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Freedom sight targeted for senior housing

By Steve Barnaby
editor

After years of battling among residents and politicians, Farmington Hills has moved one step closer to seeing senior citizen housing become a reality on the corner of Freedom and Drake roads.

Council unanimously agreed at this week's meeting to a motion of intent to sell the five-acre site to Detroit Baptist Manor if the senior housing organization receives funding approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD).

Council also instructed city attorney Paul Bibeau to draft an ordinance consummating the deal.

Baptist Manor attorney Harold Larsen urged council to pass a motion of intent so Baptist Manor could meet a May 15 HUD deadline to apply for a Section 202 grant.

Council members granted the motion of intent with reservation, adding a restrictive covenant that only housing for senior citizens and physically handicapped persons be constructed.

In past years, senior citizen projects

have been proposed for that site which would have included low-income family housing.

A group of residents, led by Mrs. Julieann Hovanessian, opposed low-income housing. But this week she approved of the project.

"I urge you to consider this plan. It provides adequate housing for senior citizens," she told council members.

BAPTIST MANOR hopes to build 100 units on the site, according to Larsen. It already operates a senior citizen housing complex in the city's north end

at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

In 1979 several incumbent council members who supported senior citizen housing with low-income family housing were defeated for reelection.

Councilman William Lange, who was elected on a platform opposed to HUD subsidized senior citizen and low-income family housing, expressed reservations about working with HUD.

"Looking at the track record of HUD, I think maybe we should ask what assurances we have from HUD that guarantee only elderly and handicapped," he said.

Larsen promised to have an answer by the next council session.

Aldo Vagnozzi, a member of the Commission on Aging, urged the council to endorse the proposed project.

"I hope we wouldn't get into another knock-down, drag-out fight with HUD," said Vagnozzi.

The low-income family housing requirement, he said, was made by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) in 1979, not HUD, he told the council.

"Besides, it is my understanding that at least half of the units would be reserved for Farmington Hills residents," he said.

ALTHOUGH LARSEN agreed a percentage of units would be reserved for Farmington Hills residents, he warned council the "integrity of the waiting list must be honored."

"It's negotiable. We're a very community-oriented organization. We can strike a balance. It is open to whatever is satisfactory to the city," he said.

Newsman warns

Courts endanger press freedoms

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Newsman Daniel Schorr will be in Farmington Hills next Monday to address the Humanist Forum at the Birmingham Temple.

For 25 years, Schorr was a national and foreign correspondent for CBS News and today is senior correspondent for Cable News Network.

A staunch defender of First Amendment rights, Schorr talked to the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers about the media in a phone interview from his Washington, D.C., home on Tuesday.

Your address in Farmington Hills is called "The Media in a Democracy." What threats to that democracy do you see in light of recent Supreme Court decisions?

The courts have been issuing decisions all of which limit the First Amendment. For example, the Branzberg-Hays case declines to recognize the right (of journalists) to protect confidential sources. That's not likely to change in the very near future.

These things to me aren't things that exist in themselves. The courts aren't issuing anti-press verdicts without reference to a broader background.

The press isn't as admired, respected or loved in this country as it used to be. That will be the main subject of my lecture Monday.

There's something about the development of the press into the news media — a vast conglomeration of entertainment, news and other things that has begun to turn people off.

People are less willing to be used and manipulated in the quest for ever larger ratings. Editors and reporters of

'The courts aren't issuing anti-press verdicts without reference to a broader background. The press isn't as admired, respected or loved in this country as it used to be.'

— Daniel Schorr

a century ago were willing to put their necks on the line. They were admired, unlike the superstars of today.

Do you think cable television will change that?

I think cable TV has already begun to change that. When you're on the air 24 hours a day, the anchor person changes every two hours. It's not a superstar profession. It's impossible to be one.

Or to put it another way, people resent TV dictating to them what they may see and when. With the advent of cable TV and technological developments like videotape recorders and discs, people's choices are widened.

Now people can tune in on news when they want it, a movie without commercials or play a movie recorded from prime time last night. People can recover control of their own use of time and feel less manipulated.

Cable TV will give people choices back. It's a healthy trend.

Is that why you switched to cable TV?

Personal decisions are not always made with highfalutin principles. I realized I had no great future with network TV. I was looking for something new. I met with Ted Turner (Cable

News Network president) and the job was offered. It paid well, and I have a family to support.

You've had a long illustrious career. Is there one particular highlight?

One highlight of my foreign career was opening the CBS News bureau in Moscow in 1955. That reached a peak with an exclusive interview with Nikita Khrushchev which aired on "Face the Nation."

The highlight of my domestic career was drifting into covering Watergate, a story that swept a president out of power. It was the greatest domestic story I was ever close to.

How did you feel about being the top 20 names on Nixon's enemies list?

It seemed an oddity. I was astonished and somewhat amused. I didn't think I rated that high with Nixon. I didn't know he cared.

By the time I found out I was on Nixon's list, it was no longer threatening. Had I known in 1972, I would have been a bit frightened.

But by '73, Nixon was on the ropes. He was already being investigated.

The list read like a social registry in Washington. It was more helpful.

How will news coverage change over the next 20 years?

News, like entertainment, will become much more specialized. The wave of the future is small specialized audiences. The era where people sit passively will break down. There will be greater ability for audiences to command what they want.

How is cable TV affecting network programming?

Commercial networks are adapting themselves. CBS used to put the Cronkite show on the west coast with a three-hour delay. They began updating it after cable TV went on the air. CBS now plans to put another news program on out west at 4 in the afternoon.

News will break free all over as a reaction to discovering audiences exist at times that are unsuspected.

What is the future of newspapers in all of this?

Newspapers are a medium whose death is predicted every 10 years but then they don't die. They change, they merge, they adapt.

The greatest threat to newspapers right now is that they are energy inefficient. They rely on gas-powered vehicles, trees and are carted away as trash. At every stage, expensive energy is used.

That threat hangs over them. They may meet that threat. I'm not good at predictions.

What will be the long-term effects of groups like the Moral Majority?

I don't know what long term is any more. The effects of the Moral Majority are here now. They want to monitor television and libraries. I am for people making up their own minds.

There are other threats to civil liberties. I don't know how far it will go.



Prayer for peace

The Reverend Father Seamus Ryan holds the microphone while Jean Palad recites a prayer at St. Fabian Catholic Church. For the story and more photos, please turn to Page 3A.

Council gives nod to cable formula

By Steve Barnaby
editor

When it comes to dealing with cable television firms, municipalities are assured of a better deal if they band together.

That's the word from cable consultant Harold Horn, who is acting as an advisor to the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

And this week, Farmington Hills council finally took his advice. The city's legislative body agreed to stick with the tri-city cable alliance.

It was the last of the three to agree to send out bid specifications to any interested cable firm.

While the vote was unanimous, it wasn't finalized until after more than

1 1/2 hours of intense questioning of Horn by council.

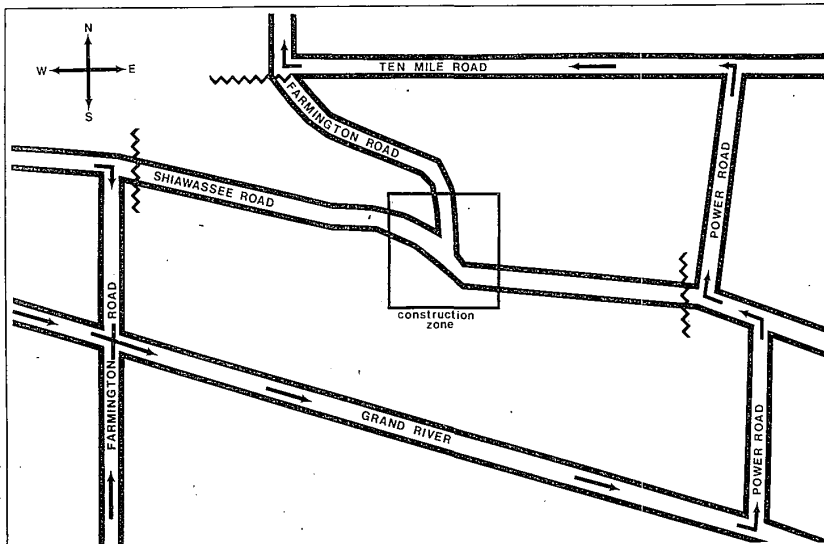
Horn, who is employed by the Cable Television Information Center (CTIC), will monitor the bids.

"We're finding an increasing amount of communities banding together," he told council members. "If you don't have a certain level of subscribers, you can't get into the levels of services requested."

But some council members were unsure of the benefits of forming an alliance with other communities.

"MY CONCERN is to get the best possible contract for Farmington Hills

Please turn to Page 4A



Arrows mark the detour route around the Shawwassee bridge construction zone.

Construction blocks downtown route

Detour routes will be marked for motorists beginning on Monday because of a major construction project on the bridge over the Rouge River at Shawwassee and Farmington roads.

For the next three months, Farmington Road between Shawwassee and 10 Mile and Shawwassee between Farm-

ington Road and Power will be closed. Motorists traveling northbound on Farmington Road are advised to detour east on Grand River to Power.

Eastbound traffic which uses Shawwassee should use Grand River to Power during the construction period.

To facilitate traffic, Power will become a through street on Monday. A stop sign at the corner of Power and Shawwassee will be moved 500 feet east of the intersection to control westbound traffic on Shawwassee.

There will be local access for homeowners living in the blocked-off area but a permanent barrier will close

Farmington at Warner.

The project will be done by John Carlos, contractor, of Mount Clemens at a cost of \$361,000.

Eighty percent of the cost will be paid by the federal government. The city and county will each fund 10 percent of the cost.

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