

President picketed

Detroit-area residents of Lithuanian descent picketed President George Bush's appearance at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn Tuesday. The group was protesting what they say is the president's weak stance on the Lithuanian drive for independence from the Soviet Union. Pictured are Patricia and Algis Kaunelis, both of Farmington. Bush was in Dearborn for a Republican fund-raiser.



JIM JAGDFELD/staff photographer

Court budget questioned

News briefs from the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls will appear regularly in this column.

● FARMINGTON

• Budget query — With a captive audience Monday, including the two Farmington district court judges, Mayor Shirley Richardson questioned an expected overage in the 47th District Court's budget for the current year.

Chief District Judge Margaret Schaeffer said having former Judge Michael Hand on leave, then replacing him with Judge Fred Harris mid-year had been costly for the court.

"There have been some unexpected things, but there's a good reason for every one of them," she told the council.

City Manager Robert Deadman said he "doesn't think they'll be too far over budget." Of a \$1.65 million budget for the 1989-90 fiscal year, the court has spent \$25,000 to \$30,000 more than was approved last year. That does not include an unexpected unemployment compensation bill the court recently received.

• Sewer info — The city has scheduled another informational meeting regarding its \$12 million

CITY HALL news beat

sewer separation and improvement project, which will start this year. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 30, at city hall. Voters will consider financing options May 22.

• Smokers allowed — Smoking areas in the Farmington public services facility on Nine Mile were changed Monday, after a petition signed by all employees there asked that smoking be allowed in the cafeteria. New rules had allowed smoking only in the garage area.

But city councilwoman JoAnne McShane voted nay. She said after looking at the building, she believed a lockerroom off of the garage area would be an alternative for smokers, without polluting the cafeteria.

• Road dollars — City council members have asked Oakland County to spend more money on roads, concurring with a resolution by the

county road commission and several other cities. The plan requests the county general government to spend \$100 million on roads over the next 10 years.

Even if approved, the dollars will only make a dent. Road commissioners estimate the county road need in excess of \$950 million.

• Budget time — Farmington will likely host this year's joint budget sessions to be held with the city of Farmington Hills. A tentative date of Thursday, May 17, at Farmington City Hall has been set for the two cities to meet and discuss joint budget concerns such as the 47th District Court and the Farmington Community Library system.

Farmington City Council members approved the date Monday. Farmington Hills must now consider it.

● FARMINGTON HILLS

• Council liaisons — City Hall Newsbeat in last Thursday's paper incorrectly listed new council liaisons.

Correct liaisons are Aldo Vagnoli, school board; Jon Grant, library board; Terry Sever, Commission on Aging; and Jean Fox, historical commission and historic district commission.

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