

# Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 80

Monday, July 16, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

## Hills' founders endorse charter millage

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Despite the compromise made a decade ago over keeping the city's tax limit low to ensure passage of a city charter, former charter commissioners recently interviewed are supportive of a charter millage limitation increase.

"I expected it would happen in due course of time," said former commissioner Robert McConnell.

A charter amendment increasing the limit to 11.5 mills would allow the council to still be guaranteed 10 mills for operating as well as the 1.5 mills for capital projects.

Ten years ago, McConnell said, a 10 mill limit was realistic. "... that was allowing for an increase in inflation over the next decade."

Commissioner Richard Frankel, on the other hand, said "it would have been easier to put it in the original charter," than now to ask taxpayers to

change the charter and pay extra money.

"I wanted to have the total limit to be the highest we could put it at and to get the charter passed," Frankel said, adding the most important consideration was the charter's passage.

That was the reason for the 10-mill compromise, he said.

"I certainly didn't think it was cast in stone," Frankel added. "Ultimately, it would be unrealistic."

But when the charter was written, some commissioners "were against government" and didn't want to even fairly pay council members, he said.

Notheless, the attempt was in "good faith with the voters" by keeping the millage limit low and ensuring, for example, funding of the library.

"We assumed that the library would continue to get what it was receiving (at that time)," Frankel said.

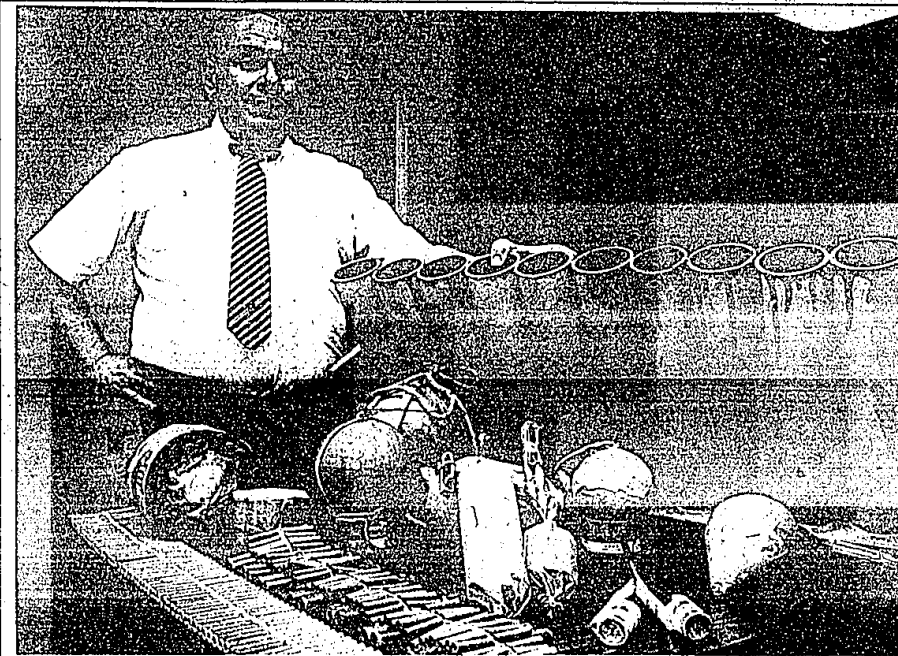
At the same time, though, Frankel said commissioners 10 years ago "didn't have enough foresight to know

how much costs would go up and what exactly would be needed to improve the community."

As the commissioner who developed the initial projections for inflation as an aide in determining what charter millage limit should be established, McConnell said inflation seemed more out of control than they expected.

"We tried at that time to project for

Please turn to Page 2



Dick Megregian, a lover of pyrotechnics, shows off some of the tools of the trade which will thrill and dazzle Founders' Festival participants this week.

## Fest boomers and barrages set to thrill

By Joan Adamczak  
staff writer

As a youngster, Dick Megregian used to run away from the police after shooting off illegal firecrackers and fireworks.

Today, the Farmington Hills police department is one of his biggest helpers in presenting the Festival extravaganza fireworks display.

Megregian, 52, runs his own fireworks company, Eye-Tech Fireworks, and is the pyro-technician in charge of the Founders' Festival fireworks display this year.

"I used to run away from you guys (police officers) when I was 12, 13 years old — now I work with you," Megregian said with a chuckle to two Farmington police officers.

MEGREGAN WAS with the officers at the Farmington Police Station's ammunition storage facility where the fireworks are stored until July 21 when they will be shot off as the Grand Finale of the Founders' Festival.

"This year's display will be the largest show in content ever had out there (at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus)," said Megregian.

The display will be an all-aerial show with a prelude of "a few things on the ground" which are designed to be heard rather than seen, said Megregian.

Whistle bombs, Oriental celebration rolls and machine gun stings will be shot off in the preliminary show.

"This is the kind of thing most people don't get to see around here," says Megregian.

Whistle bombs emit a sound similar to that of a bomb falling. The machine gun stings and Oriental celebration rolls make a rapid, loud rattle like a machine gun, says Megregian.

"Ornaments" are then for celebration," says Megregian. "They feature the red paper wrapped around the exploding shells almost away from spirits."

The fireworks to be used in the show are comprised of two types of shells: Chinese-Oriental shells and American-Oriental shells.

The Chinese shells burst in a circular fashion and look similar to a large carnation in the sky.

MOST AMERICAN shells burst in an umbrella fashion, showering down in the sky from the point of explosion. Both types of shells can ascend 150 to 600 feet up in the air, depending on what size of shell is used, says Megregian.

