

Majoros is out as Hills city manager

By LYNN ORR

City Mgr. George Majoros and Farmington Hills have parted company.

City Clerk Floyd Cairns will serve as interim city manager, said Mayor Jan Dolan in a terse addition to a Tuesday press release announcing the termination of Majoros' contract. The release said the contract had been terminated on "mutually agreeable terms." Mayor Dolan refused to comment further on the subject.

On Tuesday afternoon, council members refused to confirm a rumor that Majoros had been fired more than two weeks ago. However, a council source said a decision to end Majoros' position with the city was reached in a closed executive session.

The council has announced closed sessions for discussions of personnel over the last three consecutive Mondays.

A 43 decision ousted Majoros, a move that he vigorously protested while threatening court action against individual council members, the source said.

When asked to deny whether a vote had taken place, six council members replied: "No comment." One member could not be reached by the Observer. Majoros was also unavailable for comment.

WHILE THE city charter does not mandate cause for firing the city manager, Majoros' contract with the city includes a provision specifying cause

for dismissal, according to City Atty. Paul Bibeau. Termination notice of 120 days also is provided in the contract, signed by Majoros and the council in July, Bibeau said.

Majoros' personal possessions were removed from his office by Tuesday afternoon, although city hall staffers were unaware of the transition in leadership to the clerk's office.

The announcement came after weeks of speculation about Majoros' position with the council, including openly antagonistic exchanges between the city manager and individual council members in public meetings.

Majoros' trouble with the seven-person council ballooned over the last three months. Problems erupted dur-

ing budget time in May when the council voted a five per cent lid on salary increases for a limited list of employees, including Majoros. He protested the action, citing the importance of morale to the functioning of the city.

"This team has provided good service to the community. I wouldn't want to lose them," he said at the time. The five per cent raise boosted his annual salary to \$40,000.

A few weeks later, Majoros blasted the Farmington Observer for a column in which editor Steve Barnaby claimed that relations between the council and administration were in a shambles because of Majoros' leadership.

A recent confrontation with the Farmington-West Bloomfield Area League of Women Voters over the hir-

ing of a woman involved in an Oakland County investigation prompted a written response from Majoros, in which he questioned the league's sincerity for asking questions through a letter to the newspaper.

MAJOROS was the city's first manager, taking the helm in 1973 after the city's incorporation. Prior to the Farmington Hills appointment, he had spent five years in public service in Webster Groves, Mo.

Clerk Cairns is a 24-year veteran of the area, serving as township clerk before the incorporation and city clerk after 1973. Cairns had been designated acting city manager in Majoros' absence previously. He is expected to retire next year.



GEORGE MAJOROS

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Hills residents storm hearing

By LYNN ORR

Federal subsidy and low-income housing brought out another crowd to city hall — this time in Farmington Hills.

About 250 residents crammed council chambers last Monday, protesting the city's 1978-79 federal application for community development funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Some residents admitted that an anonymous flyer distributed to homes in the southeast section of the city drew them to the public hearing.

"Are you going to sit home and let the city give us low-income housing for the expected to reside? (coming from Detroit)," the flyer reads.

A minority of residents were there to speak in favor of the city's attempts to secure federal funding. But talk of recall of council members, a verbal exchange between Mayor Jan Dolan and former Mayor Joan Dudley, and protests centered on site location for proposed low-income housing dominated the nearly four-hour session.

Community development funds for 1978-79 total about \$870,000 for the city. Some of this money is now used for the

loans and grants program for housing rehabilitation.

Many speakers requested the council forego the HUD funds and reject any "strings" attached under HUD regulations.

The seven-member council, however, stuck to the proposal to meet HUD obligations under the community development program.

THE COUNCIL directed the administration to seek a professional planning consultant to conduct a feasibility study regarding HUD regulations and housing in Farmington Hills.

Guidelines for the study include the possibility of rehabilitating existing homes as top priority, using HUD funds for the demolition of existing below-code homes and replacement with new homes, and a determination as to whether priority can be given to Hills residents for building new housing for low and moderate-income persons.

The controversy surrounding the public hearing was generated by the community development program, in which Farmington Hills has participated for the last three years. Under

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The iron gates barring her son Geoffrey from the swimming pool took on a new meaning last week for Jane Dallimore, who arrived in the U.S. last spring from England. She's hoping the courts will allow

her 13-month-old son to swim in the Muirwoods Apartment Complex pool. (Staff photo by Harry Manthe)

Pair arraigned in infant's death

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

The parents of a 5-month-old baby girl were arraigned Tuesday on charges of involuntary manslaughter stemming from the Sunday death of the four-pound infant.

Joseph and Arnette Tranchida, both 19, residents of the Rainbow Park Motel in Farmington Hills, pleaded innocent on the charges before Judge Michael Hand of the 47th District Court.

Bond for each parent was set for \$2,000. They are held in Oakland County Jail in lieu of bond. A preliminary exam for the couple was set for Aug. 25.

The Tranchidas' daughter, Marie, was dead on arrival at Botsford General Hospital at 2:30 p.m., Aug. 13, according to Farmington Hills Police. Tranchida transported the child to the hospital where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival.

Mrs. Tranchida was out of the state at the time and returned home Tuesday, police said.

