



Eat 'em up

Joel Curry fixes some chicken for participants at the Farmington Founders' Festival this week. The Masonic Temple will be hosting a number of dinners throughout the festival. (Staff photo)

"The good thing about having your own master plan is that it allows us to call the shots...not the county or DNR."

—Doug Gaynor
Recreation Director

Hills launches park study; residents to have input

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Farmington Hills residents soon may have their own set of parks.

The Hills council has approved a master plan study of parks at this week's meeting. Approval of hiring Bills and Childs Associates was tabled two weeks ago after questions arose over funding.

Recreation Director Doug Gaynor expressed enthusiasm after council gave the nod of approval this week.

"After we get into the study we can go to the various groups throughout the community to get their input," said Gaynor. "The study will allow us to set up a timetable for orderly development."

Park development supporters have been pressing for adoption of a master plan because having one on file makes the Hills available for state and federal funding.

"This plan is a feasibility study. It's like a road map. Bills and Childs will look at things like topography, population density, pedestrian and vehicular traffic patterns

and the commercial and municipal outlets," he said.

The master plan study, due for completion in 1977, will have both short and long range planning, says Gaynor. Most importantly, he stresses, it will be reviewed once a year to meet changing conditions within the city.

"THE GOOD THING about having your own master plan is that it allows us to call the shots. We'll be the ones making the amendments and changes, not the county or the Department of Natural Resources," he says.

Costing the city \$12,000, the study will be an objective examination of the possibilities of developing various kinds of parks throughout the city.

"It's not for us to determine what kind of parks now need to be developed. The study will answer those questions. But ultimately, it will be the residents who will decide what kind of parks they will have," he said.

If the people decide they want low key neighborhood parks, then so be it.

Financing can be handled a number of ways, says Gaynor. One option is by issuing revenue bonds, paid off by fees charged to those using any proposed facilities.

Another financing outlet is through the issuance of general obligation bonds, with funds being set aside from the general fund to pay off the bonds.

Still another way is by asking the voters to approve a millage increase.

Although differences have existed on the city council over whether small neighborhood parks or large parks should be developed, Gaynor stressed that the largest park could possibly get would be from 100 to 150 acres. But even a 25 acre site would allow for substantial development, he says.

On a 25-acre site an ice rink, ball field and swimming pool could be developed.

He pointed to Southfield's Civic Center development as an example of what can be done. The Southfield facility is 170 acres, which includes the city's city hall and police department facility.

"Fifty acres of that land is a natural wooded area. Another 50 acres is taken up with a nine hole golf course," he said.

Also located at the site is a skating rink, parks and recreation center, tennis courts and a parks and recreation center.

Gaynor believes that much of the discussion over developing large parks is the concept that they would be something like the Middle Houghton Parkway, along Edward Lines Drive.

"WE COULD NEVER DEVELOP something like that in Farmington Hills. The problem with something like Edward Lines is that it doesn't have any facilities.

A park with developed facilities actually cuts down on vandalism," he says.

Gaynor sees little difficulty in the council adopting the master plan.

"If a master plan is done properly there is no reason why the council would want to reject it. What a master plan does is show that the community is serious about developing parks," he said.

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Twenty Five Cents

Sunday rip-off

She forgave and forgot, but cops still remember

By RON GARBINSKI

In the gospel according to Luke it says to "forgive those who desperately sin you."

And that's what Elsie Sutton, an 85-year-old Farmington resident said Sunday when she was robbed of the \$205 she set aside to pay her bills.

"After it happened, I sat down to open my bible and that's where I began to read. It just happened by chance, but that's where the pages split," explains the 65-year-old owner of a small white house at 2810 Power.

"I don't hold a grudge. The good Lord's taken care of me for so long. I just know He'll take care of me from now on, too."

Beside the Lord, a lot of other friends and neighbors now are going to be kept a closer eye on Mrs. Sutton, especially the Farmington Public Safety Department, which presented a \$100 check Tuesday to the elderly widow.

Sunday afternoon about 1:30, a car with

three passengers pulled into Mrs. Sutton's driveway and a middle-aged woman got out. She walked around the house to the enclosed back porch and forced her way past Mrs. Sutton into the small home.

AFTER GAINING entry, the woman asked if she could pray for Mrs. Sutton. While wandering around the house, the intruder kept yelling "Let me pray for you," recalls Mrs. Sutton.

The alleged preacher lady roamed through the five-room home, apparently searching for money while Mrs. Sutton continually asked her to leave.

Finally she did. But it wasn't until the mystery lady left that Mrs. Sutton realized her money was gone.

"It's a situation where an elderly person was taken advantage of and unable to do anything about it," says Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes.

Mrs. Sutton was terribly confused and frightened of what to do next. She was confused of what this intruder was

doing in her home and what she should do.

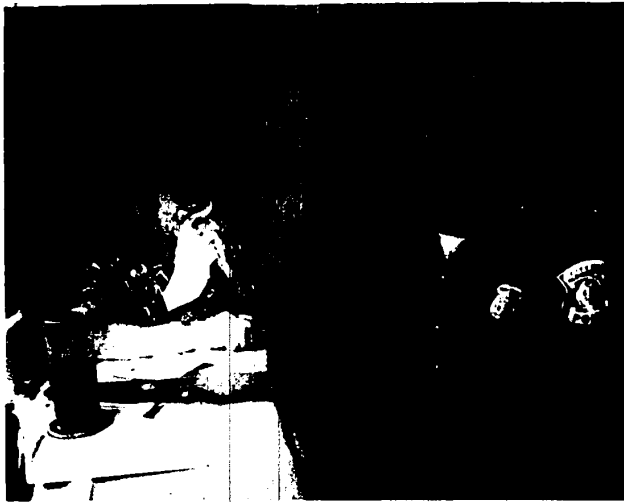
Mrs. Sutton, who doesn't get into the community often, lives alone. Her only living relatives are a sister in a nursing home and a grandchild in California, so there aren't any relatives she could turn to for help in her time of need except her friends.

That was until the Farmington Police Officers Association entered the scene. The officers collected \$100 this week and presented it to Mrs. Sutton to help her meet her financial obligations.

THE DEPARTMENT'S command officers also are soliciting funds from within city hall and from any other concerned citizens who care to help Mrs. Sutton. Police have several leads in the case and are continuing their search for the persons involved in the robbery.

"It's amazing," Officer Peter Arnato said after driving the check to Mrs. Sutton, who nearly burst into tears. "Who would want to rip off such a nice old lady? I can't wait to catch the persons who did it."

And with the Arnato left the old house on Power Street, claiming he would return to eat the cookies Mrs. Sutton promised she'd bake the officers "for being so nice."



Farmington Public Safety Officer Pete Arnato presented Mrs. Elsie Sutton with a \$100 check Tuesday which officers collected after

\$205 was stolen from the elderly lady's home Sunday afternoon. (Staff photo by Harry Mauths)

Local talent await school decision

By RON GARBINSKI

Two local administrators may be among the finalists trying for the post as the Farmington School District's new assistant superintendent of secondary education. The search for a new assistant superintendent at the secondary level narrowed to three recently as final interviews for the position continue this week.

A five-member search committee re-

viewed 75 applicants for the position during the past several months and last week set the field to 10.

The committee will conclude their selection process next week and ready their recommendations to be presented to the school board at its Aug. 17 meeting.

The district began looking for a new assistant superintendent when Lewis Schulman, who held the position for four years, was selected superintendent in June. Schul-

man succeeded Martin Van Arnyde who retired after four years as the district's head administrator.

With the help of the screening committee, Schulman will make the final recommendation to the board of his choice for the post after considering the group's final candidates.

"WE'RE HOPING TO find someone who'll bring new perspectives to the dis-

trict," says Donald Howell, chairman of the committee and the district's director of extended school services.

"The assistant superintendent of secondary education plays a pivotal role in our district. He guides and directs the education of the more than 1,800 youngsters we have in our junior and senior high schools."

"Our committee envisions it as an important position and we're looking for some-

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Ready for the pet show

Paul DesGravise has Jetta's costume all picked out for trophies and ribbons he'll vie for in Farmington Founders Festival Pet Show, with judging set to start at 3 p.m. July 30 in Farmington Plaza Shopping Center. The nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Art DesGravise, 21112 Centerfarm, calls Jetta a "cockapoo" because he's a cross between a cocker and a poodle.

Woman killed

One woman was killed and three other persons, including a pregnant lady, were seriously injured Monday night in a two-car broadside collision at Ten Mile and Inkster in Farmington Hills.

Gary Shellabarger, 18, Detroit, was arrested Wednesday morning in 67th District Court before Judge Margaret Schaefer on two counts of negligent homicide and felonious driving.

He was released later in the day on \$18,000 personal bond on each count.

Shellabarger is charged in connection with a 39 p.m. Monday accident in which Linda Woodworth, Detroit, was killed.

Two other passengers in the same car, Tom Boone of Southfield and his wife, Linda, both 31, were seriously injured.

At of Wednesday morning, Mrs. Boone, who was eight months pregnant, was reported to have lost the child as a result of injuries suffered in the crash. She retained a critical condition, doctors at Bot-stord General Hospital said.

in Farmington Hills, a passenger in Shellabarger's car, also was seriously injured in the collision.

Hills police reported that a car driven by Jack Woodworth, 33, the husband of the woman killed, was westbound on Ten Mile when it was struck on the passenger's side, where Mrs. Woodworth was sitting, by a car heading south on Inkster.

SHELLABARGER'S 1976 Pontiac, containing three passengers, was heading southbound on Inkster when he ran a flashing red traffic light, striking the Woodworth vehicle, police said.

Woodworth received slight injuries in the accident which sent his car crashing into the trees and settling in a creek bed on the southeast corner of the intersection.

Wendy Marie Stevens, 14, of 2200 Middle Belt in Farmington Hills, and Scott Lowry, 17, Detroit, both passengers in Shellabarger's car, received non-fleeting injuries.

Shellabarger was slightly injured in the accident. Hills police reported Monday night.

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