The smallest shell, which is about three inches in diameter, can produce a 50 to 100 foot burst, about 50 feet in the air. The largest shell, eight inches in diameter, can travel about 600 feet

Please turn to Page 4

## New and traditional mark Festival's 20th

The Farmington Founders' Festival is kicking off its 20th year celebration with a host of new activities mixed with more traditional fare to live up to the busy days of July.

For a complete listing of activities, look for the Farmington Festival guide in this edition of the Farmington Observer.

Among the new attractions is the much heralded W.C. Wade Carnival which will spin and whirl festival-goers on rides stationed at the Farmington Plaza beginning on Thursday and running through Saturday.

Parade Day will be "Kids Day in the Park." Beginning at noon, Kids Day activities will run until 5 p.m. Included in the activities will be a "Kids Coast

Guard helicopter from Selfridge Air Force Base and, of course, the annual pet show sponsored by Dr. John Richardson. Besides the clowns and magicians, "Kids Days" will feature a performance of "Free to be You and Me" at 7 p.m. and a "Summer Olympics Games" for the children.

The Miss Farmington Pageant will be Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Vladimir's on Grand River and Eight Mile. Also on Wednesday will be the Franklin Village Band at the Downtown Farmington Center 8-10 p.m. The new Miss Farmington will be presented to the public at the downtown center during the band concert.

The Farmington Community Center on Farmington Road, north of Ten Mile

will be featuring the play "An Evening of Mystery" at 8:30 p.m. in the amphitheater.

Festival-goers can begin the evening with a party dinner at the Masonic Temple on Grand River and Farmington Road. Dinner is served from 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, the Festival will get into full swing with the traditional sidewalk sales and art and crafts.

Muirwood Square Shopping Center will be home for the Papa Rocciano Third Annual Pig Out lasting from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Elks will host their annual Car Show at noon. The Elks facility is located on Orchard Lake, south of Ten Mile.

A benefit softball game will be at 7

p.m. at the Harrison High School between the Farmington Hills firefighters and the Botsford Hospital physicians. Donations will go to the Ann Arbor Burn Center.

Neil Simon's play "Chapter Two" will be performed at the Farmington Players Barn at 7:30 p.m. Those in a singing mood can come and listen to the Sweet Adelines at 8:45 p.m. at the Downtown Farmington Center. Before eating, catch the Farmington Community Jazz band at the downtown location at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S EVENTS will include the used book sale at the Farmington Branch Library, 33500 Liberty. Also featured that day will be the Farmington Hills Police fire arms demonstra-

tion, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Holset Engineering Complex on Grand River and Drake.

Muirwood Center will host magician Steve Weibel at 4 p.m. Also, the historical minded should take time out to visit the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River. Tours begin at 1 p.m.

Former Miss Farmington Kelly Garver will be playing her violin at 5 p.m. at Muirwood. Garver plays classical, contemporary as well as country tunes. After Garver, Stan Skyles, a one man band, will take the Muirwood stage at 6 p.m.

The Farmington Community Chorus will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the downtown location.

tion, followed by the Farmington Hills Sings and Dances.

Parade Day, Saturday, will open with the YMCA Festival, consisting of two runs, a five kilometer and a 10 kilometer. Persons interested should report to the YMCA building at 55100 Farmington Road, north of Twelve Mile, before 8 a.m. For a really festive feeling, festival-goers can have their faces painted at Muirwood Square.

The parade begins at noon with the traditional groups and floats participating.

After the parade, the battle of the bars will take place at Muirwood. Host will be Dave Lombard of WTRC.

## Candidates mix it up for primary

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

While there was little doubt Councilman Robert Anselvor would run for council, planning commissioners Ben Marks said he threw his hat in the political ring when Terry Sever announced his candidacy.

"Two candidates in a horse race. Three candidates is a contest," said Marks, a six-year planning commissioner who has been in the race for council.

"People in this community deserve a choice," Marks continued, adding more than two candidates were needed going into the August primary.

Im before about 30 people last Tuesday at the invitation of the area Democratic Club.

"It's no secret I caused a three-man race," Sever said, now making his fourth attempt to sit on the council. "The only opportunity you have for people to listen to you is if you're on city council."

Both campaign veterans were responding to Anselvor's own question about why they felt compelled to run. Anselvor, now seven years on council, has only had five months to serve as councilman.

Anselvor was appointed to council following the resignation of two recently elected Ward 4 members. Both Sever and Marks immediately made their

bid for the council appointment. Marks also made an unsuccessful attempt for a council seat in 1977.

Through audience questions topics such as library funding and capital improvements. Specifically the proposed new police building — surfaced.

Anselvor, meanwhile, jumped right in with a short discussion of his feelings about the recent council decision to move ahead with a charter amendment asking for additional millage for capital improvements.

His proposed additional millage, he said, provides council with a framework to accomplish capital improvements.

But council must live within a reasonable budget while moving toward

completion of the necessary projects, he added.

As a former planning commissioner, Anselvor said much of the problem with developing a six-year capital improvement plan was that council did not provide commissioners with any type of target to stay within when developing the plan.

If the request for an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years passes, it should provide planning commissioners with a framework in which to work when they are faced with updating the plan, Anselvor said.

### what's inside

Brevities	2A
Cable TV	2B
Community News	2C
Chairs in School	2D
FV/AS	2E
Optical	2F
Shopping Cart	2G
Sports	2H
Stroller	2I
Suburban Life	2J
The View	2K
Chaired	2L
WSPD	2M

**RECRUITMENT WANTED**

Continued Advertising

Resumes in **STANDARD C**

of today's paper.

Please turn to Page 4