

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

FARMINGTON
NOTES

In ownership group

George N. Sepetya, a Farmington Hills resident, is part of the new ownership group that recently bought Anthony M. Franco Inc., Michigan's largest public relations firm.

The four-member group had been senior officers in the firm. The sale was effective Dec. 31.

Sepetya is president of The Comark Group, a graphics design firm that he founded independently in 1964 and which was acquired in 1986 by the Franco organization to serve its clients and other organizations.

The other principals are: Stephen F. Friedman, president of The Covideo Company; Daniel F. Ponder, chief financial officer who has headed the Franco organization's financial operations since 1985; and Charles C. Ragains, chief operating officer.

Resident reappointed

Jeffery Weston, a Farmington Hills resident and a district engineer for Amoco Oil Company, has been reappointed by Gov. John Engler to serve on the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance Policy Board.

The board reviews decisions about requests for money from the state to repair leaking underground storage tank facilities.

Weston managed more than 250 underground tank removals and installations and 50 investigations for environmental impact.

He is a member of the national Society of Black Engineers and National Weights and Measures. His term runs through Sept. 17, 1995.

Items for Farmington Notes may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.

Exiting leader: Force with Year 2000

■ The accomplishments of Farmington Hills' Year 2000 Advisory Committee have been many, said Paul Jakobs, who is stepping down as chairman. He thinks the committee will continue to be a force in the community.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

After just three years, outgoing chairman Paul Jakobs is not worried that the Year 2000 Advisory Committee will fade away.

During that time, many of the committee's goals have been realized, including a permanent home for senior citizen programs, the acquisition of park land, a commission on children, youth and families that emphasizes volunteerism, a city fountain, efforts to beautify the city, a new city sign and new bike paths and sidewalks.

"We had a lot of high hopes (in 1989, when the committee was formed)," said Jakobs, an attorney who works for the Macomb County Friend of the Court. "We are unique because we have this advisory committee. We keep things in front of the city so they don't fall by the wayside."

Jakobs, 44 and the father of three, is stepping down along with Circuit

Judge Jack McDonald and Bob Pratt. The 16-member committee has served as both a prod and a resource to the city council.

Farmington Hills councilman Terry Sever, who initiated the report and committee during his term as mayor in 1989, said those associated with the project, like Jakobs, were determined that it would not wind up as "a nice report gathering dust on some shelf."

"A criticism of government is that no one follows through on the process of planning," Sever said. "Once we finished it (report) in '89, we wanted to make sure someone would stay on top of it. Paul has always been the spearhead."

Leadership made the Year 2000 goals a reality, said Rick Lampi, the community development coordinator who has worked closely with the committee.

"A lot of the improvements we've seen would not have happened with-

out the year 2000 committee," Lampi said. "The (city) council looked for a real cross section of the community (for the committee)."

Because the council and advisory committee have met periodically, the goals and accomplishments envisioned in the report are always updated and can be changed according to changing needs, Lampi said.

Jakobs said other service and commitments have forced him to leave the committee, but he's not worried that it will fall down on the job.

Year 2000 accomplishments include: The Rouge River Clean Out (1993), Orchard Lake Road clean up (1993), neighborhood clean ups (annual), volunteer workshops (two in 1993), house painting project (1993), human services task force, Family Day in the Park (1993), Family Night at Mercy Center (1993), city's 20th birthday celebration, the fire department expansion, disaster training, a report on a possible ice arena for the city, a bikeway master plan, the acquisition of part of the Mercy Center for senior programs and cultural programs, the acquisition of land for the Founder's Sports Park and its development, improvements to Heritage



Paul Jakobs

Park, a bike path that will eventually link the city from north to south, the 12 Mile Boulevard, turnarounds on Grand River, Haggerty Road improvements, sidewalks, citywide tree planting and beautification programs and a commission on children and families to address their unmet needs.

Council reviews Faxon's absence for 'Nutcracker'

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

With a 29-cent stamp, Farmington City Council members plan to send their two-cents worth to State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

Council members agreed Monday to send a letter to Lansing, expressing their concern over Faxon's absence during 26 critical votes on the school reform bill Christmas Eve. Faxon performed in the holiday musical "The Nutcracker" at the Fox Theatre in-

stead.

"Maybe he has a logical reason," said councilman Richard Tupper, who raised the issue. "I know he appears in 'The Nutcracker,' and I don't know if that is a good reason or not."

"We deserve an explanation on why he chose not to attend these sessions."

Tupper initially proposed sending a terse missive, demanding an explanation from Faxon on why he was absent. Other council members were

way, though.

Councilwoman Jo Ann McShane agreed they had a right to an explanation, but added there was no precedent of a council taking such action. Councilman William Hartsock agreed.

Hartsock suggested sending a more diplomatic but firm note to say the council was concerned and "at a loss on why he would miss so many votes."

Faxon opposed Senate Bill 1 in

July and was expected to vote against most of the replacement bills. His absence had the effect of being a no vote.

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, also missed a crucial vote on the March 15 ballot proposal.

Still, council members focused on Faxon.

Hartsock noted that he saw Faxon in a performance of "The Nutcracker."

Asked Tupper, "Was he good?"

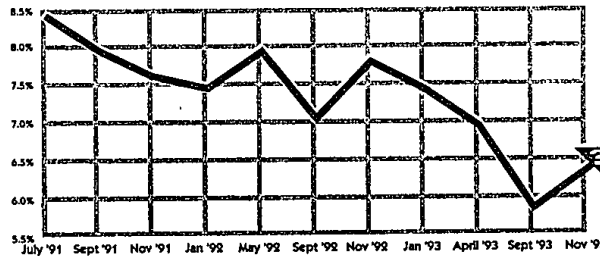
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