

Pastue's first day: 'Busy, busy, busy'

BY SUE BUICK
STAFF WRITER

"Busy, busy, busy" was how new Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue described his first day of work Monday.

Pastue was the recipient of many good wishes at both a morning reception for employees and an early-evening reception for boards and commission members, as well as local, state and federal officials. His wife, Annette, drove in from Clare with their two sons Nick, 13, and Ryan, 11.

Guests included U. S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills), state Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) and state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington Hills).

The boys will finish school in Clare and start the new school year in the Farmington Public School District. "They are looking forward to having their friends over during the summer," Annette said.

Pastue will rent an apartment in Farmington until the family purchases and moves into a home locally this summer.

Pastue, 44, comes to Farmington from Isabella County, where he served as county administrator/controller. The county has a population of about 63,600 and is located in the central portion of Michigan's lower peninsula with Mount Pleasant as the county seat.

Pastue had supervision over animal control, building and grounds, management information systems, community development, recycling center, central dispatch and the Commission on Aging.

His administrative duties included budget administration, human resources and risk management.

In June 1999, controller responsibilities were added. This included supervision of general accounting, accounts



PHOTOS BY MEL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Monday evening reception introduced Vince Pastue (center) with local folks like Jo Poque, John Hiltz, Rhett Gronewelt and Jim Poque.

payable and payroll. Pastue holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science with a minor in economics from the University of Michigan in Flint and has worked toward a master's of public administration degree from Michigan State University.

He holds memberships in the International City/County Management Association, the Government Finance Officers Association, the Michigan Association of County Administrative Officers and the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Program Evaluator.

He was 1994 chairperson for the Michigan Municipal League Region IV and member of the Michigan Municipal League finance and Taxation Committee.

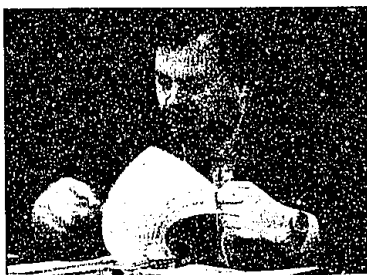
Pastue has tackled some large projects during his career. He oversaw planning and construction of a new secured court facility, jail expansion, county building renovations and "rails to trails" linear park project.

He reorganized county departments and operations, initiated update of a county-wide master plan with focus on open space and farmland conservation, parks and recreation, master plan and solid waste management plan and negotiated five collective bargaining agreements.

From January 1992 to May 1997, he was the city manager of Clare, which has 3,500 people. Pastue enjoys golf, camping and fishing.

"He's just a regular guy," Farmington Assistant City Manager Bill Richards said.

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Vince Pastue spent much of his first day reading city materials.

'Tax' on development gets cool reception

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills may have nice looking businesses, homes and landscapes, but where's the outside art?

City Manager Steve Brock believes Farmington Hills officials should think about enhancing the community with thought-provoking sculptures for all to enjoy.

Brock even has an idea how to pay for it.

For larger commercial developments, the city could require the developer to devote 1 percent of the construction costs for public art on the property, he said.

If there was no room or the developer didn't want to do it, the 1-percent could be put in a public art fund, Brock suggested.

"There's not much art in our community," Brock said at a recent city council goals setting session. He believes citizens will appreciate the effort to bring visual artistic elements

into the city's natural landscape. "People want to be in cool places."

Mayor Nancy Bates said the contribution is a lot of money in some cases; even just 1 percent from a large construction project could run into the tens of millions of dollars.

Council members said artwork can sometimes be a finicky issue among citizens. What one person considers art may be offensive to another person.

"I think you should be careful what you ask for," said Councilwoman Vicki Barnett.

Mayor Pro Tem Christopher McRae said adding a fee on top of other requirements may be pushing some developers over the edge. He also questioned how the money would be spent.

"I don't think you can go out and buy some art," he said. Brock said the idea is a way to start the city's cultural arts master plan development process.

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Akebono offers scholarships

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The Akebono Corp., with its North American headquarters based in Farmington Hills, is taking another step to help Farmington Youth Assistance.

The automotive brake company has agreed to donate \$10,000 in scholarship money to be divided among five participants in the youth program.

Akebono supported the Youth Assistance's volunteer recognition breakfast this past October, said Youth Assistance Chairwoman Janet Meloche.

A committee is reviewing applicants for the scholarship money being donated by Akebono, said Dana Reiman, office manager and program coordinator for Farmington Youth Assistance.

"There is a committee within the community who will be picking the students," she said. "There are about 10 kids to chose from. We're getting names from the schools. The students write an essay about what they would like to do."

Reiman said the scholarships go toward one year's tuition at a trade or technical school or community college. Five students, who normally would not be considered for a scholarship based on grades, will be selected.

Akebono will also be helping pay for the youth recognition breakfast program in May where the scholarships will be awarded.

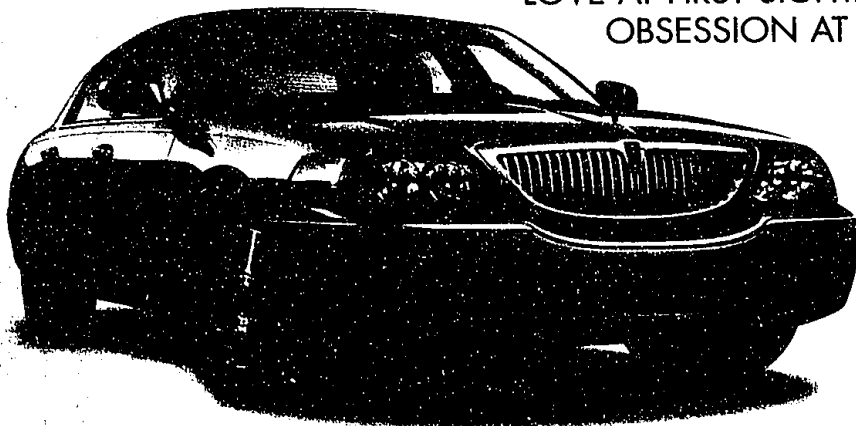
"Akebono is so wonderful for doing this," said Reiman.

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