

Hills council smooths out hookup rules

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A change in guidelines for special assessments should make it easier for Farmington Hills residents wanting hookups to city services.

"The Hills City Council voted 6-0, with councilman Terry Sever absent, to adopt new guidelines on special assessments at Monday's meeting.

"I don't want to impose fees on people who don't want them while others have to pay who don't want it (sewer and water service)," said Mayor Nancy Bates.

And the new policy, which will serve as a guideline and not an ironclad ordinance, allows greater flexibility for residents wanting city hookups to apply.

"This policy is not designed to encourage paybacks (for hookups)," said Mayor Pro Tem Larry Lichtman. "It addresses a unique geographical area."

Under the amended guidelines, property owners must petition the city for a special assessment district unless they can document a threat to health and safety; a sim-

ple majority of property owners in the affected area is required; and the boundaries of such a district must be determined by the city.

A petition must be signed by a majority of those in the district before the city can proceed.

"It's going to solve a lot of problems," said councilman Jon Grant. "It will mean fair treatment with response to these districts."

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said he was concerned that a small group of residents could try to get city services by creating their own district. Since the city has the final say, that is not likely, said City Attorney John Donohue.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith said she was concerned that the policy could delay construction of a required waiting period.

"It's not a law, it's a policy," said Bates.

The council approved City Manager Bill Costick's request that the policy includes road construction and resurfacing as well.

Snubbed restaurant buys liquor license

A Farmington Hills restaurant bought what the city wouldn't give.

RJR Enterprises, which is remodeling property on 10 Mile at the Freeway Plaza shopping center, had been turned down Nov. 16 when it applied for one of the city's class C liquor licenses.

The city had four licenses to award through the year 2000, based on census figures. But one of them had been promised for the Copper Creek Golf Course development and another was awarded to the House of Ing restaurant in the Halsted Shopping Center on

12 Mile.

The city council decided to keep the other two in case of future growth or for a restaurant that could find no other way to buy a liquor license.

RJR bought an existing resort class C license from Michigan National Bank, which had received it through foreclosure.

CARRIER OF THE MONTH: FARMINGTON

Michael, 15, delivers the Observer in the Forest Park subdivision. He has been delivering the Observer since November 1989.

The Harrison High School 10th grader's favorite subjects are math and science.

His hobbies are sport card collecting and sports. He received the Citizenship Award and is on the honor roll. He plans to go to college after graduation from high school.

He likes the people on his route because they are friendly and kind.

Michael is the son of Edwin and Lucille Bin. He has three sisters, Shella, Tina and Jane; and one brother, Mark.



Michael L. Bin
and Lucille Bin. He has three sisters, Shella, Tina and Jane; and one brother, Mark.

RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the recreation division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. For city council agenda items, call the Newsline at 476-3838.

WINTER BREAK DAY CAMPS
Children ages 6-8 and 9-12 register for the Winter Break Day Camp that will be offered 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, through Friday, Feb. 19, at the Heritage Park Day Camp Building. Children will enjoy the outdoor activities of sledding, skating, cross-country skiing, as well as numerous indoor activities. A registration fee of \$65 per child is required. Maximum of 24 per camp.

YOUTH SWIM LESSONS
Swimming instructions for beginners to advanced skill levels are offered at Harrison High School. The programs meet on Saturdays for eight weeks beginning on March 6. Lessons are held from 9-9:50 a.m. for levels 1-2, 10-10:50 a.m. for levels 1-5, and 11-11:50 a.m. for levels 6-10. Fee is \$32 per person and pre-registration is required. Participants must be 38 inches at their chin height.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE
A memorable evening is awaiting dad and his daughter from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12, or Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Mercy Center. This fun-filled evening includes dancing, refreshments, corsage for daughter(s), boutonniere for dad and a picture of the couple. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Fee is \$15 per couple and \$7.50 per additional daughter.

PARKEY SERIES
Children ages 4-9 can join Parkey

the Panda to celebrate Valentine's Day on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10-11:30 a.m. The day's activities will include an art project, games, snack and a visit by Parkey. Pre-registration fee of \$7 per child required.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES
A variety of activities for preschoolers ages 1 1/2 to 6 are being offered at the new Day Camp Building in Heritage Park. The activities range from dance, art, and music to tumbling, cooking and day camps. All activities will begin the week of Jan. 18. Refer to the recently distributed program.

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