

Council appoints new deputy clerk

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Susan Halberstadt was appointed Farmington deputy city clerk Monday.

She last worked as the administrative assistant in Farmington City Manager Frank Lauffhoff's office.

"I felt it would be a greater challenge in terms of growth," Halberstadt said. "I'm looking forward to it."

A Farmington Hills resident, she replaces Janice Schmidt who had been deputy clerk since September 1992. Schmidt was approved for disability retirement July 1, after being absent from work since last November due to serious health problems,

CITY OF FARMINGTON

according to Farmington Clerk/Treasurer Paty Cantrell.

"Having this essential position vacant for the past several months, and particularly with the only other staff person in the clerk's office having less than one year seniority during that time, has presented many challenges," Cantrell said.

Halberstadt starts her new job Aug. 13. The job will be restructured to include supervisory responsibilities, Cantrell said. Halberstadt will handle day-to-day operations, conduct elections, keep records and take meeting minutes.

She will initially be paid under the old salary schedule. Beginning Jan. 1, the salary for her position starts at \$38,810, with a range that tops out at \$48,440 after a four-year period, Cantrell said. The range reflects the new responsibilities.

Halberstadt started working part-time as an administrative assistant in November 1999 and moved into a full-time position in May 2000.

Prior to coming to work at the City of Farmington, she worked part-time in administration for a day care at Computware. It was run by another group.

"She will be independently responsible for a piece of the clerk's office under my direction," Cantrell said. "I'm very excited about her appointment and confident she will do a responsible and wonderful job for the city. With her background and current knowledge of city operation, I believe Sue has the overall qualifications and with training in elections administration, will excel in fulfilling the duties of deputy city clerk."

Halberstadt worked with Cantrell during the past year on projects and acted as recording secretary in the clerk's office during that time.

She and her husband, Gregg, have a son, Eric, 16 and a daughter, Samantha, 15.

Foundation donation



Gifted: Judge Marla Parker, executive board vice chairwoman for the Farmington Hills Farmington Community Foundation, accepts a \$7,000 donation presented by Jeff Robinson of TRW, a business based in Farmington Hills. The foundation provides money for a variety of programs that focus on the needs of children, youth and families, with the largest share going toward after-school and summer programs that serve both communities. Planning is well under way for the foundation's biggest fund-raiser, the Cornucopia Ball, which will be held at Bosch Corp. in November.

RECREATION NEWS

The following is a list of recreational activities offered through the city of Farmington Hills. For information call (248) 473-1800.

MARSHMALLOW FLY & FRY

The "largest campfire ever in Farmington Hills" is planned for 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, in Heritage Park's north picnic shelter. A marshmallow drop is planned for 7 p.m. for participants age 2 to 15. The Farmington Hills fire department will give fire truck tours and the police department will show off its mobile command unit. Participants may purchase pre-cooked hot dogs or cook their own hot dogs and s'mores over the fire. Hot dogs for grilling and s'mores will be provided.

OPEN GYM

The William Costick Activities Center gym, located on 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster, is offering adult basketball 9

a.m. to 11 a.m. Sundays, adult volleyball 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays and teen basketball 1-3 p.m. Sunday. Cost for residents 17 and younger is \$2, and \$4 for non-residents; and \$3 for residents 18 and older, \$5 for non-residents.

FRIDAY NIGHT MADNESS

Kids ages 6-12 can enjoy an evening of swimming, movies, food and organized games from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Preregistration is required by 4:30 p.m. the day of the program to reserve a spot. The fee to participate is \$10 per person.

LIVE MUSIC

The new Big Break Venue is open on selected Friday and Saturday nights and is located at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Current scheduled concert dates are Oct.

13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1. All bands (alternative, jazz, rock, etc.) interested in playing at the Big Break Venue on a Friday or Saturday night can send or deliver a tape or CD to the City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, Attn: BB Live Music, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Upon submitting a tape or CD, bands will be contracted if chosen to play at Big Break Venue. For more information please contact (248) 473-1805.

PUNT, PASS & KICK

Boys and girls ages 8-15 (age as of Dec. 31, 2001) have the opportunity to show their punting, passing and kicking skills in a local PPK competition at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15. The deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 14 and the program is free.

