

Council faces Dolan vacancy

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Who will replace 14-year city councilwoman Jan Dolan on the Farmington Hills City Council?

That's a quandary the city council plans to discuss tonight at its regular 7:30 meeting. The city council does not have a formal procedure for replacing its members. Dolan's replacement will fill the remaining year of her four-year term. "We'll have to discuss how this will be handled," Mayor Jody Soronen said.

The council has received three letters requesting appointment to fill Dolan's seat when she resigns from the council to begin a two-year term representing the 69th District in the state House. Dolan will replace incumbent Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, who retires Dec. 31 after 14 years in office.

The three are planning commissioner Jonathan Grant, resident and council watcher Vernon Kieplinski and Council of Homeowners Association of Farmington Hills vice chairman Martin Krohner.



Jan Dolan election leaves council vacancy

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SORONEN SAID she isn't sure how a replacement will be chosen or whether the council will solicit applications.

Following her more than 20,000-vote victory over Democratic opponent John Dolan last week, Jan Dolan said she would resign her seat as soon as council members reach a consensus on who will replace her.

The last time the city council faced the decision of replacing one of its members was in early 1984 when veteran member Fred Hughes resigned shortly after his November 1983 re-election to the council.

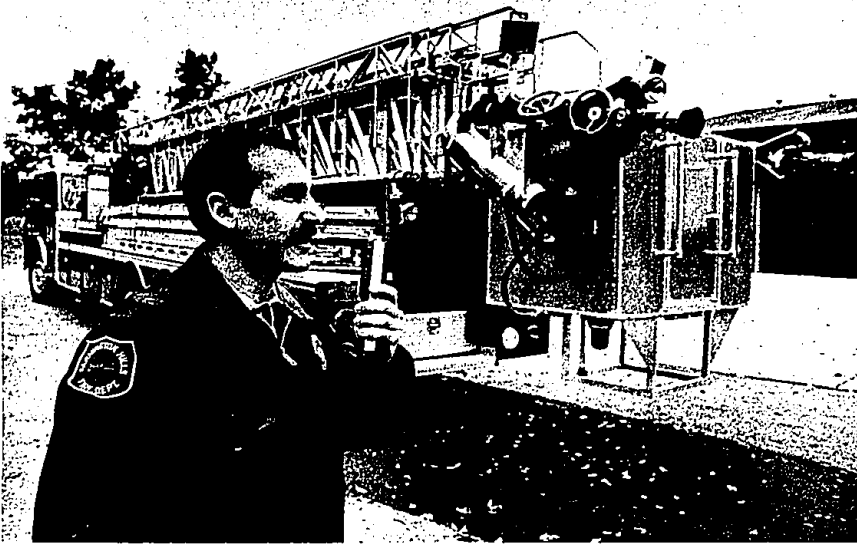
At that time, the city council announced it would accept resumes from interested residents. Sixteen applied and were publicly later viewed at a city council meeting. Resident Robert Anzlovar was appointed though he failed to be elected to the seat the next year.

Grant is president of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and former president of

the Farmington Community Library. He was appointed to the Farmington Hills Planning Commission earlier this year.

Kieplinski is an avid council watcher and an unsuccessful 1987 contender for the city council. He has been instrumental in drawing local attention to the problems of the homeless and abused children.

Krohner is a Wayne County assistant prosecutor, one of the founders of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and he made an unsuccessful bid for the Oakland County Circuit Court in 1986.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Hills firefighter Ron Schwartz was instrumental in developing specifications for the department's new ladder truck and for ensuring its safe delivery.

Adrenalin rush drives firefighter

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Adrenalin is what it's all about for Farmington Hills firefighter Ron Schwartz.

"Whether they admit it or not, 99 percent of all the people who do this, do it for the adrenalin rush. We're adrenalin junkies," said Schwartz, one of about 90 volunteers who supplement the city's 15-member department.

The adrenalin begins rushing when the fire tones activate, regardless of the type of call, said Schwartz, who has been a volunteer for eight years. "Even though you know that 99 percent of the time it's a false alarm, you still get the adrenalin rush," he said. "You can't sleep so you go out for coffee afterwards."

The adrenalin was a bit tempered recently when Schwartz received the Farmington Hills Fire Department's highest honor, Firefighter of the Year for 1988, while lying injured in Boisdorf General Hospital. Schwartz hurt his back while carrying a patient down stairs shortly before the annual awards dinner. But that didn't stop Fire Chief Richard Marinucci from ensuring that a then-groggy Schwartz received his award while video cameras were rolling.

SCHWARTZ' RESUME of accomplishments is lengthy. It ranges from certifications in firefighting and emergency medical training to serving as an instructor and training officer to serving on the department's new automatic defibrillator program committee and drafting specifications for the department's new ladder truck and supervising its delivery.

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— Ron Schwartz
Farmington Hills
Firefighter of the Year

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"Within his responsibilities as training officer, he has been the tutor for all new recruits, affectionately earning the nickname 'mother,'" Marinucci said.

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"I've had the opportunity to test for full time in both departments, but I have the freedom of being able to pick and choose what I do when I do it," said Schwartz, the divorced father of two grown daughters. He loves firefighting, particularly the medical emergency runs, but he prefers to serve as a firefighter on call. "They only call us when they

want us. In full time, you're waiting for things to happen. It can get boring."

Though Schwartz can commit a lot of time to his firefighting and public safety reserve work, his weeks are full.

