

Farmington Observer

Volume 94 Number 48

Monday, March 28, 1983

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

Park's future depends on fate of trust fund

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Applying for money through the Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) is the next step in a lengthy process for Farmington Hills officials to purchase a 211-acre park site.

After Farmington Hills City Manager Lawrence Savage and land owner, Birmingham attorney Nicholas Spicer signed an option March 18 to purchase the property for \$2 million, city council members unanimously confirmed the agreement last week.

Spicer inherited the land, bordered by Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile, from his late mother, naturalist Eleanor Spicer.

The agreement establishes a two-year option period and is contingent on the MLTF granting the city "substantial" funds to purchase the property.

Although MLTF trustees avoid setting a cap on the amount of money a project can be awarded, "we have to distribute the money among quite a few projects," said Edward Hagen, MLTF staff assistant.

In January 1984, MLTF trustees will submit to the state legislature a list of projects recommended for funding. Legislators later will approve or disapprove MLTF's list and appropriate the necessary money, Hagen said.

MLTF GENERALLY has about \$10 million annually to help fund projects, Hagen said. But "that will depend on how much money we earn on the interest from the land trust fund," he added.

But a bill recently introduced in the

state legislature recommends that \$20 million usually be siphoned out of the MLTF bank account.

"That would effectively eliminate the MLTF," Hagen said.

Although MLTF trustees will give money to projects that expect total funding through the trust fund, Hagen said a higher priority is given to those projects which offer a matching grant.

"We'll probably be going for total funding," said Councilman Donn Wolf. "That's something we will negotiate when we do the application."

The agreement between Spicer and city officials calls for a \$200,000 payment by the city in the option's first year which expires March 1, 1984.

The agreement's other details include:

- If MLTF funds are unavailable for the projects, which would require a second option period, the city will pay \$300,000 for the year March 1, 1984-March 1, 1985;
- Option payments are deductible from the land's purchase price;
- Closing would take place within 90 days of exercising the option;
- Option payments are non-refundable should Farmington Hills decide not to buy the land;
- The city shall accept the land as is, allowing for "reasonable wear and tear and ordinary use";
- If the Spicer estate breaches the option agreement or is unable to provide a clear title, the city will be refunded or may close; and
- If the property is damaged due to the elements, casualties or acts of God which devalue the land, the cost of

damages would be deducted from the purchase price.

AS FAR as beginning plans for the land's development, Farmington Hills Director of Special Services Douglas Gaynor, said city council members directed the city staff to review possible uses of the land. A committee may be formed later, Gaynor said.

Councilwoman Jan Dolan is hoping to involve the schools and local naturalists in developing possible uses for the land.

"I would not like to see an active development," Dolan said. "I think it pretty much should be left in a natural state."

Although Dolan concedes that some of the park land will be developed, she prefers that most of the 211 acres remain as open space for the preservation of plant and animal life.

Wolf agrees with Dolan in preferring that much of the land remain as open space.

"BUT I want to know what it will cost to run it as a park," Wolf said. "I want some hard, cold facts."

Dolan also suggested using the property as an area similar to the Upland Hills Farms in Oxford, where children can learn about nature.

A sidewalk proponent, Dolan favors extending sidewalks to the park area because Farmington Road "was not made for heavy traffic."

Also "very pro-open land," Councilwoman Jody Soronen last week indicated she would like to see the property remain "an undeveloped, low-usage, passive recreation area."



Down on the farm

Students at Woodcreek school in Farmington Hills had a chance recently to experience what life on the farm is all about. Cows, chickens, ducks, pigs and even an Angora rabbit came to the school's gymnasium courtesy of Upland Hills Farms. In addition to milking demonstrations, squealing pigs and a strutting turkey the children were able to touch and hold the beasts. A rooster (above) found it's way to the shoulder of Jennifer Sweitzer where her friend Christine Pennala (right) makes closer examination. Nine-year-old Jodi Stevenson (photo at left) helps a lamb find it's way back to the pen. Students from various classes were able to see the animals throughout the day.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Hills eyes new money for fixing up homes

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Low-interest loans for house repairs, street paving, and sidewalk and storm sewer construction are targeted uses for Farmington Hills' expected \$420,000 in 1983-84 Community Development Block Grant money.

But before the June receipt of the anticipated federal money, the Farming-

ton Hills City Council will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. April 11 to hear residents' comments about the city's suggested projects.

The city's Housing Assistance Plan (HAP) will receive \$18,000 of the total CDBG grant to pay for the second year of a revolving low-interest loan program so low- and moderate-income families can rehabilitate their homes.

LOANS ARE made at a 3-percent

interest rate with the city expecting payment within five-to-10 years, said Richard Lampl, city planner and CDBG program coordinator.

So far, out of the city's \$120,000 in 1982-83 HAP money, approximately \$25,000 has been spent on house repair loans and another \$25,000 is committed for similar projects, Lampl said.

Please turn to Page 4

Chiropractors fume over court's restriction

By Diane Gale
staff writer

A recent Michigan Court of Appeals ruling banning chiropractors from giving examinations, physical therapy, nutrition counseling and dispensing vitamins has angered local practitioners.

