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Top Detroit cop named new Hills chief

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For the second time in less than a decade, a Detroit police official has been named police chief of Farmington Hills.

Detroit Police Commander William Dwyer, head of Detroit Police Chief William Hart's staff, is the new Farmington Hills police chief.

"I feel confident he would make an excellent police chief for the city of Farmington Hills," said City Manager William Costick, who appointed the 23-year Detroit police veteran.

In a 6-0 vote Monday, council confirmed Dwyer's appointment, effective Feb. 11. The chief's annual salary will be \$43,800.

Dwyer replaces former chief John

Nichols, also a veteran Detroit police official. Nichols was elected to succeed Johannes Spreen, another former Detroit police commissioner, as Oakland County sheriff.

"It is with great pleasure that I accept my appointment as chief of police of Farmington Hills. This is a prestigious community known for the professionalism of its police force," said Dwyer, adding he considers it an honor to replace Nichols.

Dwyer worked his way up through the ranks of the Detroit Police Department to head Chief Hart's staff, a position he has held for the last four years.

HE BEGAN his career in 1962 as an officer and was later promoted through the years to sergeant, lieutenant, inspector and commanding officer of the

department's narcotics division from 1975-81.

Throughout his career in Detroit, Dwyer has had the reputation of being a workaholic — a characteristic he plans to maintain in his new job.

"I had a very outstanding career in Detroit," said Dwyer, who with his wife and two children plans to move to Farmington Hills in the spring.

At 44, Dwyer is two years away from early retirement with the Detroit force. His new job in Farmington Hills is a second career, rather than a retirement position, Dwyer said.

"I'm eligible for retirement very soon. I had already anticipated going on to a second career. I'm not coming out here to retire — that's important."

Dwyer's work in the narcotics section and on the chief's staff piqued his

interest in administration, he said.

"In the last several years I have wanted to be a police chief," Dwyer said. "Within the last four years I have come to recognize the challenge Chief Hart has."

"I leave the Detroit Police Department with a lot of mixed feeling and emotions because it's been so fair to me," Dwyer said in an interview Monday before his confirmation.

DWYER MAKES no bones about the obvious difference between working in the 4,000-member Detroit department and the 110-member (78 officers and 32 civilian) Farmington Hills department.

"It's going to be different," Dwyer said. "But I am confident I will be able to adapt to the changes. I think it will be challenging."

Talking about his switch to a suburban police department, Dwyer said he has two immediate goals.

"I plan to maintain the high morale of the department," he said. "I'm very firm but very fair."

The new chief plans to meet individually with each of the department's 80 police officers. That way, Dwyer said, the officers will develop a "good understanding" of his position and he can get to know what's on their minds.

As a second goal Dwyer promises to be "highly visible and responsive to the needs of the community."

That is a priority, I'm not the type of person who will be sitting behind a desk. I'm not coming in here thinking it's a seven-hour job."



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William Dwyer

Council begins saving for new police building

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Funds for a new Farmington Hills police facility were transferred this week from a city reserve fund.

At Councilman Charles Williams' suggestion, council agreed in a 5-1 vote Monday to eliminate the city's so-called "working capital reserve."

The reserve's \$770,000 will be transferred to the city's capital improvements fund earmarked specifically for the new police building.

The working capital reserve was established in 1979 and provides cash to pay the city's bills until state shared revenues are received in late summer.

The \$770,000, Williams said, could provide "the down payment" on a police building that with amenities and site improvements is estimated at \$3.4-\$3.5 million.

"It puts the police station on a more pay-as-you-go basis," he said.

Williams provided council with a scenario that included financing approximately \$2.5-\$2.6 million (through the sale of bonds) of the project's total estimated cost. That leaves about an \$800,000 shortfall, he said.

IN ADDITION to the \$770,000 transfer, council also agreed to ask the city's Economic Development Corp. (EDC) to contribute \$100,000 for 12 Mile Road improvements.

If EDC officials agree to use \$150,000 of their \$266,000 balance for proposed improvements along 12 Mile, a similar amount of money earmarked

for that project in the capital improvements fund would be freed-up for the police station.

Most council members supported Williams' financial juggling. But Councilwoman Joan Dudley wanted the issue postponed at least until after discussion of the proposed police facility at a study session scheduled for noon to 3 p.m. Feb. 10.

In her opposition, Dudley said council could wait until city officials know exactly what the budgetary needs of the city in 1985-86 would be before eliminating a reserve fund. Councilman Joe Alkatech was absent Monday.

