

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

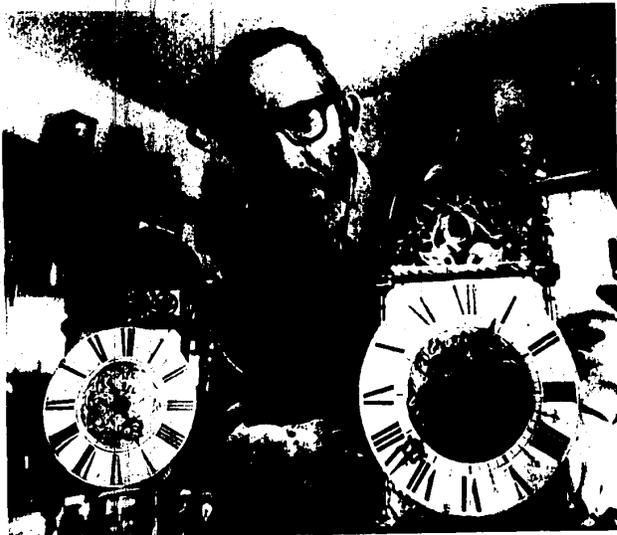
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Fifteen Cents



Keeping time

William Ashdown, of Farmington, has been interested in clocks and watches since he was a small boy. To see what his hobby has gar-

nered him, turn to page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

Homeowners launch amendments drive

By STEVE BARNABY

In an attempt to "fine tune" the city's two-year-old charter, the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners Association has proposed three amendments to be placed on the ballot. The amendments would, if approved:

- *Require voter approval of city expenditures of \$100,000 or more if they were previously unbudgeted.

- *Limit council members to two consecutive terms.

- *Allow only the voters to amend or repeal ordinance or charter amendments adopted through initiatives or referendums. Under the present charter, the council may repeal an ordinance amendment a year after its implementation.

"We agreed to support the charter to protect our boundaries, but were told we could come back to give a some fine tuning later on," says Association Chairman Joseph Alkateeb.

"We oppose many of the charter stipulations, but thought it important that it pass," he says.

Alkateeb, whose organization represents 27 of the city's 41 subdivisions, says the group may come back with even more charter suggestions in the future. The group approached the council at a recent meeting, when city leaders were considering ballot questions of their own to be placed before voters.

ALTHOUGH hoping to have their

amendment proposals placed on the November ballot, the group will have to wait until the May 1976 election for consideration because of time limitations.

"The council said they will consider the questions. If they don't agree to put them on the ballot, we will go out and get the needed signatures to place them there," says Alkateeb.

"The association is working on the premise that the less government the better," according to Alkateeb.

"The Farmington Hills City Council is trying to do too much without the input of the residents. They should give us the necessary services and keep their hands out of our pockets."

"We realize the roads have to be maintained, but now they are talking of doing things like putting in drainage. It isn't fair to expect people to pay drainage cost for the city at large when they have already paid for their own drainage," he says.

The city council has been discussing selling sewer construction bonds for drainage. An advisory referendum question was turned down by council recently because of inadequate information.

"We want the amendment to restrict spending because we don't want taking on major spending projects without voter approval. They did this with garbage pickup by granting a contract without our approval. Alkateeb maintains his subdivision

was able to have a private firm collect garbage for \$25 per customer a year.

"Now they are talking about expanding the parks program. I don't believe that Farmington Hills residents are that excited over a parks and recreation program, especially after they hear how much it could cost them."

"The group hopes to limit terms of political office to fight blacks maintaining power in the city."

"When the same persons are in office for a long time, the government gets into a rut. It's not fair representation," he says.

WHILE LAUDING the performance of some council members, Alkateeb says others have been aloof from the public.

"I don't think the council is listening. They don't understand that the type of guy that moves into Farmington Hills wants to live in the country atmosphere and is willing to do things himself."

To keep the power in the electorates' hands, the association wants only the voters to have the power to repeal or amend an ordinance adopted by initiative or referendum proceedings.

"Take these amendments, for instance. If they pass, the council could come back a year after they are enacted and repeal them. That just isn't right."

More chatter

Why 'hams' seek out new blood

By SUSAN AVERILL

The "amateur" in the name of the Farmington Amateur Radio Club is actually a misnomer; there's nothing amateurish about it.

Most of the 25 club members have achieved advanced licenses and have radio transceivers in their cars, their homes, or both. They are adamant in their distinction from citizen's band operators, and any mixup is enough to raise hackles.

"Anyone who's over 16 can walk in and get a CB (citizen's band) permit. They don't have to have any technical ability at all," said Farmington resident Bill Kalich.

Kalich has perhaps the most diverse background in radio communications of any club member. He has worked in radio for 20 years and is now an assistant supervisor at WJBK Channel 2, in Southfield.

"But those who are interested in amateur radio shouldn't let their lack of experience scare them away. The club would like to have new members."

"We are always looking for new blood," Kalich said. "Some of the members don't yet have their novice licenses."

MEETING THE SECOND Wednesday of every month, club members will listen to speakers in Room 101 of Farmington High School. They take tours through radio and television stations. Membership in the club is \$5 a year.

Licensed amateurs also are known as "ham" operators. Club president Jerry Anderson of Farmington Hills said there were 140 ham operators in the Farmington area last year.

