

Why firefighters wear boots



PETER BALOWIN

Cleanup duty: After a water pipe burst on the second floor of a Farmington Hills office building recently, Station 4 firefighters (from left) Steve Biebel, Jerry Miles and Kevin Cooper grabbed brooms and helped move the wet stuff out.

County tests tornado siren

Oakland County will activate its Tornado Warning Siren System and tone Alert Receiver System at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 1.

Residents are reminded not to call police or fire departments when the sirens are tested. Such calls tie up emergency switchboards, police said, and a caller with a true emergency may not be able to get through.

The Tornado Siren Warning System is tested at 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

Hills sticks to bidding policy.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

At least for now, Farmington Hills will stick with its policy of awarding contracts based on the lowest bidder — and not give special treatment to local vendors and businesses.

Councilman Jon Grant and Terry Sever had asked that City Manager Bill Costick review the city's policy of awarding bids to the lowest bidder.

The results of that review showed that a policy favoring local vendors would have several drawbacks:

- Determining who is a local vendor could be complicated. Would such a determination be based on whether the vendor was a city tax payer, tenant or resident?
- Over time, cities that have a local preference policy have found fewer bidders and increased costs.
- Preference policies are not allowed when federal money is involved.
- Such a policy could eliminate participation in co-operative bidding programs with the state and county.

- Other cities could pass similar policies adversely affecting Farmington Hills firms.
- Such a policy could invite law suits.
- Local preferences are similar to trade barriers, inhibiting competition.

Only three other communities in Michigan — Cadillac, Detroit and Jackson — have a local preference policy with only a small percentage of business actually determined by such a policy.

Grant said after talking with city purchasing manager Michael Lesley, he changed his mind about pushing for a local preference policy.

"I thought it was a great idea in February," Grant said. "Mr. Lesley convinced me that it was not a good idea."

Sever asked that the city continue its policy of awarding contracts of \$3,000 and less that are not required to be bid out to local vendors.

Lesley said the city encourages local vendors to bid when possible and keeps an active file of local vendors for business that does not require a sealed bidding process.

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view of America. But through it all, teaching has been his first love.

"I have mostly been around younger people, and that keeps you young," he said. "You know you're affecting someone when you see their eyes light up."

Klein, who describes himself as "an old bachelor who has had a couple of close calls," earned a master's degree in political science at the University of Missouri before starting on his doctorate at Michigan State University. But in 1966, Klein decided to become directly involved in Michigan politics.

"I ran out of money and steam," he said.

He was appointed assistant director of the Michigan Workers Compensation Department, worked for then-Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh as city controller for three years. He was elected to a two-year term on the Detroit Charter Revision Commission.

Klein admired former Govs. G. Mennen Williams and John Swainson and five-time gubernatorial candidate Zolton Ferency.

"But I always preferred to be behind the scenes," he said. "There were usually people who I felt could do a better job than I could."

Took his lumps

Klein, who has lived in Farmington Hills for the past five years, had to take his share of political lumps. He served as city controller during the race riots of 1967.

"After the riots, we were all depressed," he said. "But then we realized this was part of something that was happening around the country, in places like Newark and Los Angeles. A lot of our older cities were having problems."

Those political experiences have been a help in his teaching, especially because students find

someone who has "been there" more credible. But just as conservatives were seen as being out of the mainstream in educational circles when Klein was a student, he has often faced classrooms in which the "L" word is in disfavor.

"When I told them about my support for Mayor (Coleman) Young or (Sen.) Ted Kennedy, they think I'm crazy," he says with a laugh.

But Klein says students appreciate his sense of humor, and although they are much more conservative than students 20 years ago, they are less racist and less sexist. And because of the higher cost of college, many of Klein's students work to help pay for their education.

"They take it seriously and work hard," he said.

Although he enjoyed his two stints as university chancellor, first in 1979 and again just before retiring, Klein said he never wanted the job on a permanent basis.

"I think that was an advantage for me," he said. "It gave me a free hand to do the job without worrying if it would affect my chances (at getting the job permanently)."

Klein quipped that he is "recycled every 12 years" and is due for another term as interim chancellor when he's 74.

In the meantime, he'll have plenty of work as an arbitrator of labor disputes, a job he enjoys but takes very seriously.

"After all, sometimes you are considering someone's job someone with a family to support," he said.

Klein is optimistic when he quotes historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., who says the United States is entering a 15-year period of liberalism. But if his experience in politics has taught him anything, it's not to take anything for granted.

"You've always got to be prepared to lose," he says. He's smiling.

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Arthritis Today

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PATTERNS OF JOINT INVOLVEMENT

Why arthritis strikes one joint and spares another is the result of choice and chance. Choice refers to the influence acting on the involved joint. Thus, previous injury to a right knee makes it more likely that at a later date you may have osteoarthritis in the right knee rather than the left.

God strikes the toes because the distal foot is the coolest part of the body and is where the crystals of uric acid that set off an attack have the greatest possibility to precipitate. However, there are instances when right handed individuals have a tendinitis or shoulder arthritis on the left side. Or, you have no known knee injury, but one side is completely worn down while the other knee is just as completely normal.

Such otherwise unexplained occurrences represent chance: an error happening during fetal life. One area of cartilage did not complete development correctly; the result is a defective site. One time the resulting strain comes out as an arthritic joint.

As a result, one of the goals of genetic research is to prevent such fetal flaws. The other approach is to find ways to identify these defects early in childhood when medical intervention has the best opportunity to succeed.

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