

Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 75

Thursday, June 28, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

62 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents



Children of today are used to an entirely different type of library than former generations. Computers and video are commonly mixed in with the traditional books.

Library prepares for computer age

EDITOR'S NOTE: At a recent Farmington Hills budget hearing, the debate over the use and funding of the community's library was revived. This is the last of a series of stories about the library, its future and how other systems are operated.

By Tom Goss
staff writer

"Computers are moving in all over," wrote word-processing expert Lisa Ann

Green in a recent issue of "Top of the News," a library professional journal, "and for librarians and teachers, it's hardly likely to be a spectator sport."

At a time when the technology exists for encyclopedias to be "on line," books to be stored not on shelves but on laser discs and whole tones to be printed in minutes on demand, it's difficult to deny Green's prediction.

Libraries of the future will make use of the most advanced communications systems, including the computer, for administrative management, the pro-

cessing of library records, and bibliographic and information records.

Some such systems are available at the Farmington Community Library in the form of data banks, which connect the user by way of computer terminal to focus of knowledge in distant cities.

Costing the user sometimes dollars per hour (or dollar per minute), these data banks provide information in many different areas of society, including banking, marketing services and medicine.

"It's no longer financially possible to

duplicate great libraries like New York Public and Detroit Public," said Gordon Lewis, director of the Farmington system. "The trend has been to create these complex data banks in different parts of the country, and give local libraries access to them."

THERE'LL SOON BE another video display terminal in Farmington's two libraries as they join the GEAC program, which will allow a librarian to

Please turn to Page 2

New contract splits city legislators

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Despite some disagreement between council members, a two-year contract featuring a \$57,000 annual salary has been awarded to William Costick, Farmington Hills' new city manager as of July 1.

Council members on Monday voted 4-2 to approve Costick's two-year contract. The action rejected a three-year agreement originally negotiated with Costick by Mayor Charles Williams and Councilwoman Jan Dolan.

Williams and Councilman Dennis Wolf voted against the two-year contract. Councilman Joe Alkateeb was absent.

In May, the council unanimously appointed Costick, assistant city manager since early 1981, to take over when City Manager Lawrence Savage retires June 10.

The two-year agreement, complete with a provision for four months of severance pay and a required one-month notice for termination was suggested by Councilwoman Joan Dudley.

"It was really a matter of how you go about doing things," Williams said, talking about his vote of opposition.

Williams said he felt it was unnecessary to change the negotiated contract, particularly in public. He added that it was "the old question" of what should be conducted in public and what should be conducted in executive session.

"Basically, we had negotiated a contract and this (two-year contract with severance pay) was put what Mr. Costick had wanted," Williams said. "This should be discussed privately. We took one year off his contract in public."

Williams also appeared to miff the council followed Dudley's suggestion after he and Dolan had been given the responsibility of negotiating a contract with Costick.

"By changing it from two to three years, it was meaningless," he said. "It turned out to be much ado about nothing."

DUDLEY, ON the other hand, had another point of view.

"I thought a three years was a little long," she said.

Dudley said there seems to be a tendency to continue doing something just because it has always been done that way.

Indeed that, she said, council members change every two years and if a new council wishes to continue a current city manager, they have the option to renew his contract.

"None of the suggestions related to Bill (Costick)," Dudley said.

Calling severance pay an equitable way of doing business, Dudley defended her suggestion, saying a city manager actually is a "chief executive officer."

As such, "it's not as easy to find a new job."

Typically, when a city manager is given the customary 120-day notice he is fired, council members could request him to work throughout the entire notice period, Dudley said.

"He would have no full time to devote to finding a new position," she said, adding that severance pay is "customary at management levels in private business."

In addition to the \$52,000 salary which will be reviewed annually, Costick's contract includes a fringe benefit package covering health, dental, vision and life insurance totaling \$15,000 (30 percent of his salary).

Costick also will be provided with a car to use for city business. He said he will continue using the city-provided car he drove as assistant city manager since 1981 for another year.

Costick's contract also allows him to spend \$700 without council approval to attend seminars and conferences. Anything beyond that amount will have to have been approved, Costick said.

The city also will cover Costick's membership in organizations such as the Michigan Municipal League, the Chamber of Commerce, the City Managers Association, and the Farmington Rotary.

Maddison seeks new firefighting challenge

By Tom Goss
staff writer

Corn is coming up in a field next to the Pittsfield Township fire house out on U.S. 12. There's a Ford tractor agency just down the road.

