

Well owners asked to cut water usage

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It's not exactly a drought alert. But it is a precaution. Farmington Hills residents who have their own wells are being asked to rotate the days on which they water their lawns.

"There has been some concern that people are overusing the water supply from the wells to water the lawns," city manager William Costick said. "Given the drought conditions, it could lower the water table where it could affect the functional use of the wells."

At this point, city officials are only asking residents with wells to water their lawns every other day. City officials are uncertain whether they can impose a legally enforced restriction on well users because the wells are privately owned, Costick said.

Residents with even-numbered addresses are asked to water their lawns on the even-numbered days of the week. Residents with odd-numbered addresses are asked to water on the odd-numbered days of the week, Costick said.

"We're looking for everyone's cooperation," the city manager said. "If anyone is concerned about someone overusing the well supply, they can call my office. The city will investigate."

THOUGH WELLS are found throughout the city, many residents have them simply to use for water-

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ing their lawns while their drinking and other water uses are from the city's water supply, Costick said.

The same holds true in Farmington, which has had no complaints from residents about overusing well water supplies, said Kevin Gushman, Farmington public services director.

"There are a very limited amount of people with wells," Gushman said. "They use them strictly for irrigation, sprinkling."

Farmington and Farmington Hills have imposed no restrictions on the use of water supplied by the city of Detroit despite the current dry spell.

"We haven't had a critical pressure problem yet," Costick said. "Booster pumps are keeping it fairly constant."

Non-traditional issues unite 2

By Casey Hens
staff writer

The two men vying for the Democratic nomination in the 69th District state House race hold many similar views, but not necessarily the traditional, tax-and-spend philosophy of their party.

Both Ken Murray, 50, and John Dolan, 65, promise to work full time at the \$39,831-a-year job, if elected. Both said they are opposed to casino gambling in Detroit, opposed to caps on liability laws, and in favor of mandatory graduation requirements for high school students.

Both favor a strong review of education before spending any more state money. Both advocate reforming the state's Single Business Tax. They are lifelong Democrats.

THEY DIFFER on the state-funded abortion question. Murray thinks Medicaid abortions should be continued — especially when the health of the mother is at stake. Dolan wants it eliminated because he morally opposes it.

They also differ on the issue of the state Legislature granting counties the option of going to voters for increased fuel taxes for road improve-



ments. Dolan said "no — the resulting increase in gas prices would not produce the desired result," while Murray thinks it should be left up to the voters.

But each has introduced individual platforms during this primary race that will ultimately select one to face one of four Republican candidates.

Winners from each party in the Aug. 2 primary will face off in the Nov. 8 general election for a two-year term.

MURRAY, a Farmington resident, wants to address drug problems, shortcomings in our education system — including illiteracy, and the problems faced by senior citizens in the district. "I don't think they're getting a fair shake," he said.

"We have major problems in this community," said Murray, an electrician by trade. "It's time for all of us to roll up our sleeves and get at

it." Dolan wants to address the "legislative deadlock" in education funding, more state money for local roads, and to see that Michigan addresses the challenge of meeting global competition in years to come. A Bingham Farms resident and retired manager, Dolan is not related to Republican state House candidate Jan Dolan.

Dolan said he offers "unique advantages" to the district. "I have gone where I want to go career-wise," he said, adding his intentions

to be a full-time legislator. "I have the opportunity to be a full-time legislator, because of no other career or outside business interests."

The 69th District state House seat will be vacated by Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, who announced in January he will not seek re-election. Brotherton has held the seat for the past seven terms.

Information for this report was gathered from a recent candidates forum and from an Observer questionnaire.

election '88

News and notes from the Election '88 campaign trail. The primary is Aug. 2. The general election is Nov. 8.

● **FUND-RAISER SET**
Bill and Ruth McNamee, a former state representative, will co-host a fund-raiser at the home of Bo and Carol Rhudy 3-5 p.m. Sunday, July 10, to boost Michael Bouchard's campaign for state representative from the 69th district.

The informal reception is a chance for friends and neighbors to meet Bouchard and support his candidacy. Tickets are \$15 a person and \$20 a couple.

Call 645-5664.
The 69th district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin. Bouchard is Beverly Hills Village Council president.

School year unchanged despite ruling

By Casey Hens
staff writer

A recent state Supreme Court ruling allowing local school officials to determine the length of the school year will not change the status quo in Farmington, according to the district superintendent.

Michigan school districts are not required to provide 180 days of class a year, but can be docked state money if they don't, according to the June 27 court ruling.

"There is no clerical duty on the part of local districts to provide

180 days of instruction, and those districts willing to forego state financial aid may exercise their discretion to provide a lesser number," the high court said.

FARMINGTON WOULD not be affected financially if officials chose to lower the number of school days, superintendent Graham Lewis said.

Farmington is out-of-formula, and receives most of its revenue from local property taxes and not through the state school aid formula.

But there would be no reason to shorten the school year, Lewis said.

year," he said. "If we did, you would hear such a hue and cry — at least from this office."

Farmington Public Schools currently has a school year that includes 180 school days, plus several teacher work days and possible snow days as a buffer.

"We would, in fact, have no trouble with 180 days, whatsoever," Lewis said.

THE UNANIMOUS Supreme Court ruling settled a dispute over making up class days lost to bad weather in the snowbound area covered by Houghton Lake Community Schools in mid-Michigan.

The court said it reads state school laws as "providing only a financial 'ceiling' to school districts who comply with the 180-day instructional standard."

State school officials will watch

how the ruling is interpreted in various districts.

"They (districts) may find it's cheaper . . . to take a deduction than to provide extra school days," said Ned Hubbell, a spokesman for the State Department of Education.

"I'M PLEASED with the fashion in which the court decided it," said Thomas Nordberg, attorney for Houghton Lake.

"If they do order it (the state order 180 days of class), somebody at the state level will have to pay for it," he said, referring to the impact of the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment.

Lawyers in the state attorney general's office said they had to study the ruling before commenting.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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Task force kept busy monitoring 4th fun

Continued from Page 1

from 20-60. Their fireworks were confiscated. Conviction could bring a penalty of up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine. There is no age limit on buying legal fireworks.

Fallout from fireworks caused three weekend fires, Marinucci said. Sunday night, a canvas cover on a boat in a yard on Flanders and grass at Rockwell and Victory caught fire. Monday night, brush in front of a house on Purdue caught fire.

On Elm Grove July 1-2, a M-60 caused \$25 damage to a mailbox, police said.

Over a three-day period including Independence Day last year, fireworks incidents totaled 60.

Even without a drought, the task force will be reactivated next year. "There were enough fireworks complaints this year to justify continuing

it," police Chief William Dwyer said. Increased visibility of police cars and fire trucks over the holiday also help deter illegal fireworks use, Marinucci said.

IN FARMINGTON, the Department of Public Safety logged 10 fireworks complaints over the weekend. In one case, illegal fireworks were confiscated from a family on Colchester. In two other cases, warnings were given, deputy director Gary Goss said.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills follow fireworks guidelines set by the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division.

Fireworks that send a projectile into the air, spin, swirl or emit an audible signal (other than the toy paper trick noisemakers) are illegal for general sale or use unless local permits are obtained.



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Christmas Tree I or II

Thursday, July 7, 1-3:30 p.m.; 2 wks.- A white tree with red accents, Sole Nappes, metallic threads and beads.
Aida Tree

Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m.-12:1 wk.- A red and green tree needlepointed on white with red and gold accents.
Joy! Joy!

Saturday, July 16, 10 a.m.- 12: 3 wks.- A Victorian tree and gifts stitched in perle, silk and metallics.
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