



PETER BALDWIN

In June, the Houston-based Grant-Norpac Co. tested Farmington Hills and other Oakland County communities for natural gas and oil. Residents in the Nine Mile-Halsted area are receiving sample leases from a Marine City exploration and brokerage firm to determine the potential for oil and gas drilling.

Firm asks homeowners to sign oil-drilling leases

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them. There would be no investment on their part. The entire investment of money is ours. They would have royalties (12 1/2 percent) of any production," he said.

THE LEASE with the Farmington Square Homeowners Association includes non-development clauses that guarantee, for example, there will be no drilling in the subdivision's

commons area, O'Connor said. Association president Keith Davey was unavailable for comment.

The association, O'Connor confirmed, received \$3,300 for its lease. The association would receive a \$50 additional bonus for households that sign a lease. Homeowners who sign individual leases would receive \$50, Dupont said. There are more than 250 homes in Farmington Square.

Homeowners, O'Connor said, shouldn't be concerned about having an oil rig on their front lawn. "We could drill from a location away," he said, adding that drilling could take place 4,000 feet underground.

An oil rig is an unacceptable use in the city's residential areas, said Ken Solomon of the city's planning division. "It's not really covered in the zoning ordinance but it's an unacceptable use in single family," he

said, referring to equipment needed for drilling.

Whether zoning ordinances provide any control over underground piping and drilling is unknown, Solomon said. "They (residents) have legitimate concerns about it, there's no doubt."

When and if M.J. O'Connor & Associates drills for oil and gas, a permit will be required from the state Department of Natural Resources. But O'Connor said there is no requirement for a permit from the city of Farmington Hills.

City officials, who have been notified of the firm's interest, are determining what, if any, role the city would play in gas and oil drilling. "We're basically investigating it," public services director Tom Biaseli said. He said he is uncertain what legal rights exist for homeowners or the city.

1988 Citizen of Year nominees are sought

There's plenty of time to nominate someone who has worked to improve or uplift some aspect of the community as Citizen of the Year.

The 1988 recipient will be honored Thursday, Oct. 23, at the 18th annual awards banquet hosted by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber-sponsored Citizen of the Year Award spotlights a community booster who has rung up extended and resourceful public service during the past year or over a number of years.

Nominees can be anyone who has contributed meritorious service to the community either as a volunteer or in connection with their business.

There are no limitations to a nominee's age, sex or residency. But they must have accomplished their community deeds in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

IN SIZING up potential Citizens of the Year, remember that past award winners are excluded from consideration. Government officials may be nominated for their volunteer achievements only.

Don't hesitate to renominate past nominees who weren't winners but who are still deeply active in the community.

Use the accompanying nomination form. Also provide a description of your nominee's most recent local achievements. Supporting letters from colleagues, peers and others who can elaborate on the value of your nominee's service or character are encouraged.

"Tell the judges what contributions you feel the nominee has made to sustain or raise the quality of life in Farmington and Farmington Hills," said Farmington Observer editor Bob Sklar, award committee chairman.

"Be specific in explaining why you believe these contributions are significant and should earn special plaudits. A resume of service would

be helpful. Detail time periods."

BE SURE you answer the question: "Why should this nominee be selected as the 1988 Citizen of the Year?" Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Past award winners were Dr. Robert

Douglass, Marlowe Belanger, John Anhalt, Charles Schulkins, Mary Ann Reilly, Terry Sever, Floyd Cairns, Allan Kenerson, Richard Headlee, Sandra Donlon, Robert McConnell, Harold Gibson, Jim Ellis, Jean Fox, Bayard Tupper and Shirley Richardson.

1988 Citizen of the Year nomination form

Nominee Information

name _____ birthdate _____

home address _____

city _____ state _____ ZIP _____

home phone _____ work phone _____

occupation _____ title _____

place of work _____ address _____

spouse's name _____

children's names, ages _____

Nominator Information

name _____ date _____

home address _____

city _____ state _____ ZIP _____

home phone _____ work phone _____

occupation _____ title _____

place of work _____ address _____

signature _____

Entry deadline: Oct. 3.

Mail to: Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce
33201 Grand River
Farmington, MI 48024

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Sat., Sept. 10 10-9
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- Drawings for prizes.

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(313) 661-8500

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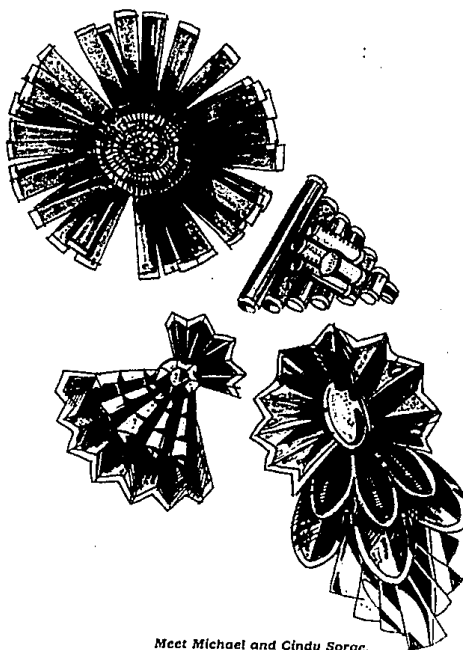
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JEWELRY

For unique fashion accents, see our John Barrett Collections jewelry...colorful handmade paper earrings in clip and pierced styles. Extraordinary concepts in design.



Meet Michael and Cindy Sorge, here with the Barrett Collection on Thursday, September 8, from 12 Noon to 5 p.m., Livonia

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