"As the law became more restrictive, it seems that the chiropractor, who has the basic education as a medical doctor, is less qualified to give nutritional advice than a housewife who sells Shalike, or a girl who works in a health food store," John Benci Jr., a Farmington chiropractor, said.

The March 22 decision, written by Judge John Gillis, upholds a 1978 ruling and was expected by most of the ap-

proximate 1,350 chiropractors in the state.

IN FACT, a bill restoring their responsibilities appeared before state legislators prior to the decision, according to Stanley Levine, a Farmington Hills chiropractor and vice president of the Michigan State Chiropractic Association.

The bill is in the beginning stages now and hasn't appeared before the state House of Representatives or the state Senate.

Independent chiropractors and the Chiropractic Association also plan to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, Levine said.

"I've been licensed for 24 years, and

the scope of the laws has changed dramatically, but the qualifications haven't changed at all," Benci said.

"IF YOU look at the practice of chiropractors in the 50 states, you'll find the various legislators allowed broadly different scopes of practice," he continued.

Licensed practical nurses, and physician's assistants have more diagnosing rights than a chiropractor, Benci said.

"I'm a recent graduate, and my training is very broad, and to be told I can't diagnose, and can't use a stethoscope, is ridiculous," Alan Post, a Farmington chiropractor at the Harp Chiropractic Clinic, said.

A chiropractor's education is similar to that of a medical doctor, except

medical doctors intern for two years at a hospital and a chiropractor goes to a chiropractor's office for a nine-month internship, Post said.

"THE CHIROPRACTOR'S training is not the same as a medical doctor's, and the argument is they shouldn't be allowed to practice medicine," a spokesman at the Michigan State Medical Society said. "They're licensed to practice chiropractic, which is manipulation of the spinal chord."

A chiropractor's practice is based on natural health care, which works to restore the body's ability to heal by the nervous system, Post said. Some chiropractors claim they can aid most body ailments through spinal manipulation and massaging.

Many chiropractors are offended and appalled by the appeals decision, which restricts them from what they believe are simple procedures, like blood stethoscope, taking a patient's blood pressure or pulse.

MICHIGAN CHIROPRACTORS had a large scope of practice before 1977, when Attorney General Frank Kelley won a suit filed against James Beno, a Potosky chiropractor.

Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Robert Bell favored Kelley, who wanted to stop Beno from treating an arm injury, using X-rays, conducting physicals and using physical therapy.

This decision served to limit the scope of all Michigan chiropractors,

according to Assistant Attorney General Max Hoffman Jr., who represented Kelley in the appeals case.

In 1978 the state health code was changed to reflect this decision.

"THE BILL is to restore the position of the chiropractic profession to what it was prior to the 1978 public health amendment," Levine said.

Chiropractors could give examinations, physical therapy, dispense vitamins and do nutritional counseling before the 1978 ruling.

"It's safe to say the medical doctors in the society are in agreement with the appeals decision that the chiropractor is a limited practitioner in the healing arts," the medical society spokesman said.

They fight to bring son home

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Brian Rouse is thousands of miles from his Farmington home lying in a California hospital. His family believes he is receiving inadequate care.

The Rouses want to bring Brian home, but according to the provisions of his medical insurance, his bills will not be covered if he is moved.

"Meanwhile we sit and grieve because Brian's future is slipping away due to red tape and a poor health insurance program," said Ed Rouse, Brian's father.

Rouse was treated for anoxic brain damage as he lay in a coma. His condition slowly improved, and even though he's out of the coma, he still can't talk

and only responds on occasion with head nods. Rouse's father, his mother, Joan, and his five brothers and sisters believe his recovery depends on their attention, devotion and care. They take turns making trips to give Rouse this support.

The father's eyes fill with tears when he recounts the dramatic improvements his son makes when family members are with him at the hospital.

"One time I was staying with him in his room when his doctor was there asking him to move his leg, but nothing happened," he said. "Then I said, 'Brian show the doctor you can move your leg.'"

ROUSE LIFTED the leg about four

inches off the bed, according to his father. It was the first response he had made while in the hospital.

Rouse, 23, left Michigan in February 1982 to find work in California. He was employed and doing well until nine months later when his asthma condition flared up. He then contracted the flu.

January 1983, he had a severe asthma attack and went into cardiac arrest. Now he battles for life. His medical expenses are high, but are covered through his insurance policy with Kaiser Foundation in California.

During the first two-and-a-half weeks in the hospital, Rouse's bills mounted to more than \$100,000.



Brian Rouse

Please turn to Page 4

what's inside

Community Calendar . . .	8B
Editorials	6A
Inside Angles	5a
Obituaries	2A
Oral Quarrel	6A
Shopping Cart	Section B
Sports	Section C
Suburban Life	6,7,8B

"PHENOMENAL!"

"Calls started coming in at 8 p.m. on day of publication and were still coming in at 9 p.m. We quit answering the phone at 9 p.m. even though it continued to ring. We received well over 100 calls." M. Thomas was delighted with results of the Observer & Eccentric Help Wanted-Clerical classified ad program.

Remember...

One call does it all!



591-0900
Use your MasterCard or Visa