



Proud to march: Ira Wing, a 76-year-old Farmington Hills resident and a sailor during World War II, dons his uniform and shoulders a rifle for the Memorial Day Parade in Farmington.

STAFF PHOTO BY DANIEL LEFFERT

Remembering

Parade crowds ignore May chill

By TOM BAKER
STAFF WRITER

A cold snap in May might have hurt the flowers that were just planted, but it didn't do much to keep the crowd down at Farmington's annual Memorial Day Parade.

A crowd estimated at about 25,000 lined Grand River in downtown Farmington Monday morning to watch the floats, politicians, high school bands, Scout troops, military people (former and current) and all the other trappings of a parade.

"And no one seemed to mind that the temperatures were in the 50s."

"My son's marching with the Cub Scouts," said a well-bundled Paul Konfers of Farmington Hills when asked why he came.

A little further along Grand River, Ed and Connie Beutow looked cozy in their folding chairs. They brought their two kids and the family's West Highland terrier.

"We feel it's good for the kids to see what Memorial Day should be all about," Ed Beutow said.

And so the parade came along. Sirens wailed, dogs barked, high school students strutted and tooted their horns.

There were politicians aplenty. The five-member Farmington City Council rode together in a golf cart — and won the Outstanding Vehicle prize. "They were watching our budget," councilwoman Joanne McShane said with a laugh.



A sunny day: John Guminik, a 68-year-old Farmington resident, and granddaughter Jeanette, 5 1/2 months, wear sunglasses at the parade. It was a cold, but sunny, day.

Some Farmington Hills council members rode in separate cars. Councilman Ben Marks was in a 1930s Cadillac. Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi walked behind a car with his name on the side.

There was a serious side to the parade too. Pete Kullbaba, senior vice commander of Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 2309 in Farmington Hills, was proud to carry an American flag in the parade.

"It's important that we don't forget the people who went out and gave their lives for this country," said Kullbaba, a Navy veteran of World War II. "It's a remembrance, a service that we perform. I feel it's very important to remember the veterans."

Some other parade prizes not

already mentioned were:

Best Unit — American Legion Posts 340 and 190 from the Farmington area.

Best Float — Pack 162, Farmington.

Best Group — Gold Wing Road Riders Association (motorcycle), Farmington.

Best Youth Group, Boys — Boy Scout Troop 389.

Best Youth Group, Girls — Ilene's Dance Electric, Farmington.

Best Marching Unit — Sea Cadets, Port Huron.

Best Marching Group, Youth — Neighborhood 70 Girl Scouts.

Best Local Band — Clarenceville High School.

Outstanding Military Unit — Navy Hospital 343.



Dancing along: Members of Ilene's Dance Electric strut their stuff on Grand river during Monday's parade.

Hills plan offers option of adding second water meter

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington Hills homeowners asked for it, and beginning July 1 you'll have the option of installing a second meter for outside water use like lawn sprinkling and swimming pools.

That means you won't have to pay on your sewer bill for water you are using outside your house.

"You won't be charged for sewer on water that is not getting into the sanitary sewer," said Tom Biasek, Farmington Hills public services director. "Don't jump yet. There are some things you have to know about this program because there are upfront costs. And to make up the difference in the money that is lost on sewer charges with dual water meter users — the city still has its bills to pay — all sewer bills in the city will increase."

To understand how it affects your bills, remember that water and sewer charges are based on how much water has been used. The city still owes Detroit money for sanitary sewer services based on the water consumed, including outside your house.

"You're not changing the amount going in and out, you're changing how you're going to pay for it," Biasek said.

Water and sewer rates are going up July 1. Water rates will increase 72 cents, from \$9.28 to \$10 for each 1,000 cubic feet or about 7,500 gallons of water used.

Sewer rates will increase from \$7.95 to \$10.63 for

1,000 cubic feet. The new rate includes the loss of revenue that must be recovered with the dual water meter system. That loss amounts to a .81-cent increase in the rate, said Jean Barrett, Farmington Hills assistant to the public services director.

The sewer rate is based on an assumption that 30 percent of the total lawn sprinkling use will not generate money. Right now, all lawn sprinkling generates sewer money. With a dual meter, sewer fees would not be charged to the individual user on water that flows through that second meter, Barrett said.

"There will be a slightly higher rate on sewer to compensate for the amount taken out that is not being paid for. We still have to pay that amount coming out," Biasek said.

"Before you make a final decision that you want a second meter, consider that you'll probably spend \$525. Basic fixed costs are about \$275, which includes a water meter, installation and permit charges. Then you have to find a plumber and those costs will depend on what it takes to install the meter. Remember you'll probably have to adjust the plumbing inside your home to ensure that outside spigots are separated from the internal plumbing. That might cost an estimated \$250 for the total estimated \$525."

"The question homeowners have to ask themselves is how long would it take to recover the \$525. If they have a large lawn and water every day, that could be recovered within a year," Biasek said.

New pastor will lead the way at North Farmington Church

The North Farmington Community Church will welcome the Rev. Mark E. Sommers as pastor effective June 1. He joins the North Farmington congregation after serving nearly eight years on the staff of a large suburban congregation.

Sommers completed his undergraduate work at Anderson University, majoring in psychology and in marriage and family relations. He received his master's degree in divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, and has studied educational admin-

istration at the University of Michigan.

Sommers has an extensive background in Christian education especially in the areas of children, youth and family ministry. As the North Farmington Church begins this new era, Sommers hopes that the church will become known as a "place for people," where individuals feel accepted and have a sense of belonging.

Sommers is a single parent. He enjoys spending time with his daughter, most sports, and the outdoors.



The Rev. Mark E. Sommers

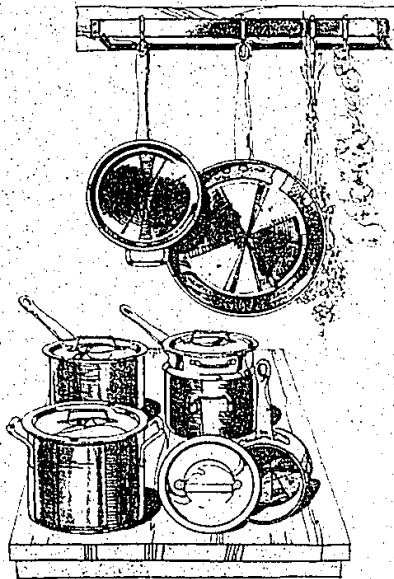
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