

Informing the public

Farmington plans to do better job in lean times

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Farmington City Council members have vowed to do a better job educating the public about city issues, especially in light of the leaner economic times cities now face.

In what is expected to be the first of several goal-setting sessions, council members Tuesday said they will consider alternative forms of communication — including forums for better access to city administrators, possible newsletters and surveys and cable television — in the coming year.

The three-hour brainstorming session was the idea of newly elected Mayor William Hartsock, who said he is concerned with public perception of government and the apparent lack of interest which shown by low voter turnout at the polls. He said the leaner economic times call for better understanding and more community involvement.

"So many people are disenfranchised with government," said the 18-year council veteran. "It's

our responsibility to communicate back to the citizens — to encourage them to participate and to have a better respect of what local government is all about."

The city is facing leaner times because of a freeze this year on property tax assessments, a decline in state-shared and federal revenues. Also on the horizon are possibly several ballot proposals to reduce property taxes, which would impact cities further.

City Manager Robert Deadman said Farmington will have to dip into its reserves in the coming budget year to provide the same level of services.

BUDGET ISSUES, communication and the role of the city council were three of about 15 suggested study session items tackled last Tuesday. Some of the other topics included: discussion of the tax versus fee issue on the city's recycling program, identifying critical issues the city faces with other communities, and the council's position on financing the expansion of a senior citizen facility. Some of those will be handled in future study sessions.

The next council study session is scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27.

In the area of communications, the council directed city administration to get cost estimates on cablecasting meetings, producing a quarterly cable information sheet, costs of a newsletter versus the current city calendar. All of these will be reviewed and considered at a future date.

In the area of budget, the council agreed that this year the city should be "prudent but not foolish" in the words of councilman Richard Tupper and that the council should stick to policy issues and let Deadman and his administration fine-tune budget line items.

Overall, Hartsock said the city council must be more receptive and have more of a give and take so they can regain the public's confidence. "Say, let the 'Pledge of Allegiance' be fine," he said, referring to a recent addition to the city council agenda. "But symbolism isn't enough. Tying a yellow ribbon and saying 'I've done my bit' doesn't cut it."

"We have to get people involved."

Council members define their roles

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Farmington City Council members talked Tuesday about how they view themselves in part of a three-hour goal-setting session.

The study session is expected to be the first of several similar meetings which are expected to help the elected body define a mission statement for the city.

Here are a few of their comments:

- **Richard Tupper** — believes the five-member council and city manager should work as a team and should honor and respect each other's group and we don't want to fragment so we are taking sides," he said.

- **Arnold Campbell** — said he equates the council's role with that of a corporate board of directors and said an effective council should offer a variety and balance of ideas.

- **Shirley Richardson** — views herself as a community leader. "When there's work to be done, I'm going to do it," she said. Richardson has gotten involved in regional and state levels, bringing information

- back to her peers.
- **JoAnne McShane** — considers herself an "advocate" for citizens whose comments help her make informed decisions.

- **William Hartsock** — said he has gone from an advocacy role in his early council days to one of "being responsive to citizens." He said he wants the council to focus more on policy and less on procedure.

Freeze, economy put cities in financial vice

Continued from Page 1

ing property won't be there. That's about \$650,000, Rosch said.

Both cities will dip into reserves to balance budgets. "We know there will be insufficient revenues to cover expenses. We know that right now," Deadman said. "We already run a lean operation."

Lower interest rates also mean less in interest earnings for the cities. And both cities already know state shared revenues will be cut about 3 percent.

"This is a double hit," Rosch said. "This is the first time I've seen it when interest rates are down and construction has not picked up."

Costick formed a fiscal control task force of the city's administrators. "We are literally brainstorming the budget," he said. "Our goal already is to contain costs and reduce where possible."

The task force has discussed combining positions, centralizing city functions, perhaps increasing fees for zoning applications, for example, and "a list of 200 things — some of which are off the wall," Costick said.

