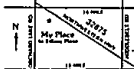


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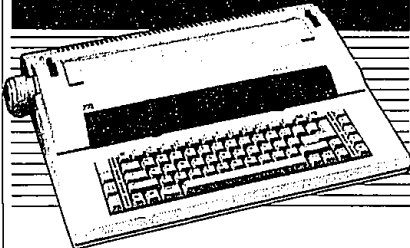
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Firefighters pact ratified

A new three-year contract between Farmington Hills firefighters and the city was ratified Dec. 8, providing 4-percent annual increases and additional pension and insurance benefits.

The city council voted unanimously to approve the pact for members of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2859, effective from July 1, 1988 through June 30, 1991, according to information from the city.

When the contract expired, the city and union agreed to extend the current contract until negotiating teams reached an impasse and entered into mediation Nov. 12 — when a tentative agreement was reached.

Other new contract wage provisions include:
• A clause calling for a higher percentage increase for firefighters if another city union negotiates more than 4 percent during the life of the contract.

• Removal of classifications of lieutenant and fire marshal from overtime provisions, moving them to straight salary.

• Compensation for required court appearances and jury duty.
In addition, firefighters will receive an increase for annual tuition and education reimbursement. Formerly at 2 percent of base salary, contract changes move the figure to 3 percent of the highest base rate for a firefighter.

In the area of promotions, an eligibility roster will be established for all classifications below deputy fire chief, a position that was removed from the bargaining unit. Future promotions will be based on a combined score of seniority, written and oral examinations and departmental evaluations.

Firefighters are now required to live within 12 miles of the city limits "or within Milford, Highland or White Lake townships," the city report said.
There were additional contract changes in the areas of work schedules and internal investigation of firefighters.

Road may yet be paved

Bad drainage on Goldsmith Street will again be the subject of Farmington Hills City Council discussion, raising the possibility that the street will be paved, despite a split opinion by residents during the past year.

The City Council voted unanimously Dec. 8 to rehear the Goldsmith drainage and paving issue — two things city officials say are interrelated and should be handled together. A hearing date has not been set.

Water builds up on the south portion of the road, to road level, before flowing overland in a southeasterly

direction, according to an administrative report from the city.
"The city staff has listed several local drainage concerns which need to be attended to," the report said.

"The drainage problem on Goldsmith is not as serious as many others within the city. It is very conceivable that if the drainage concern is not part of a road-paving project that it will not be addressed in the near future."

The report said if the city looks only at drainage problems on Goldsmith it "probably will not be addressed for several years" and "will continue to be maintained on an as-needed basis by our department of public works."

Paving proponent Al Hetke spoke before the council Dec. 1 regarding

the drainage situation.

Hetke spearheaded the drive to pave the street last February, obtaining 49.9 percent approval on a petition in favor of the paving. His request was countered by a majority petition in favor of gravel improvement, and no council action was taken.

A second public hearing was held in July because a majority of residents signed a petition in favor of the paving. Two letters received on the hearing date took the percentage of approval below the needed 51 percent, causing the council to again take no action.

Last February, the paving project costs were estimated at \$164,737, including work on the street drainage, according to the report.

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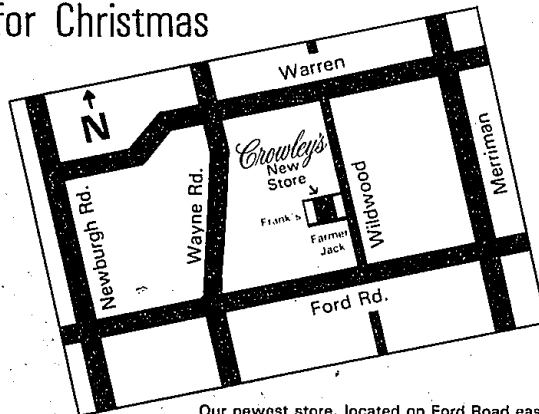
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