

Costs mount up because of winter snow toll

The cost of removing about 50 inches of snow is being tallied by Farmington and Farmington Hills officials and the figures are predictably way over budget in both towns.

The city of Farmington Hills was at least 72 percent over its snow removal budget by mid-March, according to figures released by Chuck Rosch, city finance director. The Hills has already spent \$406,000 removing snow.

The city of Farmington will probably spend more than twice its budget allotment of \$35,000 for snow removal, says City Manager Robert Deadman. The total in Farmington for snow-related expenses could reach \$74,000.

The biggest expense in Farmington is labor while the bulk of Farmington Hills' snow bill is for equipment to serve the much larger city. Farmington city officials budgeted \$18,400 for labor costs in the snow re-

moval effort and spent \$22,000, said Earl Billings, director of public works. Another \$4,000 was paid to an outside contractor, Rauch Bros. of Wixom, to clear the city's worthwhile parking lot behind the Civic Theater, he said.

Farmington Hills officials budgeted \$68,000 for labor costs and ended up spending \$87,000. In equipment cost, the city of Farmington Hills set aside \$112,000 and ended up spending a whopping \$258,000.

Another big expense in Farmington Hills was the payment to outside contractors during heavy snowfalls. Five outside contractors — Statewide Excavating, GMP Trucking Co., B&V Construction, Victor Green and Warren and Sons — split \$70,000 in outside contractor fees.

NEITHER CITY had problems acquiring salt, unlike some surrounding cities. Farmington Hills, in fact,

budgeted \$55,000 for salt before the season to take advantage of a state sale and ended up spreading \$51,000 worth on city roads. Farmington budgeted \$16,500 for salt and used \$18,500 worth of it.

Farmington officials praised DPW workers for the job they did keeping streets plowed and salted despite long hours and bad weather conditions.

A resolution adopted by city council was sent to 13 city employees thanking

them for their civic service.

The proclamation says city workers in Farmington removed "in excess of 760,000 cubic yards of snow from the streets and public property of the city."

The proclamation goes on to state that "The Farmington City Council extends its appreciation for the efforts of the employees of this department for working long and tedious days during the worst of weather conditions."

Scrambled economy threatens discord

By Karen Hermes Smith
staff writer

Wage concessions will result in a reduced standard of living in the United States, making it difficult for most people to achieve the traditional American dream, according to a local labor historian.

George Tselos spoke in Bloomfield Hills last week at a Cranbrook Schools-sponsored seminar on the viability of the American dream.

He predicted that union concessions — combined with inflation, unemployment and cuts in social services — will keep Americans from continually improving their own and their children's standards of living.

OWNING A HOME — and other things generally associated with the American dream — will be almost impossible to attain, Tselos said, making Americans frustrated, restless and ready for political reform in the 1980s.

Tselos, 42, interviewed Thursday in his Birmingham home, holds a doctorate in American labor history from the University of Minnesota.

A former college history professor, he is now an archivist for the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, where he collects and preserves historical documents on the labor movement and organizations associated with urban reform.

Tselos has had papers and articles published on labor history and serves as a consultant on the subject.

Speaking for himself, Tselos said the nation's major corporations, including the automobile companies, are taking advantage of the current depressed economy to extract wage concessions

from America's workers.

THIS TREND will continue and filter down to smaller companies, he said, adding that there will be no end to the asking of concessions until workers sense that the economy is leveling out. Then, he said, the nation will experience political upheaval as well as strikes reminiscent of the 1930s.

At first, Tselos said, Americans will redefine the American dream, settling for job security over an increasing standard of living.

"But it will come to the point where they can't keep redefining it," he said. Then the public will begin calling for government programs to improve standards of living.

Tselos doesn't blame workers whose jobs are in jeopardy for accepting wage concessions. "You can't blame people faced with unemployment," he said.

Nor does he say American companies are conspiring against workers. "I don't dispute the fact that American business faces serious competition from abroad," where wage costs are lower, Tselos said.

BUT OTHER approaches in improving the economy and saving jobs, which don't reduce the standard of living, should be considered, Tselos said.

A national health insurance plan, for instance, would eliminate the need for corporations to supply health insurance, a costly benefit, for their workers.

The plan could be funded with money from the federal arms budget, he said, so taxes wouldn't have to be increased.

"If put to a popular vote with fair discussion of the issues, the American

public might consider taking money from arms and putting it into health care."

The effect, he said, would be an improved, rather than reduced, standard of living for the American public.

Union members and their leaders, Tselos said, should also press for national policies that will protect the standard of living, including policies that provide for more federal intervention in investment decisions.

TSELOS BECAME interested in the labor movement as a young man living in Minneapolis.

"I became acquainted with some old-timers who were leaders of some very big strikes in Minneapolis in 1934 — strikes that really changed the course of history in the city," he said.

"At the same time, I was also beginning to develop a more critical view of American society and government policies."

The son of a Greek immigrant, Tselos's family background also led to his interest in labor. His father, who came to America when he was 14, worked his way from poverty to becoming a well-known professor of art history at New York University and the University of Minnesota.

An older brother, who gave up his hopes of becoming an electrical engineer, sacrificed his career to work in a number of small businesses to pay for Tselos's father's education.

"My father always raised us in the importance of hard work and discipline (in getting ahead)," Tselos said, "but he never maintained that success was independent of the sacrifices of other people."



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Labor historian George Tselos of Birmingham, critical of the wage concessions being negotiated between American companies and workers, believes unions should look

for other ways to save jobs. Wage concessions, he said, reduce the nation's standard of living and eventually lead to strikes and political unrest.