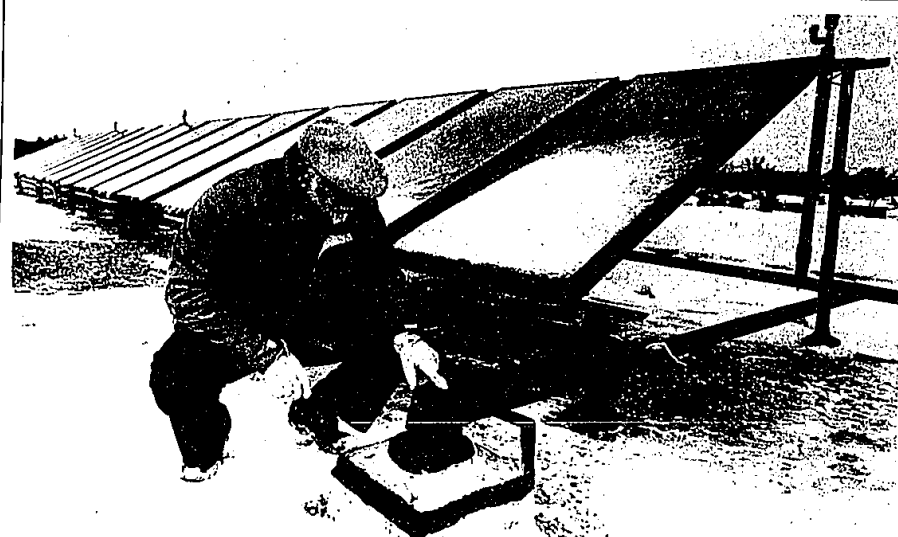
Dudley also said she couldn't support Williams' suggestion because she was unable to "reconcile" it with an earlier administrative recommendation to reduce, not eliminate, the working capital reserve.

The administrative recommendations were part of a report requested by Williams in early January showing the city's reserve funds — both those that legally can and cannot be used for purposes other than originally established.

In that report, administrators indicated that up to \$630,000 could be reallocated from some of the city's reserves, including the working capital fund, for capital improvements.

appreciate the sharing of concern," said City Manager William Costick to Dudley. "I feel at this point if we're going to put the money into the

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Jack Lawing of the Farmington Schools looks over the solar collection system on the roof of Farmington High School. Similar systems soon will be installed at East and Dunckel middle schools.

Schools squeeze energy dollars

By Tom Baer
staff writer

The Farmington Schools' efforts to squeeze the energy dollar range from simple window coverings to computer technology and solar heating.

Those three methods and a few more besides will be used at two of the district's middle schools, East and Dunckel, in an attempt to cut the cost of heating and lighting the buildings.

"The main thrust is to provide some insulation by covering some windows, and to improve the heating controls," said John Lawing, the director of administrative services for the Farmington Schools.

The \$108,000 project includes:

- Coverings for many windows, or portions of windows, at the schools. The covering absorbs noise and keeps in heat, Lawing said.

- Ceiling fans in the schools' larger rooms. "We'll do cafeterias, media centers and gymnasiums," Lawing said.

- Solar heating systems, which will provide some hot water during warm months on the schools' roofs. Such a system is in place at Farmington High School.

- An "energy management system," which includes a micro computer in each building to be tied into a central computer in the school maintenance department. The system will control temperatures throughout the buildings.

- Small hot water heaters. "That's kind of an auxiliary thing to keep us from running the entire boiler," Lawing said.

- Lighting revisions in the schools. "We're replacing many incandescents (light bulbs) with fluorescents in areas like locker rooms," Lawing said. "They (fluorescents) are much more energy efficient."

LAWING ADDED, "The energy management system is the highlight of the program, but the one people look at the

most is the solar heating."

Solar heating "will allow us to turn off the boilers completely in the summer," Lawing said. "Usually, we keep them going in the spring and fall to provide hot water for showers and to keep the swimming pool water warm."

"We don't have pools in the middle schools, but the solar can be used to heat the domestic water. We'll be able to turn the boilers off earlier in the spring and keep them off until later in the fall."

Solar collectors were installed facing south (to gain the greatest warmth from the sun) on the roof of Farmington High last summer. The system oper-

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C'ville to test student skills

By Teri Bence
staff writer

Students in the Clarenceville School District someday may find themselves denied a high school diploma if they consistently fail a basic competency test now under review there.

Superintendent Michael Shiber said a testing procedure is being investigated by an internal committee made up of high school principal DeWayne Nutter and other high school teachers.

Shiber, district curriculum chief Patricia Vickery, and three representatives from the junior and elementary levels. Committee members are charged with putting the program together and having a test ready to pilot by the spring.

The aim, he said, would be to "weed out students who need remedial help" and ensure that they get it in plenty of time to graduate.

Although the committee has yet to work out the details of the program, Shiber said it's likely the test will be administered to ninth graders, thereby providing plenty of lead time to offer remedial help to those who fail the first time out.

He said the purpose of the test would be to gauge "basic skills" in math,

reading and writing and therefore should not be subject to changes in the district's overall curriculum.

"CERTAINLY, the children who are motivated in school really won't have any trouble with this. It's the children we feel can sit in a classroom for four years and just get by — that's the student we want to reach," the superintendent said.

Shiber started a similar program seven years ago in the Brighton Public Schools, where he served as curriculum chief before Clarenceville hired him as superintendent last summer. Since coming to Clarenceville, which takes in parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township, the board adopted competency testing as one of the district's goals.

"I think the 'Nation at Risk' report (by the National Commission for Excellence in Education) woke a lot of people," said Clarenceville Board President Barry Sherman. "It's our goal that for every kid who walks across that stage at graduation time, we can guarantee to them, their parents and the community that they are going to have

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oral quarrel

What advice do you give the new chief?

Detroit Police Commander William Dwyer, head of Chief William Hart's staff for the last four years, is the new Farmington Hills police chief. He replaces John Nichols, a former Detroit police commissioner and now Oakland County sheriff.

Dwyer will make the switch from an urban police force of 4,000 employees to a suburban department of 78 officers

and 32 civilians on Feb. 11. Today's Oral Quarrel Question is:

What advice would you give Farmington Hills' new chief of police? To answer this question, call 477-5496 any time before 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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