

As debate rages, officials blast News series

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Jean Fox has reopened the topic of ethics in city government on the heels of a series in a Detroit newspaper that alleged two city officials had conflicts of interest.

A three-point plan to update the city's Code of Ethics was presented to the city council for consideration Monday, with most of the plan receiving support. Meanwhile, both accused officials have spoken out this week in their defense, calling a series in The Detroit News one-sided.

"Ethical problems, including conflicts of interest in Farmington Hills and other suburban communities were laid bare for over 1.2 million subscribers throughout Michigan," Fox said in a report to fellow council

members, referring to an Oct. 21-28 series that ran in The News and alleged that city Councilman Ben Marks and Economic Development Corp. member Paul Inman did favors for developers. "This city must take measures to set our house in order."

She said she wanted to "assure the populace we shall not be lax in cleaning up our own house of government."

"Unless these elected to serve the people can show that public trust is held in highest esteem — ahead of private gain while in office — then democracy, which rests on trust, cannot work successfully, but stumbles along amid scorn and cynicism."

Fox's three-point plan includes:

- Re-activating the city's 1989 Ethics Committee with former members, new members appointed by each member of the city council and representation by the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills and the League of Women Voters. Most council members said Monday that they prefer an entirely new slate for such a committee.
- Consideration of present City Code and city charter with regard to ethics concerns, including, but not limited to, guidelines for conflicts of interest, campaign financing and reporting, and disclosure of business affiliations.
- A report from the committee to the city council 90 days after it starts meeting, which would likely be after the first of the year.

IN REACTION to the newspaper series, Marks spoke out publicly on Monday night and Inman talked with the Observer after returning from out of town. Marks, who has admitted over the years his friendships and business partnerships with developers, said his voting record was not reflected fairly in the series, while Inman said the reporters did not understand how an EDC works.

"I resent being labeled as someone's lackey," said Marks, who offered details of several instances in which he voted against developers. "I don't mind being interviewed ... but I do mind when people don't give the entire story. Obviously, the most important people felt I was truthful. They elected me last November."

Marks was re-elected to a four-year term on the council last November.

Inman was accused of voting to provide two local developers with tax-exempt bonds to provide low-interest loans. The developers bought the property from Inman on a land contract.

Both Marks and Inman said they would support a revised code of ethics for the city. "It's healthy today, particularly," Inman said, noting the public's distrust of politicians from the local to the national levels.

Marks said he had "no problem with reinstating the ethics committee."

He said the developers owned the property when they came before the EDC, and that he had sold it "years before." He abstained on the vote, he said. Inman also contends the EDC doesn't directly loan money and that "there was no financial development derived."

Hills council's discussion of ethics gets overheated

Continued from Page 1

"It is possible for one to have truthfulness without credibility and credibility without truth," she said chastising the press and public. "If you want an ethical council, there's got to be an ethical community. I don't like the cavalier attitude that prevails."

Grant said his first year on the council has been disheartening.

"I'm very disillusioned in what I've seen up here," he said. "I've been sitting up here ... dodging political bullets. It's incredible, I'm telling you, it's really incredible."

Grant said he had been lobbied on issues by other council members, not including Councilman Ben Marks. "I can buy into an ethics committee,"

he added, "but I want you residents to know you have far bigger ethical problems up here ... than who's taking money from a developer."

The ethics issue, first raised in the city in 1989, was discussed again Monday following an October newspaper series in The Detroit News. The series' first installment featured Marks and made allegations of conflicts between his council position

and his business interests. Also featured was food distributor and land speculator Paul Inman, a member of the city's Economic Development Corp., who, according to the series, voted to provide developers tax-exempt bonds for low-interest loans on a piece of property he had sold to them.

Both men deny any wrongdoing, and said they are careful to look at

issues individually and vote appropriately.

A Code of Ethics was developed in 1989, and adopted after that year's city council elections. The code applies to elected officials, city employees, board and commission members and consultants and addresses gratuities, preferential treatment, use of information, disclosure, outside business dealings,

doing business with the city, suppression of public information and use of city property.

It does not cover campaign contributions, despite an effort by Vagnozzi and Fox to have that included.

Councilman Larry Lichtman said Monday he is not opposed to forming another ethics committee and restudying the matter "if there is a good reason for starting one. I don't want a witch-hunt group."

COUNCILMAN JONATHAN

The Hometown and Observer and Eccentric "Creative Living" section has the largest selection of suburban display real estate ads in the metro area.

Observer & Eccentric®
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

644-1070 Oakland County
 591-0900 Wayne County
 852-3222 Rochester / Avon

The Hometown and Observer and Eccentric "Creative Living" section has the largest selection of suburban display real estate ads in the metro area.

"YOUR GIFT DEPARTMENT STORE WITH HALLMARK CARDS"

Christmas OPEN HOUSE

AND
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

ALL DAY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

EVERYTHING IN THE STORE

10% OFF
 Your Total Purchase Sale

* REFRESHMENTS * FREE PRIZES
 NO OTHER DISCOUNTS

Bon Ton Shoppe

FARMINGTON CENTER Brighton Mall Newburgh Plaza
 Grand River at Grand River & 1-95 Six Mile at Newburgh
 Farmington Road Livonia

Don't Miss the Excitement of...

LIVONIA MALL's

"Christmas Past, Present and Future"

HOLIDAY PARADE
 Saturday, Nov. 17 • 9 A.M.