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mailed to homeowners to call the city offices with questions regarding this project and the ballot question.

The city newsletter, scheduled for distribution Oct. 1, will include a complete explanation of the problem and project. The newsletter may include the actual ballot language.

During Monday's council meeting, Lauffhoff said this letter could have more of an effect if it was mailed to residents rather than contained in a newsletter. This was done to inform residents of the 1994 road program.

"It's a lot better to send the letter from the mayor to each household in a separate envelope."

Councilman Arnold Campbell said he preferred to see the letter included as an attachment to the newsletter to save mailing

cost.

"That would seem to make sense rather than to incur the additional cost," said councilwoman Mary Bush.

People tend to read the newsletter, said Councilwoman JoAnne McShane. "A separate letter could be lost as just another piece of mail."

Mayor Bill Hartsock said a letter in mid-October can better target the audience.

A letter mailing would be best served in mid-October, two or three weeks before the election, Lauffhoff said. The bulk mail costs \$500.

"To save \$500 on mailing is a missed opportunity to let people know what's going on," Hartsock said. "The letter seems to serve a purpose. We're talking about \$2.5 million of improvements here; \$500 is money well-spent. I

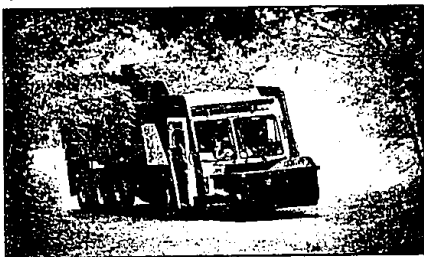
want to see that this project is really considered by the residents."

Councilman Jim Mitchell said inserts are typically seen as a two-sided sheet. He said the 1994 road tax letter went out with four pages.

"If you are going to do it in a newsletter, you may expand the newsletter by four pages," Mitchell said. "So a separate mailing makes more sense. You can target it in a newsletter that a separate mailing is coming."

"If you try to make a newsletter that long, then the costs really do multiply," Lauffhoff said. "The idea is to make sure everybody hears about this."

Final approval of the public information plan is expected at a special meeting, 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 21.



No room to spare: Large trucks brush against the canopy of trees on Power Road.



Endangered? Residents worry that native plants will be lost.

Power Road from page A1

to upgrading from their well water, said Tom Binsell, Farmington Hills public services director.

But while homeowners said they expected water and sewer line construction for the development to begin this month, Farmington Hills officials say project developer Joe Trupiano has yet to sign an amended consent agreement. His signature would clear the way for the city to award water/sewer construction bids, said Binsell.

Trupiano was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

"The way we look at it, the city has fulfilled its part," said Binsell on Monday. The agreement called for the two parties to sign by July 31.

City officials signed the amended agreement in March and sought bids. Two were received in June. The low bid, from Sunset Excavating Inc. of Livonia, is for nearly \$1.43 mil-

lion. Binsell said that by the order of Oakland Circuit Judge Barry Howard, the developer is to pay \$400,000 toward the project and the city is to pay the rest.

As Kernicky strolled by the gravel road on a recent afternoon, a canopy of trees brought some relief from the unrelenting summer sun. She pointed to a range of plant life near the development: Queen Anne's lace, wild carrot, wild Astor, cottonwood and honeysuckle.

"We're concerned heavy construction traffic will destroy the beauty of the trees. We know it's a natural beauty road. It won't look the same when it's finished."

Power Road is named for Farmington pioneer Arthur Power, who settled here in 1824. The Philbrick Tavern on the northwest corner of Power and 11 Mile may have served as an underground railroad stop before

the Civil War.

The road ends just north of Kernicky's property at Oakland Community College. Kernicky said she believes the road will be continued past the current dead end to handle increased traffic.

The battle over the development once grew so contentious that the developer sued North Power Homeowners Group association officers for \$1 million each, and won several legal fights with the city over proceeding with the development.

"I think everybody's sort of resigned to it," said Dr. Alan Ackroyd, a former homeowner's group vice president. "It's our perception the judiciary sided with the developer and you can't fight that."

"I think I got a little disillusioned about the whole thing," said Ackroyd, who was sued for \$1 million along with Kernicky. The suit was withdrawn as the city settled with the developer.

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