ONCE A week, he fills in for Farmington Hills full-time firefighters, who serve four 10-hour days. Twice a month, he's with Farmington public safety reserves and is required to ride with an officer four hours a month. Twice a week, Schwartz conducts training at the Hills fire department and teaches at the Oakland Community College Fire Academy.

And the fire and medical runs keep him even busier. Station 4 has about 1,000 runs a year, or about four a day.

"The system is designed that half the people will show up on any run. So you don't necessarily have to drop everything you're doing," Schwartz said.

It's the medical runs and the training that have Schwartz hooked. "The knowledge you can absorb through the department is useful for yourself and your family. I guess that's my main interest."

He admits he's seen some sights that probably would bother anybody. But he's found his own release. "I make jokes. I know it may sound sadistic at times, but it's my form of release," he said.

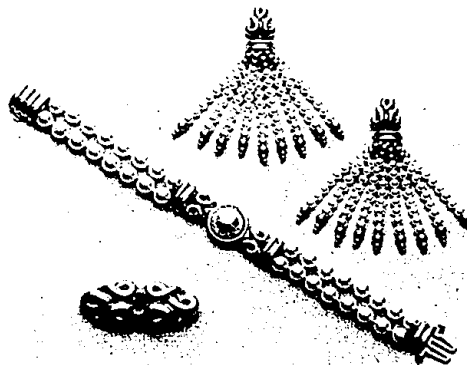
As far as he's concerned, his work has to be fun. "We all know the type of business we're in so serious. But because it's so serious, if you can't

laugh, you cry constantly."

WHEN HE'S not doing something with the fire department or Farmington reserves, Schwartz is remodeling the Farmington Hills house he bought 17 years ago. "I was driving down the street, looking for a new house. I saw a nice sub and pulled in," he said.

One of his great loves, however, is summer weather. Since he can't find it consistently in Michigan, Schwartz goes in search of the sun. "I try and go someplace exotic several times a year, like the Caribbean. I like summer all year. I'll get out of here at the slightest drop of snow."

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police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

MAN HURT

An 18-year-old Novi man required stitches after a parking lot fight at Putt-Putt Golf & Games, 30749 Grand River, Thursday.

The man was cut on the hand and chest by another teenager who pulled out a knife after an argument over use of a video game in the arcade spilled out into the parking lot at 9:30 p.m.

The man required 12 stitches at Providence Hospital-Novt to close a hand wound. He also suffered a small cut on the chest below the neck, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

SUSPECT NABBED

A 22-year-old Detroit man is charged with breaking and entering of a building with intent to commit larceny in connection with a break-in at the Ram's Horn, 32435 Grand River, at 3:40 a.m. Monday.

An innocent plea was entered at his arraignment Thursday before Magistrate James Brady of Farmington. Cash/bond was set at \$5,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

According to Commander Chuck Lee of the Farmington Department of Public Safety:

At least two people went through the Ram's Horn roof in hopes of gaining entry to the office. But they ended up in the dining area. When they tried to break through a wall to the office, they activated an alarm.

After taking petty cash, they left in a car.

The car passed officer Vince Ziegler's patrol car on Maple. Ziegler began pursuit and tried to stop the car at Orchard Lake Road and Freedom. But the driver backed into the patrol car, and the car's two occupants bailed out and ran off.

Detectives Dan Dellar and Dan Potter arrested the suspect, an ex-employee of the Ram's Horn in Farmington and a current employee of a Ram's Horn in Livonia, the next day. His wallet was found on the car seat and the car was registered to a family member. He lost his Livonia job after he failed to show up for work Tuesday.

He and the other suspect, a 28-year-old Detroit man, had been seen near the Ram's Horn in Farmington two hours before the break-in, Lee said.

MONEY MISSING

A 15-year maintenance employee is charged with stealing money from a safe at Heeey-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington, over a three-week period.

An innocent plea was entered at the 30-year-old Dearborn Heights man's arraignment Thursday before Magistrate James Brady of Farmington. Personal bond was set at \$1,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court. The man faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

After owner Walter Sundquist discovered that money was missing, he alerted the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which dusted several bills and the safe handle with invisible fingerprint powder.

When Sundquist reported that \$200

was missing at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Commander Chuck Lee and detective Dan Potter went to the funeral home and interviewed four employees. Their hands were placed under a special light to detect fingerprint powder.

The suspect's hands showed the dust. A bill in his possession matched one of those that had been dusted. About \$2,000 was reported missing over the three-week period, Lee said.

THEFTS REPORTED

A 1987 Chevrolet S-10 valued at \$11,514 was reported stolen from Holiday Chevrolet, 30250 Grand River, Nov. 3-5.

Cash was reported stolen from Nu-Images, 31834 Grand River, Nov. 6-7.

A 1987 Pontiac 6000 valued at \$12,000 was reported stolen from Ciancy's, 32350 Eight Mile, Nov. 8.

A 1988 Cadillac valued at \$21,000 was reported stolen from Boisdorf General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Nov. 8.

A 1982 Datsun 280ZX valued at \$3,500 was reported stolen from 7-Eleven, 22049 Farmington, Nov. 8.

A 1985 Chevrolet Camaro valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Greenhill Apartments Nov. 9.

TICKETS ISSUED

An 18-year-old Livonia man was ticketed for possessing marijuana during a traffic stop at Sunset Trailer Park, 28730 Grand River, Nov. 8.

Two Farmington Hills teenagers were ticketed for being in the city park after hours when they were discovered seated in a car parked at Shawasee Park in Farmington at 1:30 a.m. Nov. 8.