



By Casey Hane
staff writer

Longtime Farmington planning commissioner James Abernethy will not serve another three-year term on the commission, it was learned this week. His term expired Monday.

The 47-year-old professor of architecture at Southfield's Lawrence Institute of Technology and Farmington resident is also serving the last year of his first, four-year term on the Farmington Board of Education.

Two seats on the planning commission became vacant as of Monday, with the city council appointing Norman Potts to another three-year term expiring in 1990 and leaving Abernethy's seat vacant.

Abernethy has been active in city government for the past 10 years and has served on the commission since Oct. 2, 1978.

ABERNETHY CITED time conflicts in his community and work responsibilities as his reason for not seeking another term. He said it was "not fair" to the city because

he could not attend many of the meetings.

"It was with a lot of reluctance that I did it," he added.

Abernethy said he will probably continue to serve as a liaison between the school district and the city.

During his 20 years as a Farmington resident, Abernethy has used his talents in other areas. He served on the city's Zoning Board of Appeals and on the architectural review committee of the Farmington Meadows Homeowners Association. He holds a master's degree

in urban planning from Wayne State University.

In filling another planning commission vacancy recently, Farmington Mayor William Hartsock said it's important to appoint people who represent a cross-section of the community, both geographically and in background.

Interested Farmington residents, plus two applicants for a position filled last September are expected to be considered for Abernethy's vacant seat.

The previous applicants include

James Vetter, a marketing supervisor for Federal-Mogul Corp. in Southfield, and Gail Ward, a sales administration manager who also works for Federal-Mogul.

The current Farmington Planning Commission consists of Potts, Charles Bridges, William Ingalls, Harry Lapham Jr., Nancy Lawton, J. Lee Ratliff, commission chairman William Burke, and councilman Arnold Campbell, who serves as a city council representative.

Planning commissioners are appointed by the city council.

Papal soldier's grandson to sing for pope

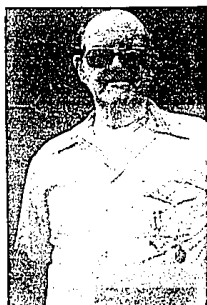
When Farmington's Our Lady of Sorrows choir chose Roger Van Dorpe to be its baritone representative in the archdiocesan choir being assembled to sing for Pope John Paul II in September, little did they realize how the wheel had come full circle.

Roger's grandfather, August, from Belgium, was a papal soldier under

Popes Pius IX and Leo XIII in the 1860s. Roger, whose middle name is Leo, in honor of Pope Leo XIII, has in his possession his grandfather's good conduct medals, awarded, one each, by Pope Pius and Pope Leo. Roger is also heir to his grandfa-

ther's papal dispensation from Friday abstinence, which was handed down to August's third generation.

Roger is looking forward to the Papal visit as the culmination of 55 years of church choir singing. For him, it can't get any better than this.



Roger Van Dorpe
baritone

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7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Sun)

clarification

A headline in the Observer June 11 incorrectly stated that Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills was founded 33 years ago. It was founded 43 years ago, as correctly stated in the story.

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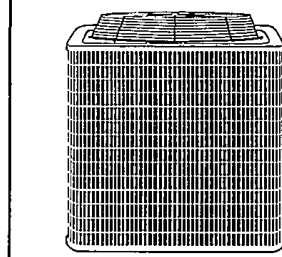
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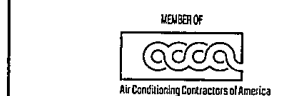
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