

Don't forget to vote in Tuesday's primary

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Twenty-Five Cents

Roads rile sub's residents

By LYNN ORR

Lincolnshire subdivision residents will have to wait until at least next spring to get their roads rebuilt, despite a nearly two-year campaign waged to get the project under way.

However, many of the Farmington Hills subdivision homeowners who originally pushed for the road repairs reversed their stance when they discovered the project would cost them about 70 per cent more than anticipated.

After a 2 1/2-hour public hearing on the costs of the project, the Hills council in a split decision voted to postpone the project and reject all construction bids, a decision that angered some and pleased others in the audience.

Cost was the project's downfall. Construction bids about 70 per cent over estimates projected by the Hills engineering department would have jacked up assessments from about \$965 to about \$1,572 for each of the 208 lot owners in the subdivision, located east of Middlebelt between Eleven and Twelve Mile.

Another nail in the project's coffin was struck when council members discovered that an alternate plan to reduce costs was economically infeasible for the city.

In an attempt to reduce the assessments, Ralph Magid, director of public services, offered three items for deletion from the project, including elimination of passing lanes on Middlebelt, curbing in T-type intersections, and asphalt rather than concrete replacement of existing concrete driveways.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith moved to eliminate the passing lanes and curb sections from the project, while retaining the concrete replacement of driveway sections as proposed by sev-

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— Joe Alkateeb

eral of the subdivision residents.

At that time, however, City Mgr. George Majors informed the council that eliminating the passing lanes from the project also would eliminate the city's 20 per cent share of the project provided by major road funds. The city's contribution could not be taken from local road funds, since those funds are depleted, Majors informed the council.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb expressed dismay that the financial difficulties connected with the alternate plans were not submitted with the presentation, and reversed his intention to approve the project as amended.

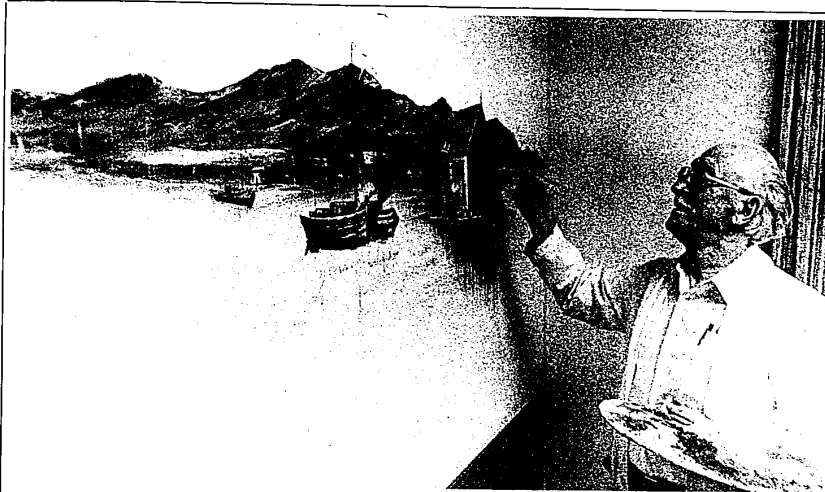
"Based on the bids received, I believe the Lincolnshire residents are being ripped off," he said, adding that he believed there was a good chance that bids on the project next year would come in closer to original estimates.

The council voted 4-3, with Mayor Jan Dolan and council members Earl Oepferhauer and Joanne Smith dissenting, to postpone the project.

LINCOLNSHIRE resident Lynn Wallace, who gave a brief summary of the project's history, blamed the sluggishness of the engineering department's progress for the high bids on the project.

"We lost time here at City Hall,"

(Continued on page 4A)



Homecoming

When Sam Bradshaw returned to Farmington after an eight-year absence, the professional commercial artist, now a senior citizen, found the going tough when it came to finding a job. Fortunately for the Oakhill Nursing Home and its residents, Bradshaw read in the

Farmington Observer about the home's desire to have some murals painted. The happy result — a chance for the artist to demonstrate his craft and some beautiful pastel murals to enhance the aesthetics of the nursing home. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Hills officer regains old rank

By LYNN ORR

Lt. Russell Conway once again is a captain in the Farmington Hills police force.

But there seems to be some disagreement as to why Conway was restored to his rank and benefits in the department.

A police appeals board, composed of three members of the Hills city council, reversed the June decision of a police trial board, which found Conway guilty of violating departmental regulations.

But it seems the department violated its own regulations while establishing the trial board. According to Hill Police Chief John Nichols, the regulations provided that the immediate commanding officer of an accused officer is prohibited from sitting on the board. In addition, the trial board must be composed of the accused officer's peers.

In Conway's case, since he was second in command in the department, the trial board, composed of Nichols and two officers of lesser rank than Conway, was inappropriate, Nichols said.

However, Conway's attorney, John Lyons, has a different story. He's convinced that the appeals board handed down the decision based on the agreement reached by Lyons and the city's attorney Jim Mulvey.

"THE ATTORNEYS agreed that this would be the best way to resolve the case without protracted litigation and recommended as such to the appeals board," Lyons said.

Conway agreed to drop all any and all other actions before circuit court or anywhere else relating to the matter as part of the appeals board decision.

Benefits such as car allowance and radio were restored to Conway, and all proceedings before the trial or appeals

board will be removed from his personnel file, according to the ruling handed down Friday.

