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Twenty-Five Cents

EDC board named

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The first task of Farmington's new Economic Development Corp. (EDC) will be to design an application so area commercial and industrial businesses may request tax-exempt bonding to decrease costs of development.

Designed under state law to stimulate economic growth, Farmington's EDC may issue bonds to finance or re-finance the cost of commercial or industrial projects.

Two weeks after forming the financing authority, Farmington City Council Monday appointed the EDC's first board of directors. Their task is to review developer's proposals for financing. If the city planning commissioners approve proposed projects, the developer can then find a purchaser for the EDC bonds.

The EDC board of directors includes Farmington residents John Cotton, John Glin and Harry Lapham Jr., — the three who originally petitioned the city council to form the authority. The remaining members are Arnold Campbell, Robert Button, Alfred Freude, Frank Clappison, Councilman Ralph Yoder and City Manager Robert Deadman.

"First we'll have an organizational meeting to establish how the organization (the EDC) will function," Deadman said, although a meeting date is still unscheduled.

A LONG-DEBATED shopping center on the southeast corner of Nine Mile and Farmington roads is the current No. 1 project waiting for the EDC to get its bonding machinery in place.

With an EDC, a developer can finance projects, including building and equipment replacement, at a reduced cost because the purchaser of the EDC-issued bonds is exempt from paying state or federal taxes on the interest earned. The new center, which could open this fall, would have a 41,000-square-foot Farmer Jack supermarket as its anchor store. The supermarket's present downtown store on Farmington and State roads is about 20,000 square feet. Although the fate of the downtown store is still unknown, Deadman said he thinks there will be little problem in finding a new tenant. He indicated in early July that the soon-to-be abandoned store could be renovated for other stores so downtown can be competitive with surrounding communities.

Originally, plans called for the supermarket plus 10 retail stores and a free-standing restaurant. But plans were changed and the city's planning commissioners amended the shopping center's site plan to include a Perry Drug Store.

The proposed shopping center was first opposed by residents who failed to

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Marching in the rain

It rained on their parade. But the Farmington Founders' Festival on as scheduled last Saturday morning with participants and spectators alike braving the raindrops on Grand River in downtown Farmington. Observers remarked that the rain didn't seem

to dampen the enthusiasm of the parade goers. Additional photos from the 19th-annual Founders' Festival may be found on the Suburban Life front page.

More sports planned

By Diane Gale
staff writer

A special committee of the Farmington Board of Education Tuesday approved the addition of interscholastic activities for sixth and seventh graders.

Vote by the full board, which is expected to pass the proposal unanimously, was postponed until the next regular board meeting slated for Aug. 18. The delay will give those who oppose the plan an opportunity to speak out on the matter, said board president Helen Frutkin.

"Even if we should adopt this program, I hope you would strive to get an intramural program for the kids who don't excel but want to get involved," secretary Emma Makinen said.

Changes will include boys' and girls' sixth grade cross-country in the fall; girls' seventh grade basketball in the fall; boys' sixth grade wrestling in the winter; boys' seventh grade basketball in the winter; and boys' and girls' sixth grade track in the spring.

THE ADDITION of the sports should increase participation in the present intramural activities, which were not getting enough participation, board members agreed.

The additional sports will cause "a little increase in cost," said assistant superintendent of instruction Lynn Nutter. But he didn't specify how much.

An increase in costs will happen only if a large number of students turn out for the activities and it becomes necessary to transfer them from school to school, he said.

Group checks nursing homes

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Nursing homes are the last taste of life that many of us will experience, yet a listing of state violations demonstrates that necessities are sometimes neglected when it comes to senior citizen care.

But Citizens for Better Care, which has an office in Farmington Hills, works as an advocate for the aged who need help in resolving a grievance against living conditions in nursing homes or homes for the aged. They also act as a watchdog over the Department of Public Health.

"A lot of what we try to do is get the health department to do their job," said CBC Project Director Celia Savonen. "We don't have any regulatory authority, but the health department does and they can get a little lax."

The health department has categorized each of the 420 nursing homes in the state. Last year they studied the history of each nursing care facility for the 1980-81 period.

Each facility was ranked according to licensing deficiencies, certification failures, penalty points and complaints discovered in an investigation process.

The facilities that were classified Band I had the smallest number of identified problems. The homes listed in Band III had the largest number of citations. There are 60 homes listed in Band III and 80 homes in Band I. The majority of the homes in the state are in the "average" — Band II. None of the Band III homes are in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

THE LIST hasn't been updated and some homes may have fallen into the Band III rank or improved their conditions and were taken out of the category, according to Michigan Department of Health Facility Licenses and Certification Chief Dr. Richard Yerlan.

The health department makes an annual check of each home, which is supposed to be a "surprise visit." However, each home is visited three months before the home's license expires, which allows the manager of the home to put on a clean face and prepare for the state's check, Savonen said.

Most Band I facilities receive a "modified" survey. Band II homes receive a "routine" survey and Band III homes receive a "full" survey. The state sends the home a list of violations and the nursing home is to return a no-

tion of its follow-up on corrections, which the state is supposed to monