

Natural gas shortage perils growth of Hills

FARMINGTON—The denial of gas service to new business and industrial applicants by Consumers Power Co. will hurt Farmington Hills more than Farmington.

Neighboring Livonia filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the power company claiming refusal of service to new industry constitutes a breach of contract. The suit claims the refusal will result in a loss of additional tax base for the community.

According to city managers Robert Deadman of Farmington and George Majoros of Farmington Hills, neither

community will join the Livonia court action.

Majoros was not surprised by the cut-off of new service.

"The Public Service Commission has been aware of this situation for years. The problem is that Consumers is the only company here."

"CONSUMERS DEALS with one supplier. Michigan Consolidated didn't put all their eggs in one basket. We can't even get a permit for our fire station at Middle Belt and Twelve Mile. Even the city government can't get a permit."

"We'll have to use either propane or oil because we didn't get our request for gas in soon enough."

While Livonia claims it is about 25 per cent undeveloped, the situation in Farmington Hills is more acute.

"We're about 50 per cent undeveloped," Majoros said. "We have about 52,000 people, and our master plan provides for around 110,000. Much of our undeveloped land is in the western part of the city where the industries are located."

RESIDENTIAL GROWTH will continue since the service to new dwellings, single-family and multiples, will continue. Farmington has seen no effect from the power company move, Deadman said.

"We are practically totally built up in Farmington. I am a little bit sympathetic to the gas company. They spent a lot of money to find gas, and the federal government wouldn't let them bring it into the state."

Ducks at home

(Continued from page 1)

inside of the egg. He checked one in question this week, saw the blood circulating and the heart pumping steadily.

"They are so cute when they break through the shell," said Dave, 12, who usually feeds the ducks when he comes home from Ten Mile School for lunch.

In the fall, migratory ducks often drop down for a brief visit. There are sometimes 40 or 50 circling the house and creek area. LaVerre said.

"THEY SEE our ducks feeding on

the food we put out, so they may join them."

All up and down the creek as LaVerre walks along he finds duck communities established and the residents enjoying them.

"The neighbors don't seem to mind," he said. "In fact, I think they get a kick out of it."

He and Dave are somewhat concerned about the ducks taking to walking across Shawwassee. Several hens are on nests across the road.

"But," said LaVerre smiling, "they don't cross during the busy hours and they have learned to look both ways before they step off the curb."

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Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Published every Monday and Thursday
by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,
3851 Schenck Rd., Livonia,
Michigan 48150 Second-class Postage
paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Ad-
dress all mail (subscriptions, change of
address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 928,
Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone
381-3889

Co-Publishers
Henry M. Hagan, Jr. Philip H. Power

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

Newstand _____ per copy, 15c

Carrier _____ monthly, 15c



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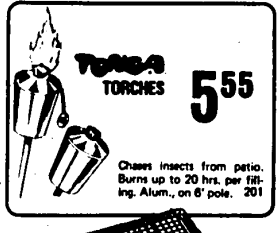
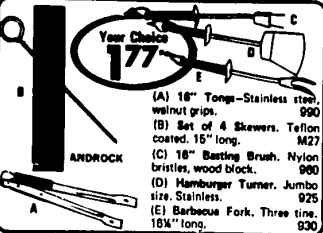
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