

For the birds



Functional decorations: Amy Simonson hangs bird food ornaments on the Farmington city Christmas Tree. She belongs to Girl Scout Troop 2195 at St. Paul's Church.

BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmington plans to hire county workers for sewers

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The City of Farmington will use Oakland County personnel to operate and maintain its new pumping and retention facility on Nine Mile Road between Brookdale and Grand River.

The Farmington City Council voted to approve a 90-day temporary agreement with the county, with the aim to make the arrangement permanent.

The retention facility, part of a multi-million-dollar sewer improvement project, has also improved sewer lines and separated the city's older combined sewers.

In reviewing the capabilities of the Farmington operation, the city determined that it has the personnel who could be trained in the operation of the new equipment. However, in evaluating the situation, City Manager Robert Deadman expects a need for ongoing support and the possibility of having to employ additional employees.

For instance, he expects that at least a portion of the retention basin will need to be cleaned about 70 times a year.

"The pumping station is controlled by computer-aided controls which need to be adjusted from time to time," Deadman said. "They (county personnel) will be provided on an as needed basis."

When Deadman and Earl Billing, public services director, recently studied annual manpower costs to operate and maintain the new facilities as compared to the proposed county costs, they found that it may actually be cheaper to

'The pumping station is controlled by computer-aided controls which need to be adjusted from time to time.'

Robert Deadman
city manager

use the county personnel.

"We found that the cost of their personnel can be shared between more than one facility, thereby saving both the city and the county labor costs," Deadman said. "Farmington would benefit because it would have access to specially trained personnel and a staff engineer at a cost considerably less than that which we could obtain from the private sector."

To Deadman's knowledge, the county has not entered into an agreement with another community exactly like the one proposed.

"However, they (the county) do operate facilities on behalf of communities, such as sewer treatment plants. The labor rates they are proposing for their employee hourly rates times 1.8 percent. The rates include overhead, supervision, fringes and other asso-

ciated employee costs."

Deadman estimates that a private consulting firm would charge the employee ratio times 2.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

"In negotiations, we concluded that it would be very helpful to bring the county people on board prior to the start-up of the pumping station so they could participate in the training and help with the testing of the facility," Deadman said. "The county has already been helpful to us in pointing out some areas that we should address during the construction of the pumping facility."

Although it is difficult to put a firm cost on the number of hours the city will use the county employee or employees during this start-up period, Deadman estimates the costs will be about \$5,000 to \$6,000 a month, depending on the number of hours the city uses the county's staff engineers.

During the 90-day period, the city will also train city personnel at the same time that the county personnel are being trained so that if the interim agreement doesn't work out, to either party the county or city, the city will be prepared to operate the facility, Deadman said.

Aging parent, child studied

Sandra M. Schliff, director of marketing and development for Eastwood-Oxford clinic in Eastpointe, will discuss "The Aging Parent and Child Relationship and Revelations" 1-3 p.m. Wednesday at The Trebridge in Southfield.

For reservations, call Schliff at 352-0208.

OBITUARIES

ANTHONY MARRA

Mr. Marra, 67, of Farmington, died of lung cancer Nov. 29 in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Born in Ishpeming, Mr. Marra was a retired Livonia educator. He started at Clarenceville High School in Livonia as an industrial arts teacher in 1951, rose to assistant principal and eventually became principal. He retired in 1986. He was a member of the Elks.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; sons, William and Thomas; daughters, Ellen Morrish, Lorraine Urban and Yvonne Rapi; sisters, Cecelia Kangas, Teresa Mongiat and Elizabeth Morgan; brother, Louis; 10 grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Dec. 2 in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Colum Morgan officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

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A variety of book holders are available. Some keep the book upright, are adjustable to fit many sizes, and can change the angle of viewing to suit the reader. Other models have spring holders that allow one to turn pages with a light touch on the page just read. Large handled pens, remote control modules, cordless screwdrivers, and an endless variation of cleverly designed scissors, button fasteners, keyrings, shavers, and dishes are on the Christmas market place. Keyrings, knives and button fasteners are traditional sources for such gifts. Our office has catalogues with pictures and prices from outside sources; you are welcome to review these lists and order from them. Your effort is worthwhile. It identifies you as one who cares both about the gift and the person receiving it.

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