

# Hills to wait and see on Costick tower

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If Plan A won't work, Nextel Communications is working on Plan B.

Whether Nextel co-hosts an existing cellular tower on Sisters of Mercy Institute property or a potential second tower in the middle of municipally-owned William Costick Activities Center is still to be determined.

The various tower scenarios were discussed during a Monday evening study session of the Farmington Hills City Council.

In Nextel's mind, they can't come to an agreement with the Sisters," said Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock. "So, they'll be pursuing a Certificate of Need with the city."

But the council — which would rather have one tower in the area and not two — is still hopeful that Nextel and the international Catholic organization can reach a compromise.

According to Hills Planning Director Dale Countegan, if Nextel and the Sisters do not progress on discussions, it is likely the company will apply for a Certificate of Need for the Costick site within 60 days.

See what happens

"I'm not sure we have to take any action," said Hills Mayor Nancy Bates. "Let it go. If Nextel can't work it out with the Sisters they'll come to us."

With Nextel apparently at a standstill in talks with Mercy, the Farmington-based communications company already has an agreement with the city to lease property on the Costick grounds, located to the north and east of Mercy High School. The agreement calls for Nextel to pay the city \$1,500 per month over 25 years, said Hills Planning Director Dale Countegan.

The company could erect a tower as high as 160 feet with five or six cellular providers taking up space. To put up as tall a tower on the Sisters of Mercy property probably would require a zoning ordinance variance.

No such action would be needed for the Costick site. Kamar Amanullah, comptroller at the Hills regional office of the Sisters of Mercy, and Mercy High School Principal Sr. Regina Marie Doelker could not be reached for comment.

Countegan said there currently is a 120-foot tower on Sisters of Mercy property, on the south side of I-696, with Cingular and Verizon taking up space. (Those formerly were Ameritech and

Cellular One, respectively.)

## Black hole

The current issue came about after the city updated its ordinance for cellular tower regulation a few years ago. Countegan said Nextel told officials it wanted to come to Farmington Hills.

"Nextel had a black hole (in coverage) in the area of the Costick Center," he said.

The company, in the ensuing months, has wanted to work out a deal either to join other providers on the Sisters' campus or at the Costick Center. The Sisters of Mercy now receive rent from Cingular and Verizon, and likely would want some kind of financial reimbursement to buy into a new arrangement.

"The city asked Nextel, as a courtesy, to approach the Sisters and work out an agreement and get everybody together and have one tower, either on the Sisters property or at Costick Center," Countegan explained. "And they (Nextel) have attempted to do that."

If the Sisters do not want to change their existing agreement or allow providers to move from their tower to the Costick Center site, Countegan added that "We have the issue that Nextel still wants to be in the area."

# Blue Cross seeks Angel Award nominees

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are accepting nominations for the annual Caring for Children Angel Awards. In its third year, the Angel Award is a statewide program honoring individuals who distinguish themselves through their outstanding work for children in the state.

This year, one angel will be chosen from each of five regions in the state, with a Grand Angel selected from those five finalists.

The Angel Award presents a \$5,000 grant to

the winner's designated non-profit organization, as well as \$1,000 grants to each of the other four regional winners' organizations.

The deadline for nominations is June 8. A panel of judges in each of the five regions will select the regional winner, and judges from all five regions will select the Grand Angel.

Nomination forms and additional information are available by calling the Blues at (800) 733-BLUE or from the Blues' Web site at www.bcbms.com/angel

# Goshorn from page A1

gram is marketing."

Goshorn, 62, a 13-year Farmington Hills resident, lives on Horton Drive. He is a planning and distribution manager for recreational vehicle and commercial sales at Ford Motor Co. He and his wife, Regina, have two sons, Andy, who graduated in 1996 from Farmington High School and Daniel, who graduates next month.

## Parents' concerns

Goshorn said he hasn't seen school board members at all the functions he attended. "That's where parents will come to you with their concerns," Goshorn said. "It's difficult to go to a school board meeting, write your name on a card and take your turn waiting to address the board. Maybe I'm being too harsh. Maybe they have just zipped when I zipped."

Goshorn stresses concern for the welfare of kids and not any one issue particularly. The district has good MEAP scores, good kids, and good families. "We can do a better job of letting the community know what we are about."

His motivation for running also includes a kind of "seize the day" philosophy.

