

## Community Corner

This week's question:  
How do you feel about paying approximately \$54 extra a year for the recycling/composting program that begins July 1?

We asked this question on the streets of southern Farmington Hills.



"I have mixed feelings. I wonder what's going to happen — will we have too much of it?"  
— Abney Pearl  
Farmington Hills



"I think it's outrageous. We're paying enough in taxes."  
— Ray Pyrala  
Farmington Hills



"It's a great idea. It is a lot of money, but it'll be worth it in the long run."  
— Evelyn Sartori  
Farmington Hills



"I feel we could get away without paying the money... we're already into recycling. But I don't think we have a choice."  
— Dennis Sartori  
Farmington Hills



"I don't mind. It's for a good cause... anything to save the environment."  
— Jim Willson  
Farmington Hills



"We should separate it (trash), but why should we have to pay extra?"  
— Kelly Willson  
Farmington Hills

# Mills Products to move from Farmington

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where in the state the corporate headquarters will be relocated.

"Based on current assessment, the city stands to lose roughly \$5,000 a year," said John Sailer, city assessor. "The total loss for everyone who benefits from the personal property costs — schools, city and county — is \$22,300."

AS A FARMINGTON taxpayer, Mills Products ranked ninth in total assessed value, real and personal, in 1990.

Mills Products has been an excellent corporate neighbor for the city," said Hybert Deadman, city manager. "It's one of Farmington's oldest industrial users."

Mills Products' total assessed value for real and personal property in 1990 was \$1,842,750.

Recent employee contract negotiations specifically addressed the possibility of relocating, Mills said.

Earl Walker, business agent for Teamsters-Local 614 in Bloomfield Hills, called the entire situation "aggravating."

Mills Products employees believed they were receiving a one-year extension of the current contract — that is, no wage increase and no changes in the contract, Walker said.

**"I feel sorry for the majority of the employees. There is nothing out there for the older person. You have to start building your life again."**

— Pam Garrison  
union steward,  
Mills Products

Pam Garrison, a union steward at Mills Products, said employees knew the closing of the plant was possible.

"A LOT ARE taking an early retirement," said Garrison, a 19-year employee. "Five or six got laid off yesterday." She believes 21 jobs will remain.

"I'd like to keep the plant running, but they can turn around and place a lock on the gate tomorrow," Garrison said. "I feel sorry for the majority of the employees. There is nothing out there for the older person. You have to start building your life again."

The employee contract guarantees



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Location is one reason the Farmington facility of Mills Products Inc. will close, according to company officials. "We can't afford to ship 500

jobs within a 50-mile radius, she said.

The average Mills Product employee makes \$9.50 per hour, Walker said. "It's not one of those half-hourly \$15 wages." Employees in the Tennessee plants average about

\$6, Garrison said.

The Farmington location employs mostly women. Their average age is late-30s and up, Garrison said.

The Mills Products building has been expanded several times, according to Deadman. It can accom-

modate 300 employees.

The company's Perma View Processed Glass division, located in Clarksville, Tenn., has been in operation since 1982, and its Athens, Tenn., division opened in 1990.

miles away when the competition is 50 miles away," said Bob Mills, co-owner.

## Committee

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Concern over the conduct of some council members last year prompted talk about ethics and Lichtman's report. It was decided that residents would provide a different perspective — and perhaps more credibility.

THE COMMITTEE also will consider:

- Rules of procedure for the council and if any changes are necessary.

- Conflicts of interest as outlined by the city charter and city ethics code and determine if changes are necessary.

- Whether a financial disclosure form should be used by elected and appointed officials.

- Campaign financing and recommend whether guidelines or standards should be adopted as allowed by state law.

When the committee has finished its work, recommendations are expected to be made to the city council for approval.

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