

Debate focus: whether to attend forum

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

No Farmington Hills elected officials are going to the National League of Cities second annual City Innovations Conference in early May.

And that's just how Farmington

Hills city councilwoman Joan Dudley likes it — much to the anger and chagrin of her council colleagues.

In what's become a perennial issue, Dudley and other council members again battled out which, if any, council members should attend the three-day conference at more than \$1,000 per person.

"My pleasure is nobody goes. Four of you just got done saying we promote lower taxes," Dudley said, referring to a resolution adopted by the council supporting efforts to reduce the city's tax rate.

Dudley has consistently fought council member attendance at out-of-town conferences that cost tax

dollars and that, in her opinion, offer little useful information for elected officials. Several years ago, she was successful in forcing council members to turn in expense sheets for approval prior to conference attendance.

COUNCIL MEMBERS finally decided no one would be going to the conference, particularly in light of a near depleted council travel budget. Other funds in the city council's budget are not yet depleted.

City manager William Costick said a change could be made in the council's overall budget to allow conference attendance. "You could do this without exceeding the whole budget," Costick said.

Council members then turned their attention to sending an administrative staff member. But that idea was promptly shot down. "I don't think it's the business of the city council to tell the city manager what to do with his staff," councilman Joe Alkateeb said.

Dudley also questioned the purpose of sending elected officials to such conferences — although they now bring back written reports — when few, if any, offer anything that can be related to or accomplished in Farmington Hills.

"Very frankly, go back and search the records of things that came from or were instituted from these confer-

ences," she said.

"Let's set an example (of cost-cutting). Is it going to make the city rich? Nope. It's not going to make the city rich," she continued. "If you're getting tired of hearing me, then for God's sake, agree with me."

COUNCILMAN DONN Wolf — often the brunt of Dudley's criticism over conference attendance — told Dudley that perhaps she doesn't think conferences are important be-

cause she doesn't know "how to attend one."

Alkateeb also took issue with Dudley, charging that while she may consider conferences unimportant, thousands of city officials attend them throughout the year. After leaving some personal bars at Dudley, Alkateeb was asked to refrain.

"There's no need for this conversation to get to a personal level. I'm not going to tolerate it," Mayor Ben Marks said.

Mercy nun changes role

Edward Connors, president of Mercy Health Services, Farmington Hills, announced the resignation of Sister Mary Maurita Sengelaub, president of Mercy Collaborative, a Mercy Health Services subsidiary.

Sister Sengelaub will continue a leadership role within Mercy Health Services as senior advisor to Connors and consultant to Mercy Collaborative. She will assume her new position July 1, upon completion of her term as Mercy Collaborative president.

Mercy Collaborative, established in 1984, provides leadership consultation and professional services primarily to Catholic health care providers and sponsors.

Mercy Collaborative focuses its consulting services in mission effectiveness, integrated delivery systems, human resource planning, organization development and market-based strategic planning. Sister Sengelaub will continue to provide consulting in the area of mission effectiveness.

"SISTER MAURITA brought both her considerable experience and deep commitment to her role as Mercy Collaborative president," Connors said.

"Her effective leadership in devel-

oping the governance and management of Mercy Collaborative has demonstrated the continuing need for value-based services within Catholic health care. Mercy Collaborative is well positioned to assist Catholic providers to strengthen and maintain a viable Catholic presence in health care."

Mercy Health Services and its sponsors, the Sisters of Mercy - Province of Detroit, remain committed to collaboration and believe much more is called for in the future for Catholic providers, institutions and sponsors. As senior advisor, Sister Sengelaub will focus her energies in the area of Catholic collaboration.

Judith Call will assume the role of Mercy Collaborative president on a part-time basis on July 1. Call will continue to serve as executive vice president of Mercy Health Services.

Since joining the Farmington Hills-based organization in 1977, she has held executive management positions at facilities in Dubuque, Iowa and Dyer, Indiana, most recently as chief executive officer at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, Dyer.

Her previous positions include assistant administrator at McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, S.D., and Secretary of Health of State of South Dakota.



Sister Mary Maurita Sengelaub
Changing posts



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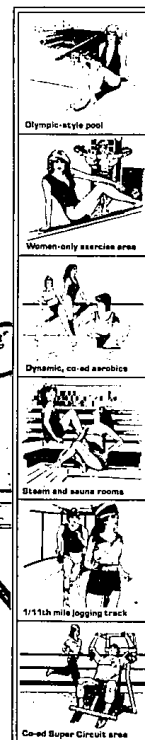
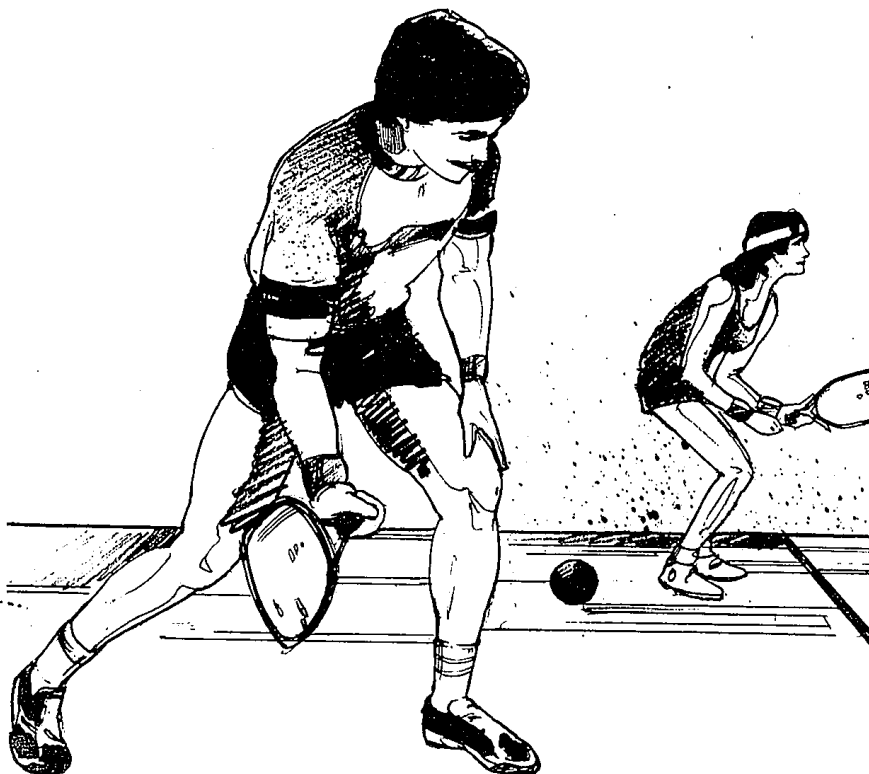
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