"You only have one chance to have your first day in first grade," Goshorn said. "You only have one chance to have your first day in high school. I feel that in this capacity I can make a significant contribution to the overall school experience. Over

the last four years, I have been deeply involved with students at the high school level and feel I would bring a fresh perspective on their needs. I can get power to the ground. I can make it happen."

Goshorn believes officials must listen to input from people who don't have children in schools, who comprise a large percentage of district households. Attention must be given both to the infrastructure of the schools, which are aging, and relief for class sizes.

One of the most recent controversies, the end of the Gill Year Round School program, puzzled Goshorn somewhat.

"I sat there for that entire debate," he said. "Without a board packet and without a behind-the-scenes explanation I don't know why the decision had to be made in March, that night."

## Looking at both sides

He sees both sides of the special ed funding issue. "I'm sure if you are a parent with a special ed child, the district just can't do enough."

Though the district has budget constraints, it is still in good shape with reserves, he said.

Goshorn, a West Point graduate with a degree in engineering, later earned a master's degree in business from Boston University. He now serves on Sen. Carl Levin's committee to select deserving young men and women for appointees to the ser-

vice academics.

"After seven years active duty I continued my service in the Army reserves for 13 years," he said. "One of my most challenging assignments was training and operations director for a unit of over 3,000 soldiers."

He is trained as a distance-learning instructor and conducted numerous training classes by live television to remote locations.

"I've had 13 years to see the highs and the lows of the district," he said. "I would go to the board meetings with no preconceived agenda."

## Sports involvement

He's been involved with sports-scouting, and was an Odyssey of the Mind coach. Goshorn has also been active in supporting his children's activities, serving as president of the North Farmington Football Boosters in 2000, on the '90 Senior All-Night Party steering committee, the class of '01 fund-raising projects, and the FPS committee on outdoor advertising.

"It's important to be involved with your kids when they are going through school," Goshorn said.

He is also an adult leader in his church youth group, preparing for his fourth trip this year to an Appalachian work camp through St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills.

"I buy tools all year and read books all year just to get ready for it," Goshorn said.

# Elsey from page A1

have a daughter, Teresa, who graduated from Harrison High School and is now an English major at Harvard. She is finishing her freshman year. Their son, Matthew, is a junior at Harrison.

Elsey is a senior systems analyst since 1993 at Henry Ford Hospital and has owned TLC Computer Systems since 1985. He was an accounting supervisor for the Midwest region of Burger King Corporation from 1979-1986.

## Advanced placement

Elsey is focused on promoting advanced placement learning. He pursued Farmington Public Schools resources material, found staff dedicated specifically to special education — psychologists, and sociologists — but none assigned just to advanced placement children. He wants a staff member dedicated to advanced students at the middle school and high school level.

"We need to gather up our smartest kids in a whole group to push each other," Elsey said. "Kids can help each other."

Teresa and other students like her studied on their own, he said. "Kids are ready to give 100 percent; schools are willing to give them about 60 percent."

Elsey doesn't suggest adding more teachers; instead, he favors creating a special class of advanced students from the district and designating someone to teach them.

Rather than dividing counselor

work load according to where the students' names fall in the alphabet, Elsey wants better focus. "There's four or five counselors doing the whole spectrum," he said. "We're asking too much from these counselors. How can these counselors cover every kind of kid?"

Elsey wants counselors to be better able to direct the district's best students to prime schools of higher learning, a frustration he experienced with his own daughter. "There is no help for these 'top kids,'" Elsey said. "We had to find out for ourselves about dual enrollment and then we had to find out for ourselves about what class at Oakland Community College to get her into. We need people specializing. The programs I am asking for don't cost any money."

The district might want to send advanced placement physics students to O.C.C., he said. "It would be cheaper than hiring a teacher for a term. We need the focus for them. These kids don't need one-on-one attention."

## Homogenous board

The board is homogenous right now. Elsey said, and he'd like to shake things up a little. "We have nobody from the Harrison/East Middle School area. We need somebody a little different. We need somebody a little obnoxious. We need somebody like me."

Elsey will take a stand against block scheduling. "We need daily

reinforcement with language learning," he said. "The average class length at Harvard is 56 minutes; the average high school period at Harrison is 88 minutes. Who knows more? One of us is on a wrong track."

He also feels, while the Gill Year Round program served some people, the district can't afford to put that program on when too few children are enrolled.

