

A solution

City improves water pressure

By Casey Hahn
Staff writer

After being advised of a way to improve water pressure for 356 water customers, the Farmington City Council approved \$350,000 to help the problem.

The plan would add an estimated 20-25 pounds per cubic foot of pressure to their water output, perhaps more in some cases, officials said. The city will now go out for bids on the project, which will cost \$953 per customer.

Ongoing water pressure problems near Grand River and Gill Road "have been aggravated by the recent construction of colonial-type houses on Whittaker Court," according to a report to the council from City Manager Robert Deadman, who recommended the water system improvements.

The water pressure to the second floor of the new houses is "inadequate to properly operate bathroom or laundry facilities," he added. Facilities are also inadequate during high pressure water periods on Hillcrest and Glenview streets.

A concern also exists in the city because of low pressure for fire-fighting needs, which have sometimes been curtailed, officials said.

THE CUSTOMERS in the proposed district around the affected area would be removed from the Farmington water service district and added to the city's western high pressure service, which is provided by the city of Farmington Hills. This additional water purchased through the Hills will cost Farmington about \$2,200 per year in operating costs, Deadman said. The city

could not do the job locally for such a low maintenance fee, he told the council.

Resident and council watcher William Liba of Hillcrest thanked the council "for finally getting us some water." He said water pressure problems have existed since he's lived in Farmington.

The money for this project was placed into the current budget and will be paid from the asset account of the Water and Sewer Department, according to the council motion.

"We looked at several options," said Ken Oscarson, an engineer for Orchard, Hiltz and McClement Inc., who reviewed the city's pressure problem and made recommendations.

He mentioned several possible ways, including raising existing ground-level water tanks, a booster pump station and individual booster pumps in each house — but none of these were recommended as remedies for various reasons.

Instead, the engineer proposed the city isolate the low pressure district by tying in new, 12-inch pipes along portions of Warner, Grand River and Shilawasse and installing pressure-controlling valves at the corners of Schulte and Gill, State and Cass and Grand River and Oakland. The standby system currently in place on Whittaker will be brought up slowly so pressure will be regulated, he added.

Oscarson calls a normal pressure of 40-60 pounds per cubic foot "excellent" and that local health departments require a 20-pound minimum.

ACCORDING to city engineers, the city's water pressure problem is due to the elevation of the water storage tank and the service area near the tanks.

Councilman Richard Tupper initially questioned whether there was a real problem or "demand" for the major repair, or whether there were some isolated cases.

Deadman replied, "In some cases, they literally get no water at all. They pay as much as anybody else and are not getting as much."

Councilman Arnold Campbell noted, "There should be many surprises in those (repaired pressure) areas." He mentioned possible leaks customers never knew they had, while Deadman mentioned definitely higher bills.

"They're going to have to be responsible," Campbell added.

Hills officers promoted

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer promoted two officers Friday.

Martin Bledsoe, who joined the department in 1972, was promoted to lieutenant. He had been an acting lieutenant since April.

His honors include three unit citations while a member of the Special Patrol Operational Team. He earned a bachelor's degree from Madonna College and is enrolled in the graduate study program at Central Michigan University.

Bledsoe and his wife, Marge, and their two children live in Milford.

Gary Hawald, with the department since 1978, was promoted to sergeant. He had been an acting sergeant since April.

His honors include one merit citation. He is a past president of the Police Officers Association, active in the Boy Scouts and youth baseball, and has served on the Macomb County Community College Board of Academic Standards and Curriculum. He holds a bachelor's degree from

Oakland University.

Hawald and his wife, Nancy, and their two children live in Farmington Hills.

Each scored well on last year's competitive exam and were next in

line for promotions. "They're outstanding officers who have served the department and the community well," Police Chief William Dwyer said. "I look forward to their leadership in these mid-management positions."



Martin Bledsoe
lieutenant



Gary Hawald
sergeant

Building increases

Despite its image as a fully developed city, construction is on the upswing in Farmington.

For example, permits for 21 new single-family houses were issued from July 1, 1985, to June 30, 1986, City Manager Robert Deadman reported July 21.

The total value of construction permits issued last year was \$1.9 million, Deadman said.

Deadman also cited the total value of other permits issued:

- Home additions and remodeling — \$425,000.
- New commercial construction — \$2.8 million.
- Remodeling of commercial property — \$900,000.

"When you compare these numbers with the recession years — three years ago or more — they're more than significant. They're outstanding," Deadman said.

"There's a strong market in residential construction that has taken care of all our vacant single-family lots except for a few scattered ones."

Deadman also pointed to rejuvenated interest in improving commercial buildings in the city.

