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Fifteen Cents

Lower prices hurt efforts to recycle

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Stack it any way you want, waste recycling for Farmington area groups is strictly a non-profit business.

"We couldn't have gotten into it at a worse time," said Robert Shaw, speaking of Farmington Hills' newspaper recycling program.

Shaw said that the city is operating the newspaper pickup at a loss.

"The bottom is falling out of the paper market," he said. "In the spring, you could get \$20-\$24 per ton. But we didn't start the program until October and now the price is \$5-\$6 per ton. We're hardly breaking even, and not even that."

Farmington Hills collects about 22 tons of paper a month and must pay \$507 above the contract to pick up the other rubbish, he said.

THE BUNDLES must be of medium size and tied securely before they are placed next to the trash cans. If they are placed in a trash container, they probably won't be recycled, Shaw warned.

G.C.W. Disposal of Walled Lake, Farmington Hills' contractor, has built-on storage racks to separate the papers from the other rubbish.

When the racks are full, the collected paper is dumped into a trailer near Wheeler and Independence roads.

Trailers of paper are then purchased and carted away by the Inner City Waste Paper Co. Eventually, they will be shredded, rehydrated, and made into additional newsprint.

It wasn't easy to find someone to take the collected material away, Shaw said. "A couple of these companies didn't even want to talk to us about it."

While the price is low now, it may go up.

"It's like the stock market, it has its ups and downs. Right now we're subsidizing it," he said. "It doesn't pay for itself at this time."

Cardboard was most profitable, he said, but the city had no plans to extend their collection to that material.

"EARTH ALIVE," a program

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Remember?

Many who had not been outside their homes in years attended the Farmington Art Council's nostalgia concert Thursday at Harrison High School.

Dedicated to seniors and the handicapped, the program was the first of its kind in the state. For more pictures and story, turn to page 3A.

Former supervisor manages mall

It's a bigger challenge, Teeple's says

By SUSAN AVERILL

He's been a detective and a township supervisor, but he still thinks his job as manager of the Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield is the greatest challenge he has ever had in his life.

In this job, Earl J. Teeple's of Farmington Hills meets and greets the public and checks maintenance systems of lights and alarms. He hires, fires and schedules employees and budgets. He also controls advertising promotions and regulates the life support systems of heating, cooling and air recycling.

"Most of all, it gives me the opportunity to help young people get started," Teeple said with enthusiasm.

AFTER GETTING them started and making sure they're on the right track, he lets them go and just watches, he said.

"Besides, it doesn't have the same backbiting that you have every two years when elections come up," he said.

While the job may not have the backbiting, it does have its drawbacks and irritations. Teeple's must help the custodian in his efforts to bar certain

youngsters from the building. "I know that right after school is out, kids are going to start coming through that door," he said, pointing to the north entrance. "They're going to muddy their boots up good and make tracks all over the floor, from one end of the building to another, the little rascals. That's malicious destruction of property," he said.

It was his detective work that stood him in good stead in this instance.

"We know which way they're going by looking at the tracks—that's basic police procedure, you know," he said. "It was this bit of police work that helped him track the offenders down."

He also credits his sharpened alertness and ability at interrogation to the 14 years he spent with the Farmington Township police as detective.

"My ability in interrogation helps me in motivating people to do things that in some cases they don't want to do," he said.

HIS TWO-YEAR tenure as Farmington Township supervisor added understanding and depth to his job, he said.

"I know what the public officials think and work like, so I can relate to them very well," he said. "I can talk

with them and say, you know and I know what the situation is, now what will the public know?"

He thoroughly enjoys his weekly tours of the mall roof. Sometimes they're just for fun, but they're a once-a-week must to check on wind damage, attempted burglaries, broken vents and construction debris.

"You can't beat it," he said.

"Once when I came up here, the whole siding of one of the air vents had torn off during a high wind. I knew then what the trouble was when the manager of the store came to me and told me his furnace wasn't heating well. How could it with a five-by-five foot hole in the roof?"

Sometimes in the summer, a piece of metal debris will become so hot it will melt into the tar-and-gravel roof. Care must then be taken to dispose of the metal before it melts through the roof into the building, he said.

A QUICK TOUR of the roof revealed empty bottles, boxes, paper and scraps of metal ranging in size from a bolt to a two-by-four foot ventilation cover.

