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Tuesday Wednesday

Public safety commanders get contract

SYLMIKY OCHOROL

The city of Farmington and its public safety commanders have reached an agreement on a new irree-year contract.

The deal calls for a 6.5 percent increase over three years as well as a .25 percent increase over the remainders of the command officers pension starting in January 1996.

Increased pension benefits are loadered a trade-off for lower loadered a trade-off for lower loaders. Increased pension the command Officers Association received a 13.5 percent increase during the last

contract in 1990.

The city council approved the pact, which runs through June 1996, at Monday night's meeting. A state mediator was brought in to sottle the contract, avoiding arbitration.

"We were happy to avoid arbitration because arbitration is very costly," said Farmington Public Safety commander Tom Cox, who was a negotiator for the union that represents four employees. "Either you win or you lose in arbitration.

bitration.

"We realize with the economy and the unknowns with the loss of school aid . . . That is reason

enough to try and settle here. We're happy, It's something we can both live with."

Said city manager Frank Lauhoff. "In our negotiations, wa've always had a cooperative atmosphere. That is what we had with the command officers. Both sides tried to understand each other's needs." and its contractive of the contracti

The pact also calls for only a slight adjustment to health care

slight adjustment to means coverage.

Command officers — who are covered by medical insurance from another source — can receive \$120 a month reimbursement if they do not take the city's

medical insurance coverage.

Prescription co-pays have been increased from \$3 to \$10 for those who have Blue Cross PPO or a traditional medical coverage. Otherwise, the command officers' health care coverage remains in-

health care coverage remains in-tact.
"I thought we'd get clobberd with huse demands on health care." Cox sold.

The agreement also calls for:
B Pregnant officers to be allowed to accumulate all leave time for use during post pregnancy period. This will allow them to receive a regular salary for a longer period of time while on leave.

MRctiring employees to be phid for all accrued annual leave.

Longevity payments to be increased from \$60 to \$65 a year with the maximum cap after=20 years increased from \$1,200 to \$1,300.

Clarification in how commanders are paid for court appearances in helping prevent unnecessary overtime costs.

The contract with the Command Officers Association is not expected to set the tenor of origoing negotiations between the city and the 15-member Farmington Police Officers Association.

Home Depot: retail store is planned

The Farmington Hills Planning Commission has scheduled; a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Thutaday, Oct. 21, in the council chamber of Farmington Hills City Hill; 1 Mille and Orchard Lake roads.

The commission will consider, among other items, a plan to build a Home Depot retail store on the south side of 12 Mile east of Orchard Lake Road.

The land is currently zoned for office due.

LWV has state: government info

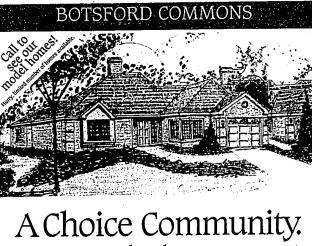
Looking for information about state government? The Leagus of Women Voters has a tell-free dephone service (1-800-202-682) that may be helpful. The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax information.

voting regulations or tax informa-tion.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Vot-ers is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interest-ed and informed about govern-mental issues.



Heiltage Park beckons: Sharon Wojnaroski (right) joined her daughters Teresa (left) and Melissa on the youngsters' recent day off from Sorrows Elementary and Middle schools, which had teacher conferences. The three worked out at the YMCA and then had ice cream in the park on the pleasant fall day.



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