

Council approves new water rates

BY RICHARD PEARL
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The anticipated increase in water and sewer rates for Farmington residents and businesses will take effect July 1.

The city council voted 4-0 Monday to approve a 4.92 percent increase in water and sewer user fees — an increase mandated mainly by higher rates already being charged by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and by Oakland County for sewage treatment it handles for the 30 percent of the city located roughly west of Drake Road.

"Can we go back to wells?"

FARMINGTON

asked Councilwoman JoAnne McShane in good-naturedly protesting the increase.

"All that water's gone," answered City Manager Frank Lauhoff drily.

However, Lauhoff — noting that Farmington is the only city in Oakland County to have its own water and sewer department — said the city joins the county in meeting with Detroit on water and sewerage concerns and is the only municipality in the county to do so.

Farmington's water fee will increase 9 cents from \$1.83 to

\$1.92 per 1,000 gallons, and the sewer rate will increase 13 cents from \$2.64 to \$2.77 per 1,000 gallons.

Detroit raised Farmington's wholesale water rate from \$6.76 per 1,000 cubic feet to \$7.02, a 3.85 percent increase. Wholesale sewer rates increased 7.26 percent, from \$6.34 to \$6.80.

Oakland County, which serves the Farmington-Evergreen Sewer area, increased its sewerage charge to the city by 9.2 percent from \$8.70 to \$9.50 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Farmington's higher rates also will cover increased expenditures by the city water and sewer departments' local operations and maintenance increases

in the coming year as well as costs to operate the pump station and retention basin, Lauhoff said.

The city manager pointed out that Oakland County's department is hooked into the Detroit system, as in Farmington's, which serves 70 percent of the city.

Farmington also increased its wholesale rates for water and sewer to the approximately two dozen customers in Farmington Hills to whom it has sold water since the days before the Hills became a city.

Councilman Arnold Campbell was out of town on business and did not attend the meeting.

Store from page A1

Frank Lauhoff at Monday's city council meeting.

Lauhoff noted Kimco is in "early negotiations" with a green-grocer, who would sell fruits and vegetables, but pointed out Kimco's negotiations have been going on for a year.

"It's not what we all want," he said of the idea to break up the former grocery — but it may be the only path to achieving occu-

pancy, he said.

Lauhoff said the problem with the store is its size.

"The store was built in 1963 as a grocery, but today it's a dinosaur," he said. Stores are either much smaller or far larger, he added: "At 18-19,000 square feet, it's an abnormal size for a profitable (supermarket) business."

Lauhoff said he learned from a

grocer who had been interested in the site that the profit margin in the midwest is "extremely limited" — only a half-percent.

The man told Lauhoff it would cost him "\$2 million to fix the store up and 50 years to make up the investment" due to the tiny margin.

Lauhoff said A&P, which owns Farmer Jack and which still holds the lease on the property,

has "not been a block to what we are trying to do."

A&P "has been cooperating with the city" in its efforts to find a tenant and even "had given the go-ahead" for a grocery store to locate there, Lauhoff said. Originally, A&P had not wanted such a tenant.

INKWELL

HEADED FOR HILLSDALE

Jennifer

Fellows, daughter of Charles and Joyce Fellows of Farmington Hills, has been accepted at Hillsdale College.

Fellows expects to major in biology. At Farmington High School she was a member of the marching band, orchestra, symphonic band, National Honors Society, Inter-Act, and the Girl Scouts.

PREP GRADS

The following Farmington Hills residents earned high school diplomas from St. Mary's Preparatory School in Orchard Lake.

Hani Absaid, James Bohrer, Alexander Calderone, Adam Harris, Brian Inamdar, Kevin Jappaya, Christopher Jonna,

Michael Kumelsha, Brandon McGlinch, Carl Mikko and Raymond Schultz.

GREAT LAKES SCHOLAR

Drew Okla, a fourth grader at Steppingstone, has been selected as a Great Lakes Scholar. This is an honor group for boys and girls grades 4-8 who excel in the classroom, in the community, in the athletic arena and as leaders in activities outside of school.

Drew scored 90-98 percent in reading and math on the Iowa Tests of Academic Achievement. His Science Expo presentation, "Snake Life," was aired on Time Warner Cable Channel 12. He also had the lead role of Jim Hawkins in the musical version "Treasure Island," which was part of the spring fine arts evening. His community activities include involvement in "Race for the Cure" Karmans cancer fund raising, adopting a family at Christmas and food drives.

FARMINGTON NOTABLES

Chairman of the Board

Scott Carson, vice president and general manager of the Edward C. Levy Co.'s Natural Aggregates Divi-



Scott Carson

sion, has been elected chairman of the board of the Michigan Aggregates Association. The MAA is a trade association that represents more than 100 companies and 7,000 working men and women.

Carson and his wife, Sue, and three children reside in Farmington Hills.

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