

# Farmington Observer

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## Future plans for the Hills are studied

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A Farmington Hills citizens committee formed to promote a charter amendment to provide financing for capital improvements may remain in business despite the proposal's recent failure at the polls.

"We aren't giving up at all," said Harold Larson, committee chairman.

Instead, committee members are scheduled to meet this week. Members will decide whether to terminate the committee or continue to try to get support for the city's needed capital improvements, Larson said.

The "Say Yes to Farmington Hills" committee was formed in early October to actively promote and support the passage of a proposal that would have given the city authority to levy up to an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years for capital improvements.

Council last week commended the committee on its efforts by adopting a resolution of appreciation.

Despite the committee's enthusiasm with its task and belief in the charter amendment, voters turned down the proposal by an almost 2-1 margin.

But committee leaders were not surprised by the outcome.

Aldo Vagnozzi, committee vice chairman, said he was "not especially" surprised that the proposal was voted on by voters.

"I THOUGHT it would be difficult to pass," he said. "The issue was certainly overshadowed by the presidential and all the other offices on the ballot, plus Proposal C."

"Many people probably didn't know it was on the ballot," Vagnozzi contin-

ued. "Most people won't support an issue like that unless they thoroughly know about it."

Echoing Vagnozzi's sentiments, Larson said he was "not terribly surprised" with the proposal's defeat.

In the last days of the campaign, Larson said, it was clear the charter amendment was fighting to stay alive in a "no tax atmosphere" prevalent throughout the country.

With the defeat of Proposal C — the Voter's Choice Amendment — it was clear voters were not willing to make such immense cutbacks but nonetheless were not prepared to give their blessings to a tax increase, Larson said.

What Larson felt was interesting was that while "a millage issue has no personality," more voters voted on the charter amendment than they did for the city council candidates.

Approximately 27,000 votes were cast for the charter amendment. In the city council race, voters cast about 22,000 votes.

With only about a month to work with before election day, committee members still managed to acquire approximately \$6,000 in donations to help send a brochure to every household in Farmington Hills, Larson said.

"FRANKLY WE didn't have a lot of time," Vagnozzi said.

But then council did not put the issue on the ballot until late September, early October, Vagnozzi said. Putting the issue on the primary ballot in August would have helped city leaders determine the popularity of the proposal. Then if it was defeated in the primary, the city could have made another try at

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## Renters debate strike options

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Although still considering a rent strike against Beznos-Beztak Co. in protest of frequent rent hikes, Muirwood Tenants Association officials say it won't come before Dec. 1.

"Not only have we not ruled that out, but it's becoming more and more of a possibility," said Rob Falls, the tenants' association chairman.

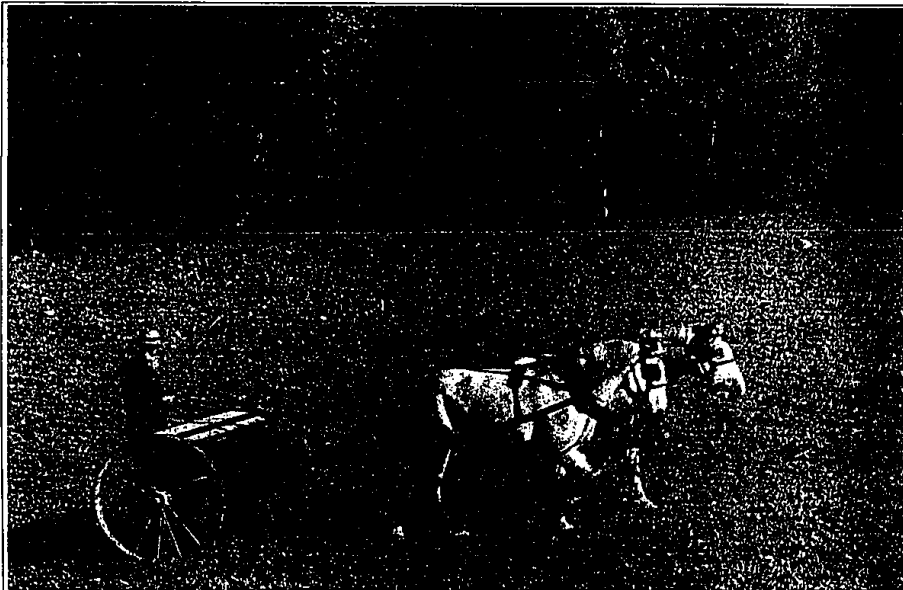
The chances of a rent strike were

discussed by residents of the Beznos-Beztak apartments at a general meeting about a week ago. A decision was never reached as residents made it clear they wanted to know the full consequences of such action.

