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Fuel Oil Shortage Threatens Schools; 6 Buildings Facing A Chilly Winter

The fuel oil shortage is affecting six school buildings in Farmington, and it plans to secure a new supply of heating oil fall, they may be closed in late December, according to school officials.

An adequate supply is on hand to heat the schools through the middle of December, and a possible new

source is being explored, according to William Prisk, business manager.

The six buildings not currently on natural gas are: Dunckel Junior High, Farmington Junior High, Kenbrook Elementary, Longacre, Cloverdale and the administration building.

"I've got my long under-

wear ready," Prisk said when he listed his own office as one of those buildings threatened by the shortage.

The district has been converting to natural gas, using permits in effect several years ago for several schools, including the new Warner Junior High.

Natural gas supplies are

not expected to be a problem this year, Prisk said.

A shortage of the normal fuel oil was predicted this year, and as a result, the school burners were being converted to burn a heavier grade.

But the supply of the heavier grade also turned out to be limited, and the school is

now left with what it had in its tanks when school started, according to Prisk.

"Now we are looking into something called 'reclaimed oil,' which I understand is the equivalent of number four heating oil," Prisk said.

Talks with the state allocation board and other districts have indicated a supply of this type will be available.

If no supply can be secured, the six buildings will have to be closed, and the students distributed among the remaining buildings.

No contingency plans for the event are yet being made, Prisk said.

Of the six buildings, the administration building and Cloverdale do not hold regu-

lar classes, but are mainly offices. A special education program is also held in Cloverdale.

Gasoline will be delivered, but it will be expensive.

A contract with Standard Oil to supply the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, as well as the school district, calls for a price of

17 cents per gallon, compared to 12 cents last year.

Clareville, which joined in the bulk contract with the other units last year, was forced to drop out and go back to its old supplier.

The price will also float under the new contract, reflecting any increases in wholesale prices.

Missing Contracts Delay Wood Creek Final Audit

By DAN MCCOSH

Two missing contracts have delayed the final audit of the former Village of Wood Creek Farms, Farmington Hills city auditors reported Monday.

The Farmington Hills Council also passed an ordinance demanding the return of \$7,000 disbursed by the former village council, shortly before it disbanded, to the Farmington school board and

the Sarah Fisher Home. "We will have to start rummaging through those boxes," Hills City Manager George Majors said, after hearing the report.

Robert Clark, of Plante, Moran, which completed the audit of Farmington Township and Quakerstown, said the company auditing Wood Creek, Alexander Grant Co., would not turn over the audit without additional information.

Because of "publicity" surrounding the audit, the Grant Co. attempted to get additional material to complete the audit, but was unsuccessful.

With the village attorney out of town, a contract for paving Wood Creek streets and a controversial three-year garbage contract could not be found.

Majors said the records have been turned over to the new city in boxes, and it was

felt the contracts were some place in the files.

City Attorney Joseph Brennan also told the city council gifts made to the Farmington School Board, to support Wood Creek Elementary School and the Sarah Fisher Home, were illegal.

The \$6,000 school gift and the \$1,000 to the home prompted a resolution from the council asking for the return of the money.

The remainder of the coun-

cil balked when Councilman William Ortman attempted to get stronger language in the resolution, including directing the attorney to investigate the possibility of criminal liability.

Brennan did not recommend such action.

The gifts were authorized by the Wood Creek Council after the incorporation vote had passed, according to Mayor Robert McConnell.

10 Girls To Compete

'Junior Miss' Is Saturday

There will be 10 girls competing for the title of Farmington Junior Miss Saturday, at 2 p.m. in North Farmington High.

The girls were selected at a preliminary tea held Sunday at the Farmington Community Center.

Finalists are Kirsten Aho, of Farmington High; Christine Arvidson, Joy Flehman and Cynthia Leistikow, of North Farmington; Meredith Fine of Harrison; Carol Clark, Sharon Funk, Josephine Habib, Michelle Kratter and Nancy Williams from Our Lady of Mercy High.

Sunday's judges were Dianne Brown, Mrs. Carol Hammond, and Mrs. Florence Sharp.

Judges in the finals Saturday will be: Mrs. Janet Ashby, Judge Michael Rand, Mrs. Shirley Richardson, Mrs. Lori Wegenshutz, and Paul Sullivan.