"That's evident by the number of property owners either rehabilitating or removing and replacing existing buildings — Village Commons and Arbor Drugs, for example."

Cities honored for safety

Farmington and Farmington Hills have been named two of the nation's safest cities for pedestrians by the American Automobile Association, according to AAA Michigan.

Farmington Hills won the Special Citation for Outstanding Accident Record in AAA's 47th annual Pedestrian Protection Program. The citation was awarded after an evaluation of the city's low 1985 pedestrian injury rate and fatality-free record.

Farmington Hills has earned the citation twice previously.

Farmington was awarded AAA's Pedestrian Safety Citation for Outstanding Pedestrian Accident Record. It also had no pedestrian fatalities last year.

The city has earned the award five times previously.

The highest honors this year in Michigan — the first-place Award for Excellence — went to Grosse Pointe Woods and Tropic for their top performances in pedestrian safety programming and low pedestrian injury rates.

Road program is planned

Roads in the Alta Loma subdivision and around Arundel Street in the Woodcroft Subdivision will be main targets for Farmington's 1988 road improvement program.

City administrators estimated the enhancements and repairs will cost \$154,818 — \$34,818 more than the \$120,000 budgeted for the current year's road program.

The Farmington City Council gave its unanimous approval July 21 to waive the bid process for work in the Alta Loma subdivision, allowing "piggybacking" on a 1985 Oakland County bid with Detroit Concrete Products Corp. to get a lower price. They then approved the remaining work for the program be sent out for bid.

Alta Loma subdivision roads slated for repair include: Alta Loma

from Cass west to Gill, and Moore, Cass Fleming and the courts. Total cost for this project is estimated at \$77,900.

The portion of Alta Loma Street mentioned needs "aggressive maintenance to salvage the seven-inch-deep strength asphalt . . . constructed in 1970-71," City Manager Deadman said in his report to council.

THE CITY will also install an edge drain on the north side of this street to interrupt the high water tables now affecting the road base and surface. About 1-1½ inches of asphalt will be re-laid and a crown re-established on the road.

On the remaining streets in the Alta Loma subdivision, a 3½-inch thick "slurry seal" treatment is meant to extend the asphalt's life by

sealing out surface water and "rejuvenating the oils" at the asphalt's surface.

Arundel is "badly deteriorated" from Whittaker west to Longacre Elementary School, according to Deadman's report. The city proposes to smooth the street surface and improve drainage along the street and "slurry seal" the remainder of the road.

The city will also remove the existing asphalt sidewalk along Arundel, and install a five-foot walkway. "Although replacing the walkway is considerably more expensive than the proposed repair, in the long run we believe it would better serve the city both in longevity and maintenance," Deadman explained. "Engineers estimate the sidewalk would cost \$12,160 to construct."

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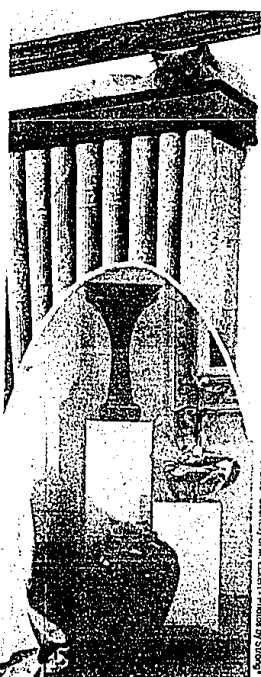
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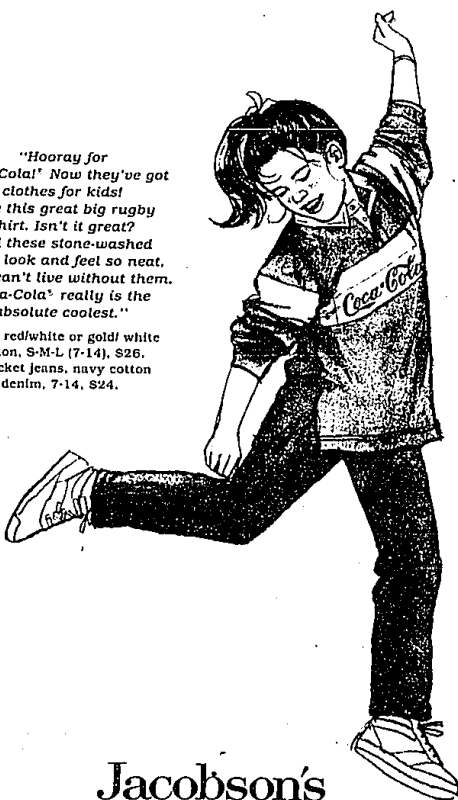
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