"Something like that takes a lot of planning," Falls said. "We want to make sure that everything is done as well as possible."

Most residents in the Beznos-Beztak

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A fall day in Amish country of Ohio found this farmer out working in his field and our 1984 color photo contest winner Emily Patz caught this fading bit of Americana.

## Winners

### Photo buffs find action in solitude



Emily Patz

A penchant for trips to the Amish country in Ohio has reaped a fall harvest of sorts for Birmingham's Emily Patz.

After only four years behind a camera, Patz came out tops among more than 150 entries in this year's Observer & Eccentric color photography contest.

Her efforts have won her a weekend at the Livonia Holiday Inn, \$100 in cash and \$25 in Holiday money.

Other top finishers in the competition were Gail Yuraszek of Farmington Hills, who placed second. Third spot was taken by James Higgins of Grass Lake, Mich. Higgins was visiting the Westland area when he saw the color-photo-contest entry blank in the newspaper.

The second-place finisher will be awarded \$50 in cash and the third-place winner will be awarded \$25.

THE SECOND- and third-place photographs can be seen on the back of this section.

Judging for this year's competition was done by Observer & Eccentric staff members Randy Borek, staff photographer; Gary Cates, reporter; Marie McGee, Wayne County suburban life editor; Mindy Saunders, staff photographer; and Steve Barnaby, community editor.

Patz enjoys travelling with her friends from the Motor City Camera Club and the Detroit Camera Club Council to the Amish country in Ohio to take photographs of this vanishing culture.

"This is the third time I've been to Ohio in the fall with friends. I'm very hesitant to take pictures of them (the Amish). So I stood at the road to take this one," she said.

The Amish are reluctant to have their pictures taken, she said, but they ignore photographers if they stay far enough away and don't interfere with their farming.

The winning photo was taken near Millersburg, Ohio. Patz used a Nikon

F2A with a 200mm lens, ASA 64 film, at 1/8 second exposure.

"I DID use a red enhancing filter to bring out the colors," said Patz, who said the photo was taken on an overcast October day.

The judges particularly liked the mood created by Patz's winning photograph.

"It was obviously spontaneous," said Barnaby. "You just don't go around setting up shots of the Amish at work. It also was a clever interpretation of the competition's theme, 'Autumn Action.'"

Patz says she always wanted to be involved in photography and the hobby mixes well with her desire to be outside.

Although she enjoys photography, she has other interests of an artistic nature — one of which is oil painting. She has taken lessons in that medium, but says she's "not doing any great things."

## School finance chief bids district a fond farewell



Farmington Schools assistant superintendent Bill Prisk, who is just "ready to make a change." He'll retire in June, leaving him free to pursue his

many other interests including hockey and model trains.

By Tom Beer  
staff writer

At age 64, Bill Prisk of the Farmington schools figures it's about time to call it a career.

He's announced his retirement after 17 years as the district's assistant superintendent in charge of finances and services.

And that should leave more time for the really important things in life — like playing hockey.

The many-faceted Prisk — defenseman on two overager hockey teams, collector of model trains and railroad lore, pollster of stones and respected financial expert for the public schools — was an agenda item at the board of education meeting on Nov. 20, when his intention to retire was revealed.

Prisk's retirement becomes effective next June, but his job will be posted immediately "so we can begin screening applicants for this very important position," said Superintendent Lewis Schulman during the meeting.

Schulman accepted the resignation "with regret and sadness." Trustee Emma Makinen added, "I would like to thank Mr. Prisk for the detailed information he's provided us over the years."

Prisk himself seemed to have little

to say about his upcoming retirement.

"I'm not anxious to leave," he said in an interview last week. "I just think I'm ready to make a change."

"I haven't dwelt on what you're talking about (retirement), frankly. It's something that happens to most of us in

our lives, and my turn has come."

AS FINANCIAL director, Prisk held a key post in the administration during what he remembered as "hard times"

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