The couple's other child, an 18-month-old son, is being cared for at the Oakland County Children's Village, according to Botsford Police Det. Sebastian Ales. Upon her release, doctors told the parents that the child was underweight. They recommended feeding the baby twice a day.

Tranchida explained to Southfield police that it was difficult to feed the baby because she was having problems with her mouth. She was sponsored, rather than nursed with a bottle, he told police.

WHILE THE family lived in Southfield, the baby was treated for a week in Botsford Hospital and released, according to Botsford Police Det. Sebastian Ales. Upon her release, doctors told the parents that the child was underweight. They recommended feeding the baby twice a day.

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Cultural barriers slow Hills police in murder probe

Farmington Hills police are continuing their efforts to cross language and cultural barriers in their investigation of the shooting death of Fran Camaj, an Albanian immigrant.

Police spokesmen said the Albanian community's distrust of outsiders was slowing the investigation.

describe the assailant, according to police.

Camaj received four gunshot wounds in the neck and back, according to police.

He was dead on arrival at Botsford Hospital.

A former employee of the Ford Motor Co., Camaj had been unemployed for the past five years, police said.

Services for Camaj will be conducted this week at the John J. Skupny Funeral Home in Hamtramck.

The body will be transported to Yugoslavia for burial.

Other survivors include four sons—Paul, 12; Luigi, 14; Tony, 17; and Martin, 22—and daughter Lisa, 14.

Tot swims scuttled

Pool dispute tests kids' rights

By LYNN ORR

Farmington Hills residents Tony and Jane Dallimore are rocking the boat at the Muirwoods Apartments.

But their son Geoffrey is barred from making waves of his own in the complex swimming pool.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Frances O'Brien last week ruled that resident children of the complex between 4 and 16 must be allowed to swim in the pool with adult supervision during pool hours. Adolescents over 16 can swim without supervision.

But Judge O'Brien left toddlers under 4, like 13-month-old Geoffrey, up in the air—or at least out of the water.

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights, representing the Dallimores, had asked the court to prevent the Bezons Corp., managers of the Muirwoods complex, from discriminating against resident children using the pool. The company's policy barred all minors from the pool except on Wednesdays until 5 p.m. Children under 4 were also allowed in the pool at that time.

O'Brien's ruling, however, did not include children under 4. The judge said the civil rights department had not proved its case in regard to preschoolers.

The Dallimores are hoping the case will go before the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. The civil rights commission hears discrimination cases and makes rulings, while the civil rights department conducts investigations and represents those filing charges.

Muirwoods, a three-year-old complex on Grand River west of Drake, has about 900 apartment units, according to Harold Sabinski, spokesman for Bezons Corp.

EVEN THOUGH its restrictive policy allowed toddlers, Bezons now says it doesn't want any toddlers in the pool because they can cause unsanitary conditions.

Mrs. Dallimore insists the company's attitude reflects "feudal" man-

agement at Muirwoods.

"The swimming pool is no longer the main issue," she said. "It's the attitude of the Bezons Corp. and other corporations that run apartment complexes. They think they can make the laws."

Bezons' lawyer, Gordon Gold, disagrees.

"Children's rights are a new area," he says, pointing to California laws which allow children to be barred from apartment complexes.

In Michigan, however, a minor is protected from discrimination in real estate transactions, says Janet Cooper, director of the state civil rights department legal bureau.

"Children's rights as such are not defined in the civil rights laws," Ms. Cooper said, "but discrimination on the basis of age is proscribed."

THE DALLIMORES moved into Muirwoods last spring. When they signed a lease, they received a separate list of pool rules. Mrs. Dallimore said. They learned in May that resident children were allowed in the pool only on Wednesdays until 5 p.m. At that time there was no talk of barring children under 4.

In June, when the air conditioning wasn't connected, the Dallimores and their neighbors asked the Muirwoods management if children could swim for one hour per day at a designated time. The management refused, Mrs. Dallimore says.

That's when they decided to seek legal help through the civil rights department. The Dallimores were told to test the policy, Mrs. Dallimore said. When they went to the pool on Friday near the end of June, they refused to leave at management's request.

Three days later the Dallimores and their neighbors, Gerald and Krystyna Stock, filed eviction notices.

In court last week, Bezons agreed that the two couples would not be evicted while legal action is pending.

MEANWHILE, the Dallimores say

'The swimming pool is no longer the main issue. It's the attitude of the Bezons Corp. and other corporations that run apartment complexes—they think they can make the laws.'

—Jane Dallimore

their neighbors are rallying, although a few Muirwoods residents are against them.

"All this for \$400 a month," Mrs. Dallimore said. "This is the first time I've felt like a second-class citizen, as if something is wrong with being a mother. I call our building the leper colony. Management makes it clear that we aren't welcome here at all and are here under sufferance. They've intimidated other families and won't renew the leases of most of us with families."

Although Mrs. Dallimore says there are only about 10 units reserved for families, company spokesman Sta-

binski said such information was not available without going through all the leases.

"We have your token Jew, your token black, your token family and your token widow," says Mrs. Dallimore, who admitted she was welcomed with open arms to Muirwoods.

She now believes the company allowed a few families to lease apartments to avoid discrimination charges, which Bezons denies.

Sabinski says the company is trying to please all the residents and that most abide by the rules, which include dictates such as white or beige drapes.

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