Kalich, who has radio equipment in both his car and home, said he has talked to hams in more than 100 coun-

tries. He has often served as a link in phone calls to Israel, Liberia and countries in South America.

The process is used by the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) to connect overseas phone calls from servicemen to their families.

The 15 radio bands reserved for ham operators are held in abeyance by the military," said club member Les Hogg of Farmington Hills. "At the time of a national emergency, the military will immediately take control of the airwaves, as they did in World War II," he said.

One of the club's major activities involves a marathon mock emergency, requiring communication with other hams across the nation. The last weekend in June, the club members set up tents at North Farmington High School. They began warning their portable generator at 10 a.m. and were on the air by 2 p.m.

FOR EACH RADIO contact made, they received points. Last year, the club collected enough points in the 24-hour period to be the national champions, Anderson said.

"We're going by the theory that if there was ever a tornado in Farmington, we could set up emergency communications within one and a half hours," he said.

The club is also indispensable to the Farmington Founder's festival committee members.

"We worked with Betti Huff (festival chairman) this year and helped coordinate volunteer efforts. We had eight or nine mobile rigs out there, equipped with radios much like the police have," Kalich said.

Anyone interested in amateur radio can start with \$50 of equipment. Home radio sets with towers for the more advanced ham are priced near \$1,000.

To be licensed as a novice, the beginning classification, a person must learn Morse code and be able to transmit five words per minute (wpm), Kalich said.

The second classification is technician. With a technician's license, a radio operator can operate television equipment. The third classification is general, the fourth is advanced and the highest is called extra.

"When you start off as a novice, you have to pass four tests and two levels of code to get to the advanced classification," Kalich said.

THE TESTS ARE usually administered by the Federal Communications Commission offices in Detroit, but the novice and technician's license tests can be taken by mail.

"You can request a mail test, but you have to have someone who is a licensed ham administer it," Anderson said.

How Hills woman's gift aids area's handicapped

It was a curious gift: A side-by-side bicycle system with four wheels, two seats and two sets of handlebars.

But Hank Chrusciel of the Western Wayne County Conservation Association recently set to work checking out and reconditioning the gift, which came from Mrs. T.E. Gilson of 32310 Queensboro, Farmington Hills.

Usually, Chrusciel's committee work involves helping Michigan Indians with gifts of toys, clothing and food. He took the Italian-made, cropped bike to a loyal friend, Fred

Deendzel, at Reliable Bicycle, 2880 Seven Mile, Livonia.

"This was intended for the blind, the visually handicapped, or even the physically handicapped," said Deendzel, whose name might be familiar because he is the brother of the former state legislator.

THAT PUT a different light on the matter.

Chrusciel called the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers office and asked where there was a program for the visually handicapped that might make use of a side-by-side bike and several other pieces of play equipment.

"It sounds like we can use it," said Dr. Nancy Bryant, superintendent of the Michigan School for the Blind at 715 W. Willow, Lansing, in response to an Observer & Eccentric inquiry. A former Plymouth resident, Dr. Bryant had heard of the conservation group.

Chrusciel and an associate, John Bork of Plymouth, loaded a pickup truck with the bike and other toys.

Ray Gay, who runs a summer station on Seven Mile in Livonia, helped out with a tank of gasoline.

ONE MORNING last week, the conservation club men were greeted at the school for the blind by Dr. Bryant and her staff. The school today is richer by:

a fire chief car, three tricycles, three wagons, two fire engines, a Wonder Horse, and five other bike-type toys that children can either pedal or push around the playground.

Not to mention the curious side-by-side bicycle that started it all.

OTHER TOYS went to a program at the Plymouth Center for Human Development in Northville Township. There, in the Sullivan Hall for the blind and deaf-blind reared, Dr. Dena Gorman was given custody of 20 vehicles (trikes, bikes with training wheels, Big Wheels), six artificial Christmas trees, pinball games and squeeze toys that can be used in physical therapy.

The toys are all new or nearly new but "seconds" the conservation group gets from area retailers. With a few spare parts and repairs, the toys are made virtually new. Apprentices in Ironworkers Local 25 help.

In fact, Chrusciel says he could use some used bikes if they're in very good condition. An ironworker, he plans to convert them into more side-by-side bikes for the school for the blind.

The Indians haven't been forgotten. In his home at 10405 Drummond, Livonia, Chrusciel points to boxes of toys and ornaments—"these are for the Indians at L'Anse, and these are for the mission school."



Books galore

Checking out books at this past weekend's Barn sale sponsored by the Community Living Centers is Merriellen Haugen of Farmington Hills. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

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FUN LEARNING

There still is time to sign up for the Farmington School District Community Education program that is due to start classes on Sept. 22. The Observer & Eccentric is running the details of classes and coupon for your convenience. Turn to Page 9A.

Farmington council candidates filed

Five candidates have filed for three positions on the Farmington City Council, including incumbent Mayor Ralph Yoder and Councilman William Hartsock.

Councilman John Allen declined to run for re-election on Nov. 4.

Besides Yoder and Hartsock, residents in the race include Alton Bennett, 22087 Lakeway, Albert E. Holt,

35251 Oakland, and James A. Moore, 21317 Larkspur.

Four-year terms will go to the two who receive the most votes. The third highest vote-getter will have a two-year term.

The first candidates night scheduled will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, at Farmington Junior High School. It will be sponsored by the Farmington-West Bloomfield League of Women Voters.