INSIDE ANGLES

CALL HIM DR. Dickson, if you please. Enthusiastic parents of North Farmington High School students think assistant principal Norm Dickson deserves a bit of recognition for recently completing his doctorate degree. "So often we read about problems in the schools and with the schools. The public needs to be reminded that our schools are staffed with competent educators," said one of the parents in a recent letter to the Observer. Working in the Farmington School system for 13 years, this is Dickson's fourth degree. Others are a bachelor of science, master of arts and educational specialist. He has been a visiting lecturer at Eastern Michigan University and is a past president of a teacher's association.

ART FANS, get ready for the special exhibition and sale of original graphic arts sponsored by the "Art on the Ridge" student art club which will be presented at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College on April 21. Art work will be displayed from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the learning resource center. Marson Graphics of Baltimore will exhibit a collection of original etchings, woodcuts, lithographs and serigraphs. Featured will be works by Chagall, Daumier, Fautin-Latour, Mallot, Roussel and Whistler. A selection of works by noted contemporary artists such as Bakkin, Coughlin, O'Connor, Kaczmarek and Eggers also will be included in the collection. For more information call John Davenport at 476-9400.

GET TO KNOW a little more about your city government by attending a free (yes, that's correct) breakfast sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce on April 1. The 8 a.m. meeting will feature the city managers from Farmington and Farmington Hills — Robert Deadman and Larry Savage. The meeting will take place at the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance building on Twelve Mile. But attendance is limited and reservations must be made by calling the Chamber office at 474-3440.

SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS for fantasy lovers will take place on March 28 when the Easter Bunny comes to the Twelve Oaks Mall. Meet the bunny at 2 p.m. in the center court. Sheri VanMeter, 1981 Junior Miss Dance of the United States, will sing and dance while welcoming the Easter Bunny. VanMeter, a 13-year-old from Keego Harbor, currently is filming a 1982 Christmas TV special, "Song of the Elf Child," in which she is the lead actress. A children's clothing fashion show also will be featured during the Easter Bunny's appearance.

A SPECIAL TALENT show will be pre-

sented at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College on April 1. Jugglers, unicyclists, comedians, singers, musicians and bands will perform. Musical selections will range from classical music to jazz and rock. Entertainment will begin at 8 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of H building. Tickets are \$1. For more information call the student activities office, 476-9400, Ext. 501.

HATS OFF GO TO Brian Kelly of Farmington Hills who has been named the most valuable player for the 1981-82 Southern Collegiate Hockey Association season. The Alabama-Huntsville student led the SCHA regular season and tournament champion Chargers in scoring during the regular season with 51 goals and 53 assists.

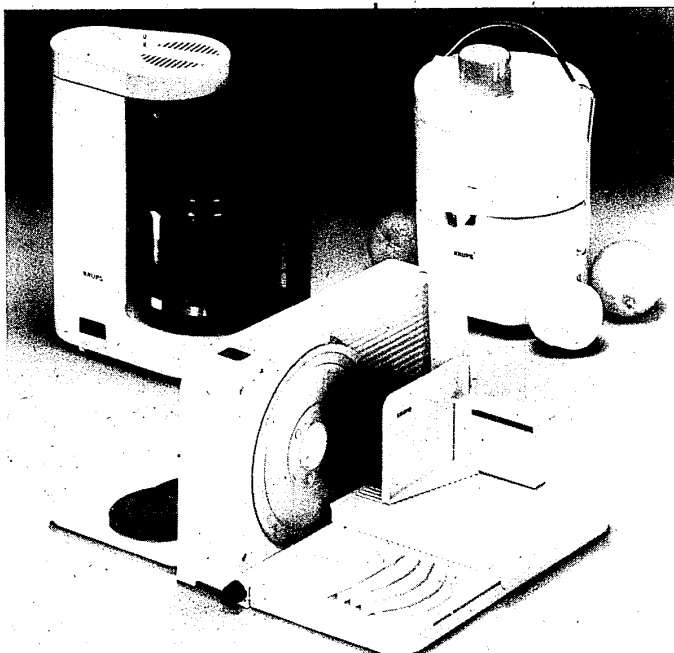
AFICIANADOS OF THE ARTS who get on down to the Detroit Focus Gallery before April 17 will have a chance to see the work of homegrown artist Linda Hedden Centivany, of Farmington Hills. She has been a painting student in the fine arts program at Wayne State since last September and has been awarded a graduate professional scholarship for the 1981-82 year. She also is represented in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association Michigan Fine Arts competition which opened March 13.

THE SALAVATION ARMY is looking for food to fill its food pantry for those in need. It has been used several times in the last few weeks and needs replenishing, according to Major John Cusard. The food is used to help the unemployed. Persons interested in contributing should call 477-1153 or 478-4874.

THE ARMY OF CHRISTIANS also are having the annual advisory dinner on March 31 at the Bofaford Inn, beginning at 7 p.m. The Army's youth chorus and brass sextet will perform. Reservations can be made by calling the above numbers.

YOU AND THE KIDS can save some money and have some fun by joining with other families of the Adult for Kids organization when they go to see the Great Foulball on April 24 and the Wizard of Oz on May 16 at the Detroit Youth Theater at the Detroit Institute of Arts. AFK members pay only \$2 each. For further information call 855-3352.

IF YOU WISH to submit an item to Inside Angles address it to 2352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.



Krups at savings: Motor City Sale makes news

Krups, the aristocrat of electrics, a class apart in styling and performance, now at savings! The Marketplace, only at Northland, Eastland, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks, 118 units. Touch-It, Krups electric coffee mill, reg. \$26, sale 21.99. Krups compact electric food slicer, reg. \$60, sale 50.99. 10-cup coffee and tea maker by Krups, reg. \$67, sale 56.89. Krups fruit/vegetable juice extractor, reg. \$90, sale 75.99.

*Total units available at Hudson's stores listed, while quantities last.

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