

Lawn spray rule too tame for some

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A citizens committee's recommendation to follow state guidelines on lawn chemical application and regulation doesn't go far enough to suit some people.

Two residents said the recommendation would do little to regulate companies that apply chemicals to lawns in Farmington Hills and would not protect the environment from damage caused by the spraying. Some members of the city council agreed.

But attorney Derk Beckerleg, who was filling in for city attorney John Donohue, said if the city chose stiffer regulations than those adopted by the state, it would have to enforce that tougher ordinance itself.

"We can draft any words we want," Beckerleg said. "But then the state would not enforce it."

City Manager Bill Costick said the city did not have the manpower to enforce its own ordinance. Adopting an ordinance modeled on the state's would be a practical way to enforce it.

That did not satisfy resident Masha Silver, who said she still suffers from being drenched with misapplied lawn chemicals.

"The state law doesn't go far enough," Silver said. "You do need to accept responsibility for protecting people within the city, especially children and seniors."

The Citizens Committee on Toxic and Hazardous Materials, which includes a lawn chemical company professional, began its study of the issue of the application of herbicides and pesticides to lawns and trees in the community. The committee, formed in September of 1992, found that a state Department of Agriculture

regulation addressed most of the issues the committee considered important.

The committee and state regulation both addressed five issues:

- To establish a list of people in the community who are proven to be sensitive to these types of chemicals.
- To give prior notification to residents on the list in the immediate area of an application.
- To post signs on the borders of the property after an application.
- To require applicators to register with the city and prove they are certified to work in the city.
- To list chemicals applied to the lawn for the resident.

The committee recommended that the city pursue two other key issues: educating the community about applications and licensing applicators with the city.

The city will use its newsletter,

the Farmington Observer, communication through the Council of Homeowners, public service announcements on cable access channels, a mailing circular and an enhanced school curriculum. The committee recommended using the city's existing licensing program with stickers to be applied to trucks working in the community.

Joe Derek, a Farmington Hills resident and member of the city's beautification committee, called the use of lawn chemicals and pesticides "ignorant and unnecessary."

He cited Rachel Carson's "The Silent Spring," a book that brought to light the damage to the environment from such chemicals as DDT, now since banned.

"The chemical lawn spraying industry is not needed," he said.

Councilman Aldo Vagnuzzi and Terry Sever said they would like to see additions to the state regulation, but Beckerleg told them that the state could choose not to enforce it.

The council voted Feb. 15 to adopt the state-model ordinance 6-0, with councilman Jon Grant absent.

Inkwell provides information about education issues and people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336 or send information via fax to 477-9722. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

HABITAT HABIT
Nancy Ballard of Farmington Hills is one of 12 Madonna University students who will work with the Habitat for Humanity 1993 Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break program Feb. 26 through March 6. Participants will travel to Morehead, N.C., to build houses in partnership with low-income families. More than 5,000 students from 174 campuses are participating.

SCHOLAR SEMIFINALIST
Chrissy Jacobs, a senior at North Farmington High, has been named one of 2,500 semifinalists in the 1993 Presidential Scholars Program. She is the daughter of Bob and Betty Jacobs. The semifinalists were selected from more than 2.5 million students expect-

ed to graduate from U.S. high schools in 1993. From these semifinalists, 141 will be selected as the 1993 Presidential scholars. The 2,500 semifinalists were selected for their exceptional performance on either the SAT of the College Board or the ACT Assessment of the American College Testing Program.

MERIT MENTION
University of Detroit Jesuit senior Andrew Nogrart of Farmington Hills has advanced to finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship program. Finalists must score in the top half of one percent of all high school students in the country taking a PSAT exam.

EAGER LEADER
Detroit Catholic Central senior Ronald DeMarco of Farmington Hills has been selected to attend the National Young Leaders Conference Feb. 23-28 in Washington, D.C. DeMarco will be among 350 high school students selected to attend. He is a National Merit Finalist, a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the Shamrocks' track and field team.

Jewish News founder dies

Philip Slomovitz, founder of the Jewish News and an internationally respected journalist, died of pneumonia at his Southfield home Wednesday. He was 96.

A champion of Jewish causes and a journalist for 70 years, he had written opinion columns in the Detroit Jewish Chronicle and the Detroit News before founding the Jewish News in 1942. He continued that tradition even after selling the Southfield-based publication in 1984.

In a statement released from the Jewish News management, publisher Charles Bueger called the former publisher "one of those rare men blessed to combine in his work the two things he loved most: journalism and Jewish activism. He was a role model for us all, and he will be missed."

Jewish News editor Gary Rosenblatt said, "Phil was a role model for me in the way he wrote

with passion about the issues of Jewish life that concerned him most."

In recent years, Slomovitz had become blind and was confined to his apartment, but continued to write his "Purely Commentary" column for the 18,000-circulation newspaper until his death last week. A reader came into his home daily to help him sort mail and write and proofread the column.

That column brought global Jewish issues home to the Detroit area, including his most recent column about the censure of a Jewish documentary by a San Francisco public television station.

He told the Eccentric in an interview last March that he never ran out of subject material. For example, he said, "I'll be writing about recent reports of the rise of a very ugly type of growing anti-Semitism in every state in our na-

tion — the skinheads and the besmirching of synagogues."

"The moment I run out of ideas, something else is emerging," Slomovitz was born in Russia and immigrated to the United States in 1910. He lived with his family in New Jersey until he moved to Ann Arbor, where he attended the University of Michigan and earned a journalism degree. He later moved to Detroit, then to Southfield.

He authored two books, "Without Malice," and "Purely Commentary: Philip Slomovitz's 60 Years as a Newspaperman." His editorials and columns sometimes made national news through the years and he won numerous honors.

He was also the area's first president of the Jewish National Fund.

Survivors include two sons, Gabriel and Carmi, a grandson and three sisters.

Hills names members to city boards

The Farmington Hills City Council filled vacancies on boards and commissions at its Feb. 15 meeting. New appointees are:

- Ellen Kershenbaum to fill an unexpired term on the Commission on Aging through Feb. 1, 1994.

- City Manager William Costick and City Clerk Kathryn Dornan to fill two-year terms on the Building Authority to expire on Feb. 1, 1995.
- Patricia Isham for a three-year term on the Cable Access Commission to end on Feb. 1, 1996.

- Sidney Alexander to fill an unexpired term for the Economic Development Corporation to expire on Aug. 13, 1995.
- Ruth Wehlman for a three-year term on the Historic District Commission to expire on Feb. 1, 1996.

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