

Retiring DPS director led water, sewer work

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Department of Public Services director Earl Billing will retire at the end of the year.

Billing, who turns 60 in November, gave notice to city manager Frank Lauboff last week. Billing said he has planned to retire for a while.

He's low-key about the matter. He described his 16 years as director as "satisfactory."

"I'm not one to be very vocal, as you can tell," Billing said.

He was hired as public services director by then city manager Robert Deadman. Billing was previously head of the maintenance department with the Farmington Public School District. He was also manager of the Holiday Inn on Grand River and 10 Mile Road for seven years.

"We're certainly going to miss Earl," Lauboff said. "Earl's done a great job, as evidenced if you look around the community."

Billing helped oversee the biggest capital undertaking in the city — the three-year, \$13-million



sewer improvement project. The sewer line and pumping station went on line this year.

He was also involved in the city's water improvement program when he first started.

Billing, whose wife, Dorothy, is a teacher at Flanders Elementary,

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said "enjoyment" is the main item on his retirement agenda. The Billings own property in Florida and in northern Michigan.

"Eventually we'll be down there," said Billing, whose wife will continue to teach in the district.

RECREATION NEWS

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

AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS
Tickets for your favorite amusement park can be bought at a discount rate at the recreation office. If you are going to Boblo Island, Cedar Point, Detroit Zoo, Four Bears Waterpark, Kings Island, Sea World or Great America, stop by for a savings on tickets.

Please note: The prices listed in the 1993 summer brochure for Boblo, Cedar Point (adult) and Crossroads Village (child) were printed incorrectly. The correct prices are: Boblo (Gibraltar) \$18.50, Cedar Point (adult)

\$20.50, and Crossroads Village (child) \$4.25.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS
You need it, we got it. An assortment of recreation equipment is ready for your picnic, birthday party or special event. Reservations must be made at least three working days in advance by calling the Recreation office at 473-9570. A \$20 deposit fee is required on day of picking up equipment. Equipment sets include: picnic packs, volleyball, softball bases, croquet, badminton, parachute, tug of war rope and floor hockey.

STARS IN THE PARK
Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and listen to the sounds of the Birmingham Straw Hat Band Aug. 12 at Heritage Park. Concert begins at 8 p.m. and there is no charge.

VOLUNTEER SOCCER COACHES

Volunteer soccer coaches are needed for this Division's kindergarten through third grade soccer program. The program will consist of a five-game schedule. Games will be held on Saturdays beginning Sept. 11. Teams will also practice once a week. If you would like to volunteer as a coach, contact Herman Smith at 473-9570.

FALL SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Fall softball registration is being accepted for men's and co-ed leagues playing on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Teams will play a 10-game schedule with a single game elimination play-off at the conclusion of the league. Call 473-9570 for registration information.

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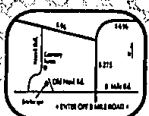
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