



Farmington Observer

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Library director steps down

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Library Director Gordon Lewis resigned Wednesday, following a closed meeting of the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees.

"Generally, it was an agreement that Mr. Lewis would resign," said Dennis

DuBay, the attorney representing the Library Board. "Both parties released each other from any and all claims."

DuBay characterized the separation agreement as "an amicable resolution. I believe the board's vote indicated it was their view that it was in the best interests of the community, the library, Mr. Lewis, and all parties concerned."

"He (Lewis) had certain accrued benefits," in the areas of sick leave, vacation and compensatory time, DuBay said.

"That was all accrued to his credit. There was no severance pay."

UNDER the agreement, Lewis' Blue Cross health insurance will continue for three months, DuBay said.

Ashley Lipson, Lewis' attorney, said he was satisfied with the separation agreement.

"No wrongdoing is admitted," he said. "Gordon is a very marketable person, and I don't think he'll have any trouble finding employment elsewhere."

Lewis was suspended without pay at the conclusion of a May 2 meeting with library trustees.

At that meeting's conclusion, library trustees released an audit report from the Plante and Moran accounting firm of Southfield. Auditors had discovered evidence of possible personal uses of public money.

HIS CLIENT HAS NOT yet found another job, Lipson said.

"I don't know that he's even been looking at this point. Not at this moment, because it's only been 15 minutes (since his resignation)."

The last few months have been difficult.

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Teen party ordinance gets the nod

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Members of the Farmington Hills City Council voted Monday to introduce an amendment to the Penal Code Ordinance on serving alcohol to minors in private residences.

Monday's vote was 4-3, with Jan Dolan, Joe Alkateeb, Ben Marks and Don Wolf supporting the introduction, and Joan Dudley, Charles Williams and JoAnn Sorenson opposing it.

The ordinance is designed to regulate the serving of alcoholic beverages and drugs at open house parties. The following definitions are included in the ordinance:

- "Adult" means a person 17 years of age or older.
- "Alcoholic beverage" means any beverage containing more than one-half of 1 percent of alcohol by weight.
- "Minor" means a person not legally permitted by reason of age to possess alcoholic beverages.
- "Residence" means a home, apartment, condominium or other dwelling unit and includes the curtilage (surrounding area) of the dwelling unit.
- "Open house party" means a social gathering of persons at a residence, other than the owner or those with rights of possession or their immediate family members.
- "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined by the Public Acts of the state of Michigan.
- "Control" means any form of regulation or dominion including a possessory right.

'We're going to have some problems in the next month with these graduation parties. This is a tool the police department can use to assist the community with a real problem.'

— William Dwyer
Hills police chief

"We're going to have some problems in the next month, with these graduation parties," the police chief said. "This is a tool the police department can use to assist the community with a real problem."

Several other police department staffers spoke to the council, as did representatives of community agencies.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is "to create an attitude of community awareness, that Farmington Hills intends to take potent measures," said Betty Nicolay, president of Farmington Families in Action.

"Our youth have the right to grow up in a drug-free world, and we parents have the responsibility to make that a reality," she said.

PAM O'MALLEY, assistant principal at Farmington High School, also spoke at the meeting.

Many attendance and discipline problems in the schools can be traced to a substance abuse problem, O'Malley said.

"A lot of that is related to the alcohol use, which is definitely on the increase."

Local high school students are also concerned about the problem, she said. Students have been active in forming chapters of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) and in planning all-night graduation parties.

"They're very concerned about one another."

The debate among council members varied, with some supporting the proposed ordinance and others questioning its legality and enforceability.

"I think the problem is with the parent, the parent has to be held accountable," council member Ben Marks said. "This liquor business is nothing more



Rosanne Egle (left) stands with friend Tish LaFrance on the front lawn of her home on Tuck Road in Farmington Hills. Egle was evicted this week, approximately 2½ years after purchasing the home on a land contract.

A woman's home deal turns into nightmare

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Looking back, Rosanne Egle wishes she had known more about the real estate business or at least had hired an attorney to help her at the closing of the land contract on her Farmington Hills home back in 1982.

This week, Egle was evicted from her \$55,000 home at 23015 Tuck Road.

And she's angry.

"I don't want to end up losing everything," Egle said, as she was packing her belongings Tuesday afternoon.

In 1982, Egle, a hairstylist, bought her house, near Middlebelt and Nine Mile roads, on a land contract she assumed from the second owner of the property.

The second owner was already 2½ years into the land contract which called for a balloon payment to come due in June 1985, Egle said.

Since 1982, Egle had been making \$600 monthly payments for the house assuming she could get an extension on the balloon payment's due date.

In addition, the \$600 monthly payments, Egle said, were not making any dent in the balloon payment. Her monthly payments were paying off

interest and taxes, Egle said.

"It's like spinning your wheels," she said, adding she has made payments as a renter would instead of a homeowner. "If I had wanted to rent, I would have rented."

Egle's real problems, however, began when she realized her balloon payment would soon be due, she couldn't pay it and she had a nagging suspicion the extension on that payment she and her Realtor had discussed before the closing would never come about.

"I had a nagging feeling even at the closing that something wasn't right," Egle said.

Although real estate agent Steve Stockton, who at the time was with one of the Century 21 offices, told Egle that an extension on the big payment probably could be had, it was never included in the final contract that she signed, Egle claimed.

"He said, 'Don't worry. These people (the original owners) will extend the balloon payment,'" Egle said. "He gained my confidence. I didn't realize I didn't have anything in black and white."

But Stockton, now of the Michigan Executive Realtors at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, said he conducted

himself and his dealings with Egle in a professional and ethical manner.

"Talk to the real estate board," Stockton said, adding Egle took her complaints against him before the board's grievance committee.

"They dismissed the case with no hearing at all," he said.

The reason Egle is losing her home is for non-payment, not because of the lack of an extension on her balloon payment, Stockton said.

When Egle began worrying about getting an extension, she called the owners of the house but was refused an extension.

"I realized, hey, what am I going to do?" Egle said.

At that point Egle stopped making her monthly payments.

SHORTLY AFTER THAT the owners took Egle to court before 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer. Egle was told to either pay up what she had so far failed to pay or move out.

She moved out this week.

Egle says she moved out of her home without a choice. After realizing the balloon payment would soon

Spicer uses debated

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Discussion of uses of the Spicer property brought approximately 60 people to a Tuesday evening meeting at Farmington Hills City Hall.

The 212-acre Spicer property is west of Farmington Road and north of 10 Mile Road. Since last November, a citizens' committee has been looking at different uses for the property.

"We had two choices," Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission, told those at the meeting. One choice would have been for commission members to "go into a dark room" and decide what use would be best for the property.

"The second choice was to involve the community in how they wanted their land used." The commission opted for that approach.

Following an organizational meeting last year, a citizens' advisory committee was formed. The three subcommittees — agency, activities, and special interest groups — studied possible uses for the property.

A survey on possible uses was conducted on those uses with the survey form being published in the Farmington Observer.

"The commission, after organizing all this, was seeking one thing, advice and direction," Fitzgerald said. The Tuesday meeting was scheduled to allow additional public comment on possible uses for the property.

Uses identified by the citizens' committee included the following:

- Botanical gardens.
- Multipurpose meeting place.
- Multipurpose youth center.
- Nature interpretive center.
- Picnic area and pavilion.
- Trails (hiking, nature, cross country).
- Outdoor ice rink.
- Working farm.

Several area residents spoke at Tuesday's meeting.

Acquisition of the property "is one of the most exciting (opportunities) that has come before this city," Jean Fox said.

Some of the suggested uses for the property might be mutually exclusive, she said. More active uses, such as a youth sports field, might bring in crowds and night lighting.

"And there goes your wildlife, the very thing this land is so rich in providing," Fox said.

John Bailey, a Parks and Recreation Commission member, also spoke at the meeting. Bailey is also president of the Farmington Soccer Club.

oral quarrel

How do you feel about Philly fire?

At least six people, including two children are known dead and more than 60 homes were destroyed in a Philadelphia neighborhood after police this week besieged the headquarters of a group calling itself MOVE.

Accepting responsibility for the showdown and aftermath of destruction, Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode claimed the decision to besiege the house was based on fears that the group might try to "blow up the entire neighborhood."

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

If you were Mayor Goode how would you have dealt with the MOVE group? Did he act responsibly? Why or why not?

To answer this question, call 477-5458 before 5 p.m. Friday. See Monday's Farmington Observer to see how your neighbors responded to this question.

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Bridal

IN TODAY'S ISSUE

School hopefuls set for 2 debates

School district voters will have a chance to meet the 14 Farmington School Board candidates at two candidates nights later this month.

Sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club, the first candidates night is scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the Rotoford Inn, 28000 Grand River near Eight Mile Road.

Scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, May 30, the second candidates night is sponsored by the Farmington branch of the American Association of University Women and the Farmington Parents Teachers Association Council. The presentations will be in the cafeteria at Dunckel Middle School, 33800 W. 12 Mile Road.

The candidates are vying in the June 10 election for two seats held by veteran school board members Emmi Makinen and Richard Wallace. Neither are seeking re-election when their four-year terms expire in June.

At the Democratic Club's candidates' night, each candidate will be given up to three minutes to make an opening presentation. The presentation may include background, qualifications or any topic the candidates wish to discuss.

Following the presentations, questions will be taken from the audience. Questions may be directed to one, some or all of the candidates. Each candi-

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