This community, fast growing but with plenty of rural touches, has drawn Norm Maddison away from an 18-year career with the public safety department in Farmington.

Maddison, who held the rank of commander and the title of fire marshal in Farmington, left that city late last month to become fire marshal in Pittsfield Township south of Ann Arbor.

"Farmington was no excellent place to work and I liked it there," said the 27-year-old Maddison, who joined the department as an 18-year-old police cadet. "But I would like to be a fire chief in a larger department, and Pitts-

field is a growing area."

Maddison becomes the second member of the Farmington Public Safety Department to head for Pittsfield Township. In late 1981, Lt. John Santomero left to become the township's public safety director. He's now Maddison's boss.

"He let me know about the job opening and I applied for it," Maddison said. The 30-square-mile Pittsfield has a population of about 23,000 — roughly double Farmington's. The township's fire-fighting capability includes nine pieces of equipment, seven full-time employees and about 40 volunteers.

"The north end of Pittsfield is pretty much built up, and the south end is almost all agricultural," Maddison said.

THE POSITION will present some new challenges for Maddison, who grew up in Redford Township and

graduated from Redford Union High School.

"The responsibilities are fairly similar," he said. "They include fire operations and fire prevention."

"There're things in Pittsfield that I didn't have to worry about in Farmington. For example, at the end of the month we're having an air show. We have the (Ann Arbor Municipal) airport."

"And we have two prisons — the Huron Valley men's and women's correctional facilities. I spent last week learning about prisons. I never had to worry about that in Farmington."

Pittsfield has "an active planning department," Maddison said, and the land near the fire house which here supports a town council will be the site of the township's new center.

"Right now the building around here seems to be the high-technology

area," Maddison said.

Maddison is making the 60-mile round-trip commute until he and his wife Karen can sell their house on Hayden in Farmington and find a suitable place in Pittsfield.

"We're looking at a house in the southwest corner, which is actually Saline," he said. "Saline and Farmington are kind of identical."

"We enjoyed working in Farmington. They're a great bunch of people. But I think there's a lot that I can do with my life. There's a lot of great places to live. There are a lot of Farmingtonians."

Maddison said he was taking "a pretty big reduction" in pay to come to Pittsfield.

"Sometimes you have to take two steps backward to go one step forward," he said.

The Maddisons have two boys, ages 13 and 10.

oral quarrel

How should library system be financed

At a recent Farmington Hills council meeting, library financing became the center of attention. Supporters believe the library budget is used by city legislators as a cudgel against the library to force the city to share the property tax. The library budget should remain under the authority of the two city managers.

HOW DO YOU THINK THE LIBRARY SHOULD BE FINANCED — THROUGH THE TWO CITY MANAGERS OR BY LEAVING IT TO THE COUNCIL?

You can answer this question by calling 477-4484 until 1 p.m. on Friday. You will have 30 seconds to answer the question. Look in Monday's Farmington Observer to see how your neighbor felt about this issue.

what's inside

Amusements 8C-14C
Cable Connection 11A
Community Calendar 6B
Cracker Barrel 12A
Grossman's 12A
Down to Earth 6B
Don't Forget 12A
Honey 12A
Obituary 6A
Sports 12A
Suburban 12A

"BESIEGED WITH CALLS"

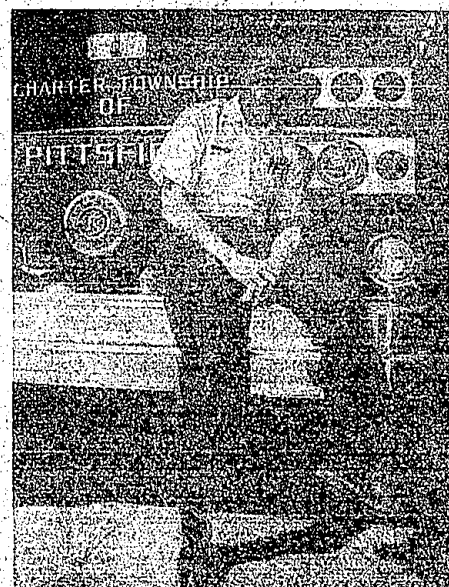
"Super response! Phone was ringing off the hook! R. Love was delighted with the response from the MERCHANTS-ANTIQUES Observer & Exponent Newspapers Classified ad placed. "Second person purchased the desk - no question about the price."

Remember...

One call does it all!

501-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa



Norm Maddison, a former fire marshal in Farmington, will become the new fire marshal in Pittsfield Township.