

Power outages focus of 2 meetings

Residents who wish to air their views on Detroit Edison and the recent power outages in the Farmington area should mark Tuesday, Aug. 22, and Monday, Aug. 28, on their calendars.

The Michigan Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on the matter from 2-4 p.m. Aug. 22 in the city council chamber at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mills and Orchard Lake roads.

The Public Service Commission will ask speakers to describe the utilities' response to outages caused by the storms and the

safety procedures used to protect the public, Dolan added. Participants also will be asked to suggest changes needed to deal with future storms.

Representatives of the two utilities will provide current information on their responses to recent outages.

On the next Monday, Aug. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the council chamber of the Hills City Hall, a committee of residents, city administrators and elected officials will meet with Detroit Edison officials

to discuss electric service reliability.

That meeting also is open to the public.

The Hills Council recently voted unanimously to re-start the citizens committee that was originally created in 1991 after numerous, lengthy power outages.

Residents unable to attend either meeting should address their comments to the Michigan Public Service Commission, Chairman John Strand, 6545 Mercantile Way, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing 48909.

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vote-getters receive four-year terms; the third-place finisher gets a two-year stint.

"If it's three people running and there are three seats open, it doesn't leave much of a choice, does it?" said Steve Bergstrom, who decided not to run after taking out a petition.

"The commitment was the reason why he chose not to seek a council seat," Bergstrom said. Another potential challenger was still undecided as of Wednesday.

Arthur Heldt of Moore Street had his petition filled out but waited until Friday to say he wouldn't run.

Heldt has lived in Farmington for six years and more than 20 in Farmington Hills, where he served on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

"I've decided not to do it," Heldt said Friday. "I just found out the extent of the meetings, and some of them conflict with things I'm already involved in."

FARMINGTON COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

The last uncontested city election occurred in 1987 when Dick Tupper, Ralph Yoder and Hartsock ran. Hartsock, then mayor, was the top vote-getter with 438 ballots cast in an election where only 6 percent of the city's registered voters turned out.

Only seven votes separated the first- and third-place finishers. Yoder beat Tupper by four votes for the remaining four-year term.

A joust for four- and two-year terms is hardly the octane to fuel campaign drama.

"It's still important: I want to run and receive a four-year term," Hartsock said.

More issues are debated in a contested election, he said. Hartsock still plans to go door-to-door and participate in candidates' nights.

"My concern — as I'm sure as

is Jim's and JoAnne's — is we campaign to keep the voters involved," he said. "It's more difficult to maintain their interest in an uncontested election."

McShane said she'll probably spend less money, but campaign just as vigorously. She is seeking a third term, having been elected to a two-year term in 1993.

"I have to assume people are content with the way the city is being run for the most part," McShane said. "There is not one issue to bring candidates out."

Hartsock believes public service is being associated with politics.

"It's gone from the national scene to the state scene and to the local scene: People don't find it to their liking to run for office that involves a campaign," Hartsock said.

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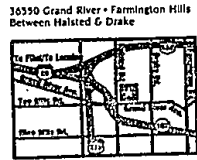
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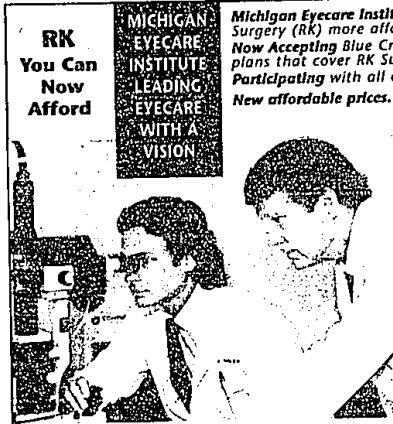
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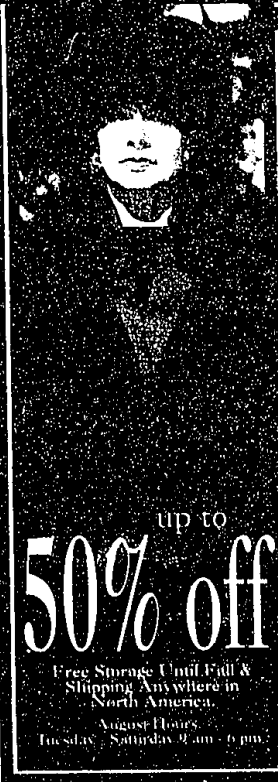


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