

Council from page A1

going to get married. No permits have been filed, nothing. Can you do anything at all to help us? Like who should I talk to?"

The audience laughed as they waited for acting student Mayor Andrew Kravis to respond.

"We could take a vote to republish his house," Kravis said. The acting council agreed to vote on it in the future.

"You could take a vote to buy his house and we could build a new one?" Bush asked. "I think we should do it."

"He's not married?" Kravis asked. "I can see why."

The group roared with laughter.

"There he is," Bush said. "I think you should talk to him."

Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock stepped forward to play Bush's neighbor. "I think she's talking about somebody else," Hartsock said. "In fact, some of the things she's talking about, I thought that abandoned car was your car."

Bush squeaked, "No."

The wild party issue was referred to the Director of Public Safety Officer played by Emily Luxon. "He is over the age of 18," Luxon said.

"So, that's OK?" Bush asked.

"Well, if he's not harming anyone else," Luxon said. "If it's a continuous problem, then you should contact the police."

Governing lessons

About 30 students became counterparts to city officials and shadowed officials during the day.

"Do you have a lot of patience?" Tim Moore, a student, asked Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff.

"Fixing some things can take years," Lauhoff said.

Starting out with a discussion of his former position as Farmington director of public safety, Lauhoff said his day could begin a number of ways: with a drunk complaint, a fatal accident, an armed robbery or a tour of local road construction.

George Goodman, executive director of the Michigan Municipal League, was the luncheon speaker. Goodman, a former Ypsilanti mayor and councilman, has held his position at the

MML for 19 years. He cited the MML's motto, "Cooperation solves any problems."

As a former educator, Goodman recalled one class segment called, "Walk and Talk." Students left the classroom and walked in any direction for 20 minutes. They got into the neighborhoods and observed things that required attention.

"The challenge was to keep a list of all the things which impacted you as a citizen, whether it was a broken sidewalk, a house which needed paint, or a grocery cart along the creek bed," Goodman said. "We would spend the rest of the class talking about whose responsibility it was and how we could get these things fixed."

Local government has the most responsibility but gets the least attention, Goodman said.

He urged the young people to learn as much as they can about how local government works. "Your experience today will put you well ahead of even your parents in this respect. There's a lot of adults who pay little attention to how our government operates."

Sewers from page A1

"Refining this wastewater pipeline is a critical need for Farmington, and I am pleased that the federal government will assist them with this project," Knollenberg said in a press release. "This project, which must be completed in the next 24 months, will save Farmington from the astronomical cost of replacing the pipeline while ensuring the integrity of the area's environment by preventing leaks or breaks in the pipeline."

The four-mile-long wastewater

pipeline was installed in the mid-1960s. Evaluations by engineers show that the pipeline is failing in several locations.

The deterioration jeopardizes the sewer capacity, increasing the likelihood of overflows in the Rouge River.

While the cost to replace the pipeline would be \$10 million, relying at a cost of \$2.5 million will save residents money, reduce the disruption to local businesses and extend the pipeline's life by another 40 years, officials said.

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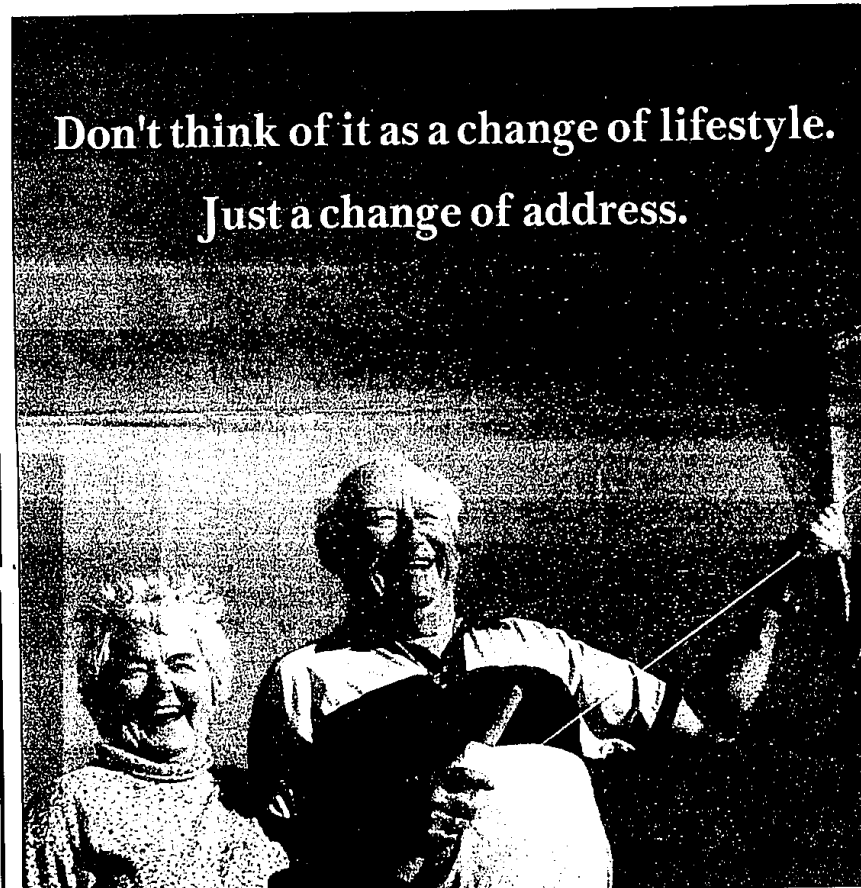
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