The contest, now in its 11th.

Ski Trips To Begin

A Saturday ski bus, sponsored by the Farmington Community Center, will run to Mt. Brighton again this year each Saturday beginning Dec. 15 through the end of February.

Any young people interested in going any or all of the Saturdays should register with the center, 2408 Farmington Rd., on the Monday or Tuesday of the week they wish to go.

Skiers need not make the trips each weekend; however, the trips will need at least 25 skiers each time as well as good weather.

Two men who ski will accompany each trip as chaperones.

If enough girls are interested, a Young Peoples Ski Club will be organized at the center.

Criteria for the pageant Saturday are: poise and appearance, 15 per cent; youth fitness, 15 per cent; scholastic achievement, 15 per cent; creative and performing arts, 20 per cent; and judges' interview, 35 per cent.

The Farmington Area

Jaycees hosting the event include the committee of Rick Bowen, Tom Lamb, Ed Carr, Pat Gódfrey, Dan Gordon and Doug Hutten.

Jaycee Auxiliary members working on the project include: Phyllis Wilcox,

Judy Huber, Betty Henisse, and Carol Kurth.

The girls will be competing for prizes including a \$300 scholarship donated by Roger Peck Chevrolet, and other prizes donated by local businessmen.



JUNIOR MISS hopefuls were interviewed at a tea Sunday by (from left) Mrs. Carol Hammond, Mrs. Florence Sharp, and Dianne

Brown. Christine Arvidson took her turn before the judges before becoming one of the finalists. (Evert photo)

Public Service Chief Named

The first public service director for Farmington Hills is Ralph D. Magid, a former project engineer for the Oakland County Road Commission.

The appointment to the key post for the new city was approved unanimously by the council Monday. Salary was set at \$22,500.

Magid will take over planning for the new city road department, including supervising the preparation of a budget, setting priorities and planning building and equipment needs.

Improved roads were one of the major issues behind the incorporation drive.

The department of public services includes the divi-

sions of public works and zoning and building.

The division of public works, not yet staffed or organized, will be responsible for engineering work as well as planning, construction and maintenance of streets and highways, water mains and sewers, as well as garbage collection as required.

Magid, 34, is a registered

civil engineer. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Wayne State and a masters degree from Wayne State.

Before going to Oakland County, he worked as civil engineer for Whittier, Calif., and as assistant highway engineer for the California Highway Dept.



THE NEW LEAF SWEEPER, run by Gregory Garden, will soon be a familiar fall sight for Farmington residents. (Photo by Fran Evert)

Raking Revolution Coming To Town

A giant vacuum cleaner begins rumbling through the City of Farmington this week, a new city service that will change the leaf-raking habits of some residents.

The new machine features a swinging snout that reaches off the road to vacuum up leaves raked onto the grassy strip between the sidewalk and the curb.

"We can't cover the whole city with the new machine," explained City Manager Robert Deadman. "We don't know how much area we can handle, so we will just have to play it by ear this year."

Although the new machine was delivered late in the leaf-raking season, it will be used on a schedule a day later than the garbage pickup

in the area with the heaviest tree growth in the city.

This is roughly bounded by Gilt Road, Freedom Road, the East city limits, and a line running along Shilvassee.

The newer subdivisions, with light tree growth in the north, west and "panhandle" areas will not be covered.

For the neighborhoods covered by the sweeper, leaf-raking will be a matter of raking into piles along the side of the road.

In areas with paved streets, leaves can be raked into the gutter, according to Dave Jones, DPW superintendent.

He cautions against raking piles onto gravel shoulders, however, since the machine

then picks up the gravel which blasts out the outlet like a bullet, endangering the operating crews.

The regular leaf pickup in plastic bags, along with the regular garbage pickup, will be continued for the whole city, according to Deadman.

Areas not covered, or any leftover leaves in the area vacuumed, will be picked up as usual.

The machine, purchased at a cost of \$5,600, picks up the leaves, grinds them to a mulch and dumps them into a truck.

While this year, the leaves will be dumped, the city hopes to provide the mulch for gardeners next season, as it currently does with wood chips from the chipper.

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