? It's time to start choosing a professional, and to undertake the planning that may help you shelter some of your income from taxes.

If your income is fairly straightforward and deductible expenses minimal, you might satisfactorily use a short-form return and do it yourself or with the help of a tax preparer. But with more income, and more deductions, as the return becomes more complicated, you're going to want a tax professional.

Why? Because it's worth the difference to put your tax return in the hands of someone with the knowledge to find every likely loophole, and the experience to know which are acceptable. And as you reach the higher brackets, you'll get the advice you need on sheltering some income from taxes.

Some free help is available from the IRS. Revenue employees will answer your questions (but the tax court has challenged some of their answers) and prepare the simplest returns. There are also independent and chain tax preparers who pop up at tax season. Their work, however, may not be experienced enough to catch all legal deductions.

A certified public accountant can handle most complex returns and are familiar with shelters and investing. His or her tax know-how can save you more than the fee. How do you choose a professional? Recommendations from satisfied clients are one way, and are referrals from lawyers. Once a relationship is entered, the client will find his accountant helpful in making financial decisions all year round.

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