

# Farmington Observer

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## Jury finds Hills guilty of discrimination

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

A federal jury has found in favor of a former Farmington Hills employee who brought suit against the city for sex discrimination in job promotion.

Laurie Albaugh, a former engineering department employee, is expected to receive at least \$140,000 in damages for lost wages, emotional distress and for the "reckless disregard" in which the city handled the matter, said Susan Winshall, Albaugh's attorney.

"We don't know whether we are

going to appeal," said City Manager William Costick, who refused further comment.

The suit, filed in August 1982 in U.S. District Court, charged the city with two counts of sex discrimination. Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor presided.

The first count charged the city with sex discrimination for the manner in which a man was promoted instead of Albaugh. The second count of sex discrimination stems from Albaugh's discharge while the Civil Rights Commission was investigating her complaint.

Albaugh, who worked for the city for

three and a half years, worked in the engineering department as a resident grading inspector, according to Winshall.

**HER DUTIES** were later transferred to the building department, Winshall said. Albaugh remained in the engineering department working as a field inspector.

"She was the only woman doing the job and the only one with a college education," Winshall said.

The duties of Albaugh's original job were transferred back to the engineer-

ing department minus clerical duties but with the added duties of inspecting public facilities.

The new job, called grading inspector, was posted in May 1980, in conformance with city procedure.

Albaugh was the only employee who applied for the job. But on the last day for filing applications, Tom Haseel, director of public services, sought out a male employee of the engineering department and asked him to apply before the 4 p.m. deadline, Winshall said. Albaugh was denied the promotion, she added.

Albaugh then filed a sex discrimination complaint with the Civil Rights Commission.

While the commission was conducting its investigation into her complaint, Albaugh was laid off in January 1981.

"IF SHE had gotten the promotion, she wouldn't have been laid-off," Winshall said. "According to the city's policies, there were at least two other men they could have laid off."

Following her lay-off, Albaugh filed a retaliation complaint with the Civil Rights Commission.

"The Civil Rights Commission found in her favor on both counts," Winshall said.

Although Farmington Hills had the option of rehiring Albaugh, "they" refused to resolve the matter. They denied they had done anything wrong," Winshall said.

Winshall is working on a judgment, which will include the jury's verdict, damages, costs, interest and attorneys' fees the city will have to pay. But if the city appeals, "all proceedings will be stayed," Winshall said.

## Botsford buys nursing home to offset effects of new law

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

Botsford General Hospital is the new owner of Farmington Nursing Home on Fiskin Road.

Under a newly organized holding company called Botsford Community Care Corp., the hospital purchased the

179-bed nursing home in Farmington on Aug. 1 for an undisclosed amount, according to Ruth Farrell, president of Botsford Continuing Care Centers Inc. The purchase comes just six months after hospital officials laid off approximately 100 employees to cut expenditures.

"We bought it (the nursing home) at-

ter we were convinced it was a lucrative venture," said Farrell, who is in charge of the nursing home.

The hospital employee positions that were axed in March, she said, represented a cut in daily personnel costs. Purchase of the nursing home, on the other hand, "is a long-term capital expenditure" for which the hospital was

able to get financing. The nursing home has approximately 170 employees.

"It is an investment but not something that will put money in our pocket," Farrell said.

"Because most of Botsford's patients are elderly, the nursing home will provide an extension of services for the elderly," she said.

"The corporation (Botsford Continuing Care Centers Inc.) was set up primarily as a corporation for geriatric services," Farrell said.

"Hospitals, in general, have a natural affinity for nursing homes," Farrell added.

**PURCHASE** of the nursing home has been prompted by the effects of a new law designed to cut medical costs in the care of senior citizens and disabled persons.

That's being done by reducing the time Medicare patients remain in the hospital.

"We will be looking at relieving the hospital of patients who don't need (hospital) care but still need a level of nursing care," Farrell said. "Patients who need acute care will stay in the hospital."

Called the prospective pricing system, the federal regulation places a ceiling on the amount a hospital receives for treating each patient.

Upon admission, Medicare patients are assigned to one of 470 "diagnosis related groups" (DRG), based on the attending doctor's principal diagnosis.

Each DRG has a specific rate of reimbursement.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ruth Farrell will take over the helm at the Farmington Nursing Home



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington Nursing Home has changed hands and is now under the umbrella of the Botsford health care corporation.

## Michigan delegation backs off on bid for more clout

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

**DALLAS** — Michigan Republicans will get no "bonus" at the 1984 national convention for their takeover of the state Senate in the 1984 taxpayers revolt.

"It's regrettable," said Alan May, Michigan's member of the current national convention committee on Rules and Order of Business.

"There was a lot of arm-twisting by the Reagan-Bush people not to take it (the bonus plan) to the convention floor," said May, a 48-year-old Bloomfield Hills lawyer and chairman of the 18th Congressional District GOP.

**THE IDEA**, pushed by May with the blessing of state leaders, was to award states up to five "bonus" delegates in 1984 if they elected Republicans to become governor, U.S. senator, state senator or state representative. (In Nebraska, with a one-house legislature, Republicans would have won two bonus seats for controlling the legislature.)

Not only would the plan stimulate

Republicans to win legislative offices, but it would strengthen the hand of the north in nominating a moderate candidate for president in 1988.

"The southerners said, 'You're not

giving yourself a bonus — you're taking away from us,'" May said after his committee meeting.

"I said, 'If anyone is losing it's Michigan because we fought so hard to get it' — meaning control of the upper house after suburban voters recalled two Democratic state senators.

In committee, May was outvoted, 44-

42.

**SPENCER ABRAHAM**, state GOP chairman, was unhappy about the loss for still other reasons:

• "It's the legislators which represent congressional districts. After 1980 the more legislators you control, the more congressional districts you appoint."

• For the first time since 1968, Michigan Republicans in 1984 have

fielded a candidate in every one of the 110 state House of Representatives districts. "In recent years we have had as many as 15 to 21 unaffiliated legislative slots on the ballot. This condition has allowed Democrats to focus their resources on key races and, thus, easily to maintain their numerical advantage in the state House."

Abraham said the state party would target as many as 30 House districts for help but was unable to say yet which ones. In 1982, despite statewide losses for governor and U.S. senator, the GOP picked up six state House seats by targeting campaigns.

**MEANWHILE**, MAY kept up the fight. He began rounding up the re-

quired 25 signatures to submit a minority report on the bonus delegate proposal to present to the full convention.

"We got 31 names on petitions," May said. "But the next thing we knew, arms were being twisted."

Before long, the southern opposition had affidavits from some of May's petition signers saying they were withdrawing and didn't care to submit a minority report to the convention floor.

Had the fight gone to the floor, the issue would have been decided by a close vote — perhaps 1,390 to 1,180, May said.

There were two ways to take the vote. One would be a voice vote. There would be no way convention chairmen

Howard Baker could tell who won, especially since southerners can yell louder.

"The other way would be a poll of the delegates. That would take an hour."

In the end, May and the northern group yielded to the arm-twisting and did not take the "bonus" question to the convention floor.

The House and Order of Delegates Committee rejected two other northern attempts to increase delegation sizes in 1984.

Please turn to Page 4

### oral quarrel

### How do you feel about attempt to ban play?

Showing of the play "Sister Mary Ignatia Explains It All for You" is scheduled for the Birmingham Theatre sometime in the 1984-85 season. But the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit and Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights say they will try to prevent the play's showing. Roman Catholic leaders are opposed to the satirical play because they say it is anti-Catholic in its distorted portrayal of Catholic hierarchy and dogma.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

"How do you feel about Catholic leaders' attempts to prevent the showing of 'Sister Mary Ignatia Explains It All for You'?"

To answer this question, call us at 477-5438 anytime before 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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**FALL FASHION '84**

IN TODAY'S ISSUE

## Council will yield for those who wait

Any Farmington Hills resident who has attended a city council meeting and wondered what the heck the heck of their council is, to be discussed on this issue.

Council agreed Monday to give priority to those who have submitted agenda items that have not been discussed at the council meeting.

It was a 5-4 vote. Council members who voted in favor of the agenda items were Council members Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel.

Those who voted against the agenda items were Council members Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel, Tom Haseel.

Council agenda are divided into

new business and city manager's report. Requests for additional items are listed under the appropriate section.

But the agenda items often cause a delay in the presentation of the agenda. On the agenda agenda is a list of agenda items that are not discussed at the council meeting.

Council also agreed to add a new agenda item to the agenda. Any items council or administrators wish to add at the time of the agenda meeting must be listed in an "additions to the agenda" section at the end of the agenda.