IN FARMINGTON, Deadman already knows Blue Cross-Blue Shield costs will increase 15 percent. It's likely the purchase of vehicles will be delayed. New services won't be offered and he's looking into every nook and cranny of the city's operation.

But he doesn't know about layoffs. "We're going to attempt to maintain current levels of service."

When asked about possible layoffs, Costick says he "wouldn't raise that flag." Costick is considering reducing the city's vehicle fleet, trying to reap additional energy savings and

reducing purchases of small equipment. Like Farmington, Farmington Hills has existing labor contracts with city workers. That's an automatic \$1 million for Farmington Hills.

"Our goal is to see if there's a better way of doing things. It's going to be a standstill year," he added.



Film Craft Video cameraman Tony Gallucci (left) and production manager and cameraman Walli S. Szczubialka (right) hold him up with rock star Ted Nugent after a recent interview.

Video firm does Nugent segment

Film Craft Video of Farmington Hills got a taste of Hollywood recently without leaving the state of Michigan.

"Entertainment Daily Journal," a TV entertainment magazine airing nationally on the Fox network, called on Film Craft to provide a camera crew for an interview with rock singer Ted Nugent.

Film Craft got more than it bargained for, however, when it had to step in for the program's producer, who was unable to leave California.

Film Craft's Production Manager and cameraman, Walli S. Szczubialka, filled in, using questions developed by the program's producer. Szczubialka spent 15 minutes at WRIF-FM in Southfield, interviewing Nugent about his views on aging rock stars. Film Craft cameraman, Tony Gallucci, laid the groundwork for the segment by taping Nugent in action as he hosted a radio program prior to the interview.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 644-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(in Oakland County)
One year \$36.40
(elsewhere in Michigan)
Newsstand per copy 50¢
One year \$55.00
(elsewhere in U.S.A.)
One year \$80.00

All advertising in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI 48336 (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric* ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.



BRIDAL BAZAAR

Saturday, February 15
10 a.m. to noon
Bridal Salon, Birmingham

An introduction to the romantic gowns of spring and summer, accessories, and dresses for other members of the wedding.


You'll also hear about our many bridal services that make planning so easy, and learn how our Bridal Gift Registry works to make gift selection a breeze.

Let our expertise and knowledge guide you.

R.S.V.P. 644-6900, ext. 551



Jacobson's



BRIDAL CROWNING TOUCH COLLECTION SHOW

Saturday, February 15
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bridal Salon, Livonia

Meet bridal designer Gail Terenzio and see her collection of beautiful bridal veils and headpieces for spring-summer 1992

Jacobson's

Have You Heard of the "HOW ARE YOU TODAY?" MONITORING SERVICE?

- Handicapped
- Partially Disabled
- Elderly

Call us every day and find out if you're okay. If you have problems help will be on the way immediately.

531-5200 Requested information

DUBIN VALET DRY CLEANING

- FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY From Home or Office
- Quality Dry Cleaning Since 1974

\$5.00 OFF Any 3-piece Dry Cleaning Order of \$15.00 or more. 1 per Family. Expires 2-18-92

Raymond Dubin **861-2855**

Sylvan Learning Center

- Boost your child's grades.
- Build self-esteem.
- Programs in reading, math, algebra, writing, SAT/ACT college prep, study skills, homework support and time management.

5829 W. Maple • Suite 127 West Bloomfield

© 1992 Sylvan Learning Systems

PHONE 737-2880

LOSE YOUR HEART IN THE HILLS FARMINGTON HILLS

Package Includes:

- King Room for One Night
- Bottle of Champagne
- Box of Champagne Glasses
- Box of Gourmet Chocolates
- Coffee & Freshly Baked Cookies
- Breakfast for Two
- Heart-Shaped Basket

Package per couple: **\$75.00**

Package Includes:

- Deluxe accommodations for one night
- 2-2
- A first-class, five-course elegant dining excursion with choice entertainment aboard the Star Clipper Dinner Train!

Package per couple: **\$175.00**

For Reservations Call: **(313) 477-4000**

Holiday Inn
38125 West 10 Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48335

The Star Clipper