Join us as we welcome Santa at our annual Holiday Parade with a host of floats, clowns, marching bands, costumed characters, fire trucks, horses & more! Parade Route: Six Mile & Middlebelt to Livonia Mall. Complimentary hot chocolate following the parade.

SANTA ARRIVES

VISIT WITH SANTA AT THE STAGE NEAR CROWLEY'S • PICTURES AVAILABLE

HOLIDAY HOURS AT LIVONIA MALL
 for your shopping convenience

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 23-24.....	9-9:30 p.m.	Mon.-Sat., Dec. 10-15.....	9:30-9:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 25 & Dec. 2.....	Noon-6 p.m.	Mon.-Fri., Dec. 17-21.....	9:30-9:30 p.m.
Mon.-Sat., Nov. 26-Dec. 1.....	10-9 p.m.	Sat., Dec. 22.....	9-10 p.m.
Mon.-Sat., Dec. 3-8.....	10-9:30 p.m.	Sun., Dec. 23.....	11-6 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 9 & Dec. 16.....	11-6 p.m.	Mon., Dec. 24.....	9-5 p.m.

MIDDLEBELT & 7 MILE ROADS 476-1160

ORIGINAL BULK FOODS

West River Centre, 30050 Grand River between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills • Mon.-Sat. 10-9, Sun. 11-5
 474-1043

NOW...EXCITING WAY TO SHOP WHERE BUYING A LITTLE SAVES YOU A LOT!

Largest Selection of Christmas Candy

All You Need For Fruitcakes

OVER 4,000 ITEMS IN STOCK

Large Selection of Fresh Spices at Reduced Prices—Best Gourmet Cold and Teas in Town

Large Selection of Sugar Free and Low Cal Candy

Prices & quantities subject to change without notice

California Thompson Raisins & Pitted Prunes... 99¢ lb.	Dried Michigan Cherries, Cranberries, Blueberries Large Selection of Fresh Spices at Reduced Prices—Best Gourmet Cold and Teas in Town	Jumbo Roasted Cashews... \$4.99 lb.
Gummi Sale: Bears & Dinosaurs... \$1.49 lb.	Yogurt or Chocolate Covered Raisins... \$1.99 lb.	Casow Pieces... \$2.99 lb.
Qatmeal Quick or Old Fashion... 59¢ lb.	Oat Bran... 79¢ lb.	Raw-Natural Almonds... \$1.99 lb.
Select Pasta... 59¢ lb.	Select Gourmet Coffee... \$3.99 lb.	Cold Drink Mixes... \$1.99 lb.
	Oriental Rice Cracker Mix... \$2.79 lb.	California Pistachios Natural or Red... \$2.99 lb.
		Sugar Free Granolas... \$1.99 lb.
		Fortune Cookies... \$1.99 lb.
		Voortman Cookies... \$1.29 lb.
		Select Trail Mixes... \$1.99 lb.

Complimentary Coupon For Your Next Purchase

\$1 EXTRA SAVINGS COUPON
 ON ANY \$10.00 PURCHASE OR MORE EXCEPT SALE ITEMS

1 Coupon Per Customer Expires 12-4-90 ORIGINAL BULK FOODS

Complimentary Coupon For Your Next Purchase

\$2 EXTRA SAVINGS COUPON
 ON ANY \$16.00 PURCHASE OR MORE EXCEPT SALE ITEMS

1 Coupon Per Customer Expires 12-6-90 ORIGINAL BULK FOODS

All specials valid at American Bulk Foods Royal Oak (4422 Woodward, S. of 14 Mile) 549-0033

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY OPTIONS CONFERENCE

Never before held in the state of Michigan, the nationally popular retirement/retirement living conference will be presented by the author of RETIREMENT LIVING ALTERNATIVES USA: THE INSIDE STORY, H. Wilson Worley. Mr. Worley's book (at \$9.95 value) will be presented without charge to each household along with other copyrighted material.

Thousands have highly acclaimed this conference for its dissemination of information not available from any other source. During the two-hour session, participants will review full-service preretirement and retirement living concepts through a color slide series of communities from the east to the west coast.

In addition, a new and different concept in active retirement/preretirement living being considered for Farmington Hills will be discussed to determine its potential for active adults desiring a full menu of services from home and yard maintenance to security and health/fitness programs. The concept offers options not found in lifecare, entrance fee, expensive rental packages, or resort communities. Each participant will be asked to complete a simple written survey to provide direction for the development and the public's acceptance of this community.

The conference is free of charge. However, seating is limited and will be by reservation only.

Please call Nancy Fees (313) 442-9860, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or write for reservations for you and your friends to RETIREMENT CONFERENCE, 30405 Folsom Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336 for one of the times and locations below:

• Hilton Inn — Novi 2111 Haggerty Road 8 Mile Rd. Exit off I-275 Novi, MI Tuesday, Dec. 11 10:00 A.M. or 2:00 P.M.	• Botsford General Hospital Administration & Education Building 28050 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills, MI Wednesday, Dec. 12 10:00 A.M.	• Botsford General Hospital Administration & Education Building 28050 Grand River Ave. Farmington Hills, MI Thursday, Dec. 13 2:00 P.M.
--	--	--

Each session will end promptly two hours from the above starting times.

Sponsored by Botsford General Hospital and National Retirement Corporation.