The original police trial board had found Conway guilty of recommending an attorney to a person or persons who could be involved in criminal prosecution, which is a violation of department regulations.

The ruling stemmed from an incident last September involving Conway and two brothers who own a pharmacy in Farmington Hills. According to the brothers, Conway recommended they contact Harry Rosen, an attorney, in their problems with Michigan State Police and Michigan Pharmaceutical Board.

Conway denied recommending the attorney to the brothers, but did admit during trial board proceedings that his wife, Margaret, may have recommended Rosen to the brothers. Lt.

Richard Niemisto, now an inspector in the department, headed the investigation, leading to Conway's appearance before the board.

What will the department do about police trial boards and high-ranking officers in the future? Nichols replied that the matter had been resolved in new regulations currently being reviewed by the city's attorneys.

Under those regulations, an immediate superior of a high-ranking officer can sit on the trial board, providing the superior officer isolates himself or herself from investigations of the case, Nichols explained.

Nichols said he had no ill feelings about the decision and didn't think reversal would affect the department.

Conway forfeited the differential pay back pay he received during his brief tenure as a lieutenant on the force as a punitive action from the police chief.

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Here's looking at you, kid

Are there tears in your beer? Or is picking up a date not always the easiest thing to do? Be proud. Lift up your glass. You're not alone. For doblers who seek proof, turn to the Farmington Observer's bar hopper's report on page 3A.



She hopes to make splash in soaps

By LYNN ORR

A soap opera queen?

That may be Heather Cunningham's future as she makes her television dramatic debut as Dee Stewart on CBS' long-running daytime drama "As the World Turns."

Tune in at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, to catch the '67 Farmington High graduate in her first performance as the virtuous college student in fictitious Oakdale, a well-known hobbit of activity for daytime TV fans for the last 22 years.

At 5 feet 3 inches, with ash-blonde hair and grey eyes, Ms. Cunningham bears little resemblance to her favorite role — the sniveling Honey of Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Her youthful, bouncy appearance is one reason she won out over 500 other actresses who auditioned for the soap opera role. After a "cold reading," in which she read a script after 10 minutes study, she and nine other women were screened.

TV experience in more than 80 commercials may have helped at that point, she says. "I'm the middle American type," she explains, a role she has projected while selling such items as Freshen-up gum and Dove soap, while working "off-Broadway."

made for Freshen-up gum, for example, was made three years before the product came out.

"I think they made the commercial before the factory was built," she quips. The commercial revenues ran for seven years while she studied acting and dancing and modeled for "Seventeen" magazine.

"Modeling was a means to an end for me," she explains. "The commercials make the money to pay for the art." Now that she has landed a steady, lucrative (upwards of \$20,000 a year), job, she hopes to do some Broadway in the evening.

And working in a daytime drama keeps her where she wants to be — in New York.

"I love the energy of New York," she says exuberantly, "and in California you have to drive a lot, and I hate to drive." But daytime drama has its own challenge as well, she adds.

"We get the script about five days in advance, memorize it, then go through a dry rehearsal with the producer and an on-camera rehearsal before it's taped."

They attempt to tape the shows all at once, which makes for perhaps three consecutive 16-hour days, and then some breathing space. The air time of the character depends on the writers' interest—which often expands and dwindles through a season.

Hopefully, Ms. Cunningham says, the writers and viewers will be interested in Dee Stewart.

GETTING FROM Farmington to New York was a quick route for Ms. Cunningham. After attending Oakland Community College for a while, she began modeling in auto shows for American Motors. After some cross-country traveling, she was sent to New York, where she became a Stewart model and kept her auto show contract. Commercials came shortly thereafter, after learning the New York ropes.

"You have to have an agent," she says adamantly. Modeling school, she believes, doesn't teach you how to model. The best way to learn is to practice poses from fashion magazines and take jazz classes.

"You have to find your 'look,' she stresses. Once you have an agent, you make the photographers' rounds, asking them to take test shots which they put in their portfolios. The model gets a print for their portfolio grids. That way you get a chance for double exposure with those looking for models and actresses for commercials.

The key to show business, she claims, is perseverance — "You have to be prepared for a lot of rejections and disappointments."

Her parents, John and May Cunningham, Farmington residents since 1960, have a Scottish background that is evidenced in their brogues. They don't know where Heather and her brother, John, also involved in television, caught the show business bug. All three of their offspring reside in parts east — daughter Bonnie is an airline attendant in London, Mr. Cunningham is an inspector for Sealed in Ferndale, and Mrs. Cunningham is a housewife who does enjoy "As the World Turns."

The first time she caught one of her daughter's commercials, she was doing some housework when she heard Heather's voice.

Ms. Cunningham also will have another built-in fan — her husband's grandmother has followed the show for 22 years. Jack Iam, an attorney and husband of daytime drama's newcomer for six months, may not get much opportunity to watch the show, but he's delighted with her coup, she explains. "I'm happiest when I'm working," she says, and unlike some commercials where she stood on a box or had lines drawn around the eyes to age her, daytime drama is acting, her primary goal.

Viewers, however, sometimes forget that the soaps are fiction. "The other women tell me that ladies come up to them in the grocery store and say, 'You're not very nice.' But Dee, at least for now, is very, very good," she asserts.

Heather Cunningham: "You have to be prepared for a lot of rejections and disappointments."