## Underestimated

The district underestimates the effort parents of advanced students make for their children, he said. "The school board calls her (Teresa) in along with five or six other students and says, 'Look at the good job we are doing. Look at all these kids with awards. The parents and kids are sitting out there looking at this group of people and saying, 'No. We did this despite you, not because of you.' This is not our school board in action. What principals will tell you behind closed doors is that good kids will learn anyway."

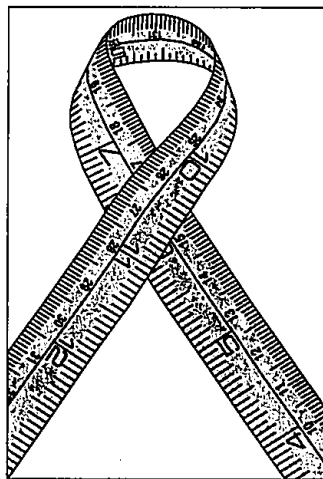
That's unacceptable, he said.

Elsey holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan, has done masters work in business administration at Eastern Michigan University and masters work in computer science at Lawrence Technological University.

He has volunteered as a basketball coach at the Farmington Hills Park and Recreation Department since 1994.

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"Fit For The Cure" is a licensed trademark of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

# Neuman from page A1

ing, the 42-year-old attorney has encountered older people who think the school board race doesn't affect them because they no longer have children in school.

He tells them, "Look, we're having a budget crunch. You should know what is going on." Neuman cited information from the 2000-2001 budget because the new budget wasn't available at the time of his interview.

## Aim for salaries, benefits

Because 82 percent of the budget goes to salaries and benefits, that should be the first area studied for possible reductions, Neuman said. He would offer early retirement incentives to teachers. Even calculating the bonus, the difference between top-level teachers who get the highest salaries and beginning teachers is substantial and would be on-going.

"If we had 160 teachers take early retirement and offer them \$10,000 as an incentive, we could reduce the budget deficit," he said. "This concept has been talked about."

Between 250-270 teachers are eligible to retire with full benefits, Neuman said.

He also wants to take a close, line-item look at the budget. "A school board member can't micromanage but can ask the right questions to see if dollars are spent wisely," Neuman said. "I'm not ready to push the panic button but when I go door to door and tell people there's a budget crunch, they look at me like it is the shock of their life."

They can't even dream that is possible. It's reality time."

He supports using billboard advertising at stadiums as a way for the athletic department to pay for itself a little bit more.

An attorney for 18 years, Neuman is familiar with negotiating and examining contracts and has done litigation and transactional work. Farmington Hills residents since 1990, he and his wife have three children, ages 12, 10, and 7, who attend Farmington Schools.

Neuman is running because there is an open seat created by Bobbie Feldman's decision to not seek re-election. He wouldn't want to run against an incumbent.

## Backed by Vagnozzi

His campaign literature lists former Farmington Hills Mayor and Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi as his treasurer, with his labor donated. Neuman worked on Vagnozzi's campaigns.

Neuman wants to facilitate communication between parents and teachers and supports an approach taken at Warner Middle School, which one of his children attends. "We get an e-mail every day about what's going on and what tests are planned," Neuman said.

He wants to set up electronic town hall meetings once a month to cover things like the art program or the elementary curriculum. "Parents can log in with appropriate staff people," Neuman said. "I'm sure people have questions all the time but don't know where to turn to. (We

should) take advantage of this wonderful Internet we have."

Opposed to school vouchers, he also believes strongly in safe schools and student assistance programs to prevent kids from hurting each other.

Neuman does have a few bones to pick with the current board, regarding the Gill Year Round School program. "Parents weren't given enough opportunity to turn things around. They were told mid-year that the program was in trouble."

## Collegial atmosphere

He is also concerned about what he calls a "collegial" atmosphere at board meetings.

"By all appearances, everything is real chummy. It may be that all the real hard decisions are made in committees," he said. "I can't think of one board decision which wasn't unanimous. I hope they are not simply a rubber stamp for the administration."

Neuman volunteers for sports, school activities and is a former volunteer high school youth group adviser. He's on the board of the Heritage Hills Homeowners Association and has served on the Forgotten Harvest board for 10 years.

"About a million pounds of food is rescued annually," he said. HoneyBaked Ham and Pizza Hut are donors. "Everything picked up is delivered the same day."

He has assisted with the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime-Free Multi-Housing program.

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