"This debris was left up here by construction workers and repair men. It

will be removed during a spring clean-up," he said.

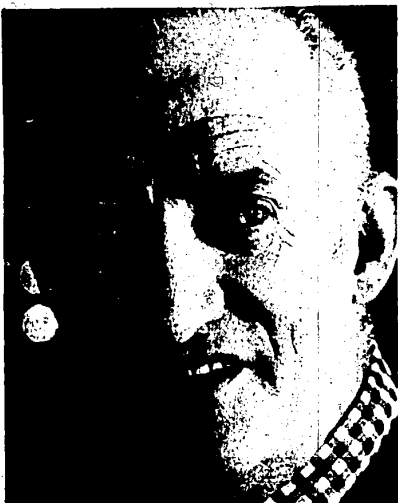
Teeple's also schedules the various shows featured in the center of the mall and arranges the exhibition of artwork of Farmington and West Bloomfield artists along the rough brick walls.

Being manager of the complex has also given Teeple's the opportunity to become a people-watcher.

"The average person who comes in here is a unique beast. He has money in his hand and he is in a spending mood. He doesn't know why, but he is."

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EARL TEEPLES

Farmington Hills economist says

'I don't think 1975 is going to be a good year'

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—"I find it difficult to share the optimism that some of my fellow economists have, that there is going to be an upturn by mid-year," Joseph Tuma said. "I don't think any of 1975 is going to be a good year."

Tuma is a Farmington Hills resident and director of Manpower Education Studies, of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations for the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. He is also an adjunct lecturer in the school of education at Wayne.

Working with employment figures and economic factors is his business.

He does not characterize himself as a "gloom and doom" person, but cautioned that we do have serious problems which must be dealt with immediately. We just haven't the time to wait, he said.

Depletion of energy sources, strained finances and dipping unemployment figures are constant variables in his work.

"The energy crunch is a real problem. It's not as critical as some people might wish us to believe, but it's a problem we have to address now. We can't wait," he said.

The immediate problems to be addressed are high interest rates and long-range energy needs. It's his conviction that if the interest rates would go down, it would stimulate an increase in buying.

In spite of the similarity between this economic downturn and the recurring recessions since the 1929 stock-market crash, Tuma doubts that people will be as passive as they were during the other recessive periods. "The economic situation is the most

'People, especially the young people, are beginning to understand the political process. They will insist that political officials at all levels of government address themselves to the need for jobs.'

serious since the 1930s and it hasn't hit bottom yet," he said. But he doubts that unemployment figures will skyrocket to the 24 per cent peak at the height of the Great Depression.

Partly, more sophistication in government will help to buoy the sagging economy. Partly, "higher knowledge" among the electorate will serve as a stabilizing factor, he said.

"People, especially the young people, are beginning to understand

the political process. They will insist that political officials at all levels of government address themselves to the need for jobs," he said.

He hopes, however, that the government will be the employers of last resort.

Officially, the national unemployment figures stand at 7.2 per cent.

Oakland county figures have swelled to 11.2 per cent, due mainly to the

massive automotive industry lay offs, he said.

"We must remember, however, that the national average doesn't include people seeking to enter the labor market," he said.

Housewives and high school and college graduates who are able and willing to work but are unable to find jobs would boost the figure to 15 per cent unemployed in Oakland County, he said.

As a partial remedy, Tuma advocates the creation of jobs with high labor intensity and low capitalization.

"Low capitalization means minimum investment in materials and maximum investment in utilization of labor," he said.

Upkeep of streams, parks, and alleys, would be one way to use a greater percentage of the labor force. Better roads and sidewalk maintenance would be another, he said.

"These are jobs that don't lend themselves to much investment in capital, but to high intensity of labor. Most of the cities already have the equipment necessary to do the job," he said.

In the case of alleys, high intensity of labor is made necessary, the limited size of the area to be cleaned, he said. "You just can't fit a lot of that heavy equipment down those alleys."

He also suggested teacher aides and rat control patrols as possible high labor intensity-low capitalization jobs.

Trying to find these jobs will require imagination far and beyond that which has been demonstrated so far, he said.

"You don't really have to be a building tradesman to knock out a curb and float a ramp," he said.