

Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 88

Monday, August 20, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

40 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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MSHDA report on housing: plans proceeding smoothly

By MARY GNIEWEK

City officials may know by Aug. 29 if the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), sponsor of the long-sought senior citizen development proposed for Farmington Hills, will begin an economic feasibility study of the plans.

A feasibility study is the final step before construction begins. MSHDA spokeswoman Larrestine Trimm said Wednesday, Aug. 29 is the date of MSHDA's next board meeting. She said the \$8.5 million Farmington Hills project could reach the feasibility stage then.

As its sponsor, MSHDA sets the timing and criteria for the housing development.

"Now, we're at the initial selection stage," Ms. Trimm said. "We're looking at design, number of units, construction costs, experience and background of

the development team.

"Feasibility is the first major step. If the project is considered economically feasible, then we'd tighten up the package and construction would begin."

Plans include 284 apartment units to be built on two sites within the city. At Freedom and Drake roads, 114 units of one- and two-story apartments will include 50 senior citizen, 54 low to moderate income family, and 10 handicapped housing units.

The family units will be constructed as townhouses.

SOME 150 UNITS of senior citizen housing will be built on another site in the northern part of Farmington Hills. Two parcels of land are being considered.

One is Bond Elementary School, the first of several Farmington district schools to close because of declining

enrollment, (in August 1974). The other is a parcel of land on Orchard Lake Road south of Fourteen Mile, near Hunters Lane.

The building in the north end will be six stories and will include a recreation center for senior citizens, according to City Manager Lawrence Savage. Savage said the two sites (Freedom and Drake, and the one in the north end) will probably be developed simultaneously.

Regarding the statement from MSHDA, he said "That would seem to indicate they're fairly close to recon- sidering."

Last week, the Farmington Hills City Council approved rezoning the Freedom-Drake road site from RA-1, which allows single family residential homes, to RCE and RC-2, which will allow construction of a maximum two-story housing development.

Savage said the sites in the north end are zoned RCE-1, which will allow construction of a mid-rise building for senior citizens.

Project developer Bud Cline of Multi-Rise Corporation of Southfield has built 6,000 units of senior citizen housing in Michigan and Ohio.

"This is my eighth or ninth project with MSHDA," he said.

"MSHDA is strictly the lender. They sell tax free bonds with a 30 or 40 year mortgage. They get funds from the federal government via Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Rent is established by the federal government," Cline explained.

"The city is not financially responsible in any way."

Cline said he hopes to break ground on the development by the first of November.



Shipshape

For a wardrobe that is in the best shape, you must have a shaped coat, according to fashion experts. For the most up-to-date information on current trends in fashion read Thursday's "Fall for the Soft Life" in The Eccentric. Our annual Fall Fashion section will describe coats that are in shapes that allow the body to move in a comfortable yet controlled manner. For this and more, see Thursday's edition of The Eccentric. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

Hills candidates begin campaigns

Farmington Hills councilwomen Jan Dolan and Joanne Smith opened their campaigns for re-election by pledging to continue their efforts to improve housing and living conditions in the city's older neighborhoods.

The pledge was made at a coffee given by Richard and Lillian Glass on Colwell and co-hosted by Massie Kerjawa and Carolyn Boyd, all of whom have been active for, and live in, the southeastern part of the city.

"This is an old and very important part of Farmington Hills. Mrs. Dolan told the group, "Some of you have been here for more than 40 years. I see this as an area in transition truly turning around with many of you concerned about blight."

"I'm proud of my record of voting

"You deserve my attention and support and you have it."

Mrs. Smith said she viewed the southeast part of Farmington Hills as one "where there is charm and warmth. It is evidenced by beautiful trees and porches on which people still sit and visit with neighbors.

"I'm proud of my record of voting

for drains, road maintenance and safety improvements and I will continue to do so."

Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Smith have supported council programs to rehabilitate housing, complete the Waldron and southeast drains, and for construction of housing for the area's senior citizens.

THE COMMITTEE to elect Catherine A. Jones to Farmington Hills City Council has been reactivated.

The members recently met to make plans for the coming city election. The chairman is Jack Forbes, the treasurer is Pat Symes. Other members are Barb Bowman, Dick Fitzpatrick, Sharon McDonald and Marion McCracken.

Committee members are optimistic about re-electing Mrs. Jones to the council.

Donn Wolf, also running for a city council seat in Farmington Hills, will hold a coffee beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21, in the Richard Benson home, 23882 Bartield, south of Ten Mile near Orchard Lake.

Former Farmington Hills Mayor Joan Dudley is sponsoring the get-together. Wolf said he has the former mayor's endorsement.

7 candidates enter city race

Seven candidates, including three incumbents, have filed to run for three seats on the Farmington City Council in the Nov. 6 election. No primary election will be held.

Candidates were required to file petitions containing 50 signatures at the city clerk's office by 5 p.m. last Friday to qualify for the ballot.

Incumbents Warren A. Buckler, Jr., 23050 Lilac, William Hartsock, 23186 Cass, and Ralph D. Yoder, 31661 Lamarr, hope to retain their council seats.

Buckler, a 15-year Farmington resident, has served as a councilman for

two years. He is a Farmington High School graduate, a member of the Farmington Jaycees, and is employed as an attorney for a West Bloomfield firm.

Hartsock, a certified public accountant, is completing his second council term. He was first elected in 1973 to a two-year term, followed by his current four-year term.

He is a member of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and has been active on several boards and commissions in the city.

Yoder is also completing a four-year term in November.

Others running for council seats are George A. Volz, 31826 Marblehead, a six-year resident employed at Chrysler Corp.; and Harlan C. Lorenz, 31541 Marblehead, a 16-year resident employed by LOP Plastics. Both are first-time council candidates.

Also running for council seats are Ronald G. Gavel, 23081 Warner and Michelle J. Rhoton, 23522 Wesley. Neither could be reached for comment.

The top two vote-getters will serve four-year terms on the Farmington City Council. The candidate who comes in third will serve a two-year term.

In the year 2025

Solar-powered satellites lighten energy load

By MARY GNIEWEK

Picture a family of four floating freely around their community with jet packs strapped to their backs for gravity control.

They live in a self-contained community of 10,000 residents, use recycled air and water, grow their own crops in an ideally controlled atmosphere, utilize the sun as their main source of

energy, and orbit a point in space between earth and the moon.

Sound a bit far out? About 22,000 miles out to be exact.

That's a description of life inside a solar-powered satellite (circa 2025-2100) which space buff John Shetter described to a group of Farmington school teachers last Friday.

Shetter is a member of L-5, a group which keeps abreast of the NASA space

program and promotes the concepts of space colonization and industrialization. He addressed a Global Education workshop at Harrison High School.

Workshop coordinator Dorothy Cox said participating teachers from the Farmington school district will incorporate some of the material into their teaching methods.

"We hope this will give teachers a

slightly different focus on what they are already doing in the classroom," she said.

"We're trying to develop the idea that in all disciplines — cultural, medical, industrial — we are interdependent on our globe."

GETTING BACK to the outer space family, Shetter said they could live and

die in the satellite without ever visiting earth.

"It would be a closed ecological system, demanding no supplies from earth," said Shetter, who is employed as an auto interior designer, advanced concepts division, at General Motors.

Shetter said the first such satellite will probably be constructed in the year 2025. It will be 35 to 40 square miles, weigh 115 million pounds (as much as two World War II battleships), and be covered with solar cells to harness the sun's energy.

"Solar powered satellites would improve the quality of life in the world. It would help countries with low gross national products," he said.

Solar powered satellites could also be used to beam energy back to earth via rectennas that would be located near populated centers.

"Energy needs in the year 2000 will be 2 1/2 times greater than they are today. One station in space could provide 10,000 mega watts of power."

"Fifty stations would produce all the electrical energy needs of the United States."

Shetter said one station launched above the motor city could provide all the energy needs of the Detroit area as far south as Toledo, west to Ann Arbor, and north to Flint.

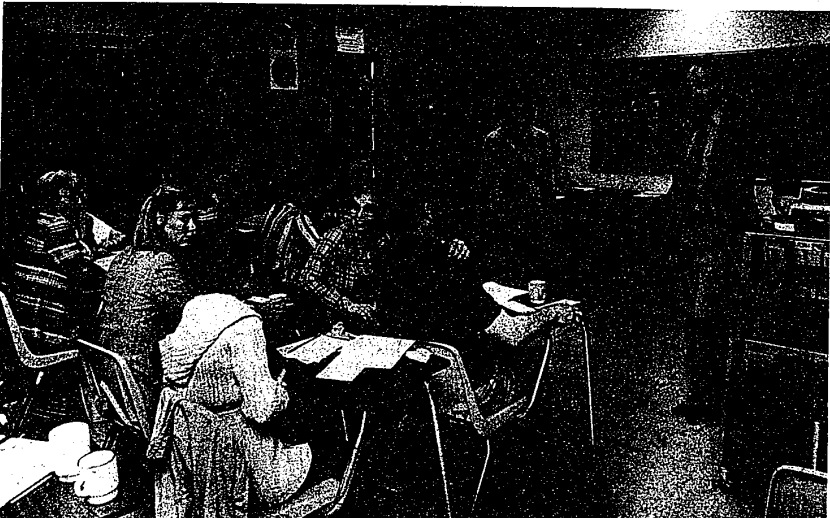
"This would of course lessen our dependence on fossil fuel," he said. "It would help solve some of the world's problems."

OTHER SPEAKERS in the forum were Dr. Brian Kerman, who spoke about medical innovations developed through the NASA program; Ed Bas, who also spoke about solar-powered satellites; and Bernard Short, L-5 chapter president who spoke about the space related legislation now pending and cost comparisons.

In one comparison, Short said the government spent \$7 billion on welfare fraud in 1975 — twice as much as it spent on the space program. He said the space program's \$3.5 billion budget has remained stagnant despite spiraling inflation. He urged the audience to contact lawmakers about beefing up the program.

L-5 takes its name from French mathematician Joseph Lagrange who more than 200 years ago discovered five stable points in space between earth and the moon. It is at those points that space colonization may occur, according to L-5 member Dr. Kerman.

L-5, a local group with national affiliation, meets once a month at the Cranbrook Institute of Science and is a non-profit organization.



Outer space buff John Shetter answers questions from Farmington teachers following his presentation about space colonization in the 21st century. Also standing is workshop coordinator Dorothy Cox. (Staff photo by Randy Borsy)

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SHOPPING TIPS

Attention all mothers with school-age children. If you're shopping for children's school clothes these last few days of summer, you can get some tips and suggestions from the story by Loraine McClish in today's Suburban Life section. The story is headlined, "Shopping can wear you out."

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