

'Farmington Hills' Council Petitions Due In 2 Weeks

By DAN MCCOSH

Petitions are due March 20 for a seat on the first council for the City of Farmington Hills.

The election for the seven-member council and the vote on the charter will both take place March 8. No petitions have been turned in at the Farmington Township clerk's office yet, and only a few have been taken out, according to Township Clerk Floyd Cairns.

The charter, has been revised in three meetings of the charter commission. These have resulted in changes in the rules on open meetings, the council pay and method of setting it, qualifications for the council, and signatures required for referendums.

The charter is expected to be sent to Lansing Monday, for review by the governor's staff, according to Fred Fairfield, spokesman for the commission.

The changes were made following a series of public hearings on the charter at area high schools.

One change urged at the hearings, mainly by local Democrats, was not included in the final document. The charter still specifies an at-large election for council members.

The rules governing meetings and records were liberalized, although some restrictions on open meetings remained.

The commission adopted language which said personnel matters and land acquisition could be taken up in private. All votes must be taken up in public.

The language of the section was a modification of PA 261, a state act passed in 1968 which is more restrictive than the home rule act on which most charters are based.

A section which originally gave the council power to suppress records was changed to read all "ordinary" records "shall be

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available for inspection at all reasonable times."

The section lists police records, criminal investigations and personnel records, and papers concerning pending litigation as "non-public" records, to be released only at the discretion of the council.

Council pay was set at \$1,800 in the latest version of the charter-up from \$1,200 in the original.

The mayor's pay would be \$2,700. The reason given for the change was mainly a survey conducted by the Homeowners Assn. which indicated a preference for the higher pay.

A mandatory referendum on the council members setting their own salary was added.

This would automatically put a question on the next city ballot on whether the pay raise would stand.

Referendum signature requirements were raised to 1 1/2 per cent of the vote for secretary of state-the amount needed to counteract any ordinance passed by the council.

To put a referendum question on the ballot, 15 per cent (about 2,000 signatures) would be needed.

Charter Commissioner Joan Dudley tested public opinion on the charter, recently releasing the results of an informal poll she conducted on key items.

"I'm not a professional," she said. "Some of the questions might not have been worded correctly."

Some of the answers did indicate general trends. The ward system was unpopular in all sections of the township.

At-large elections were more popular by approximately 60 per cent to 40 per cent in the southeast section, and 80 per cent to 20 per cent in the northeast.

The poll indicated 60 per cent were happy with the proposed six mill tax limitation going to 10 mills by 1980.

One result which is still puzzling Mrs. Dudley is the negative response to whether a mayor should be elected by the council.

"It seems to be an indication the people want the top vote-getter to be mayor," she said, although she added the question might have been confusing.

She sent out about 2,700 questionnaires, she said, and got back about 350. They were sent to people who had expressed interest, and also distributed by individuals, according to Mrs. Dudley.

Abowd Going To Louisville

David Abowd, winner of both the Farmington and Michigan Youth Citizenship Award, will be representing Farmington in the regional Soroptimist contest to be in Louisville, Ky. during the end of April.

If he wins the regional contest he will be eligible for

the national contest on a date yet to be determined.

Abowd, president of the senior class in Harrison High School, is a member of the state student congress, the student newspaper, school music department, and forensics.

Water Nearer

The Northwest Pressure District is a little closer, bringing water for the west half of the township a little closer to reality. The latest progress report is on:

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Library Friends

The Farmington Library has some "friends" who donated decorations and some more practical items. To find out how to help the library, turn to:

Page 2A

Art In Church

Churches seem to be taking their responsibilities toward the arts more seriously these days. But the seriousness is fun too, and you can see "Oklahoma!" in one church, and works of art and dance in another this week end.

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Doc Minard Reports

The Southfield partners who purchased Hazel Park race track are experiencing their ups and downs to see if their gamble is going to pay off. For the complete story, flip to today's sport section.

Page 10A

Morality

A Catholic Lenten series takes a close look at the changing concepts of morality. The series begins this week in Farmington, and you can find the details in the Church Section.

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A PARENT backs up another parent to successfully defeat the Middlebelt Elementary School teachers in a fund raising benefit game Wednesday night in Harrison High School.

Work Off Pounds, Earn Some Money

Wednesday was a glorious night for Middlebelt PTA parents as they defeated the teachers of the elementary school in volleyball, two games to one.

The fund raising activity, played in Harrison High School, garnered \$475 to buy equipment for the playground and gymnasium in Middlebelt.

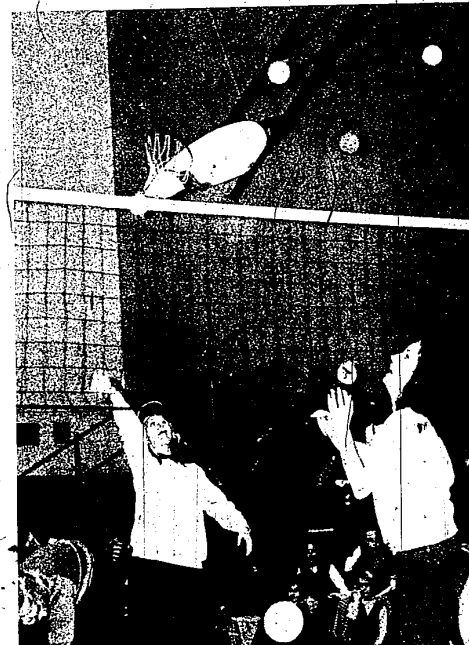
At halftime, a regatta of parents and

teachers appeared on the gymnasium floor riding tricycles and dressed as children, to compete in "The Great Race." The winner was Bill Gardner, Middlebelt custodian.

Dick Rider, Middlebelt principal, told the parents' winning formula. He revealed they had been practicing for a month in the school gymnasium.



BILL GARDNER, Middlebelt school's custodian, takes the victory lap as he celebrates winning the "Great Race" in the annual PTA fund raising night.



SPONGEBALL was part of the fun in Wednesday night's activities as parents and teachers of Middlebelt school put on a fund raising activity for gymnasium and playground equipment.

FOCUS: Suburbia

There isn't a woman alive who isn't interested in fashion. That's why we decided to take a look at the latest in SPRING FASHION. Don't miss FOCUS: Suburbia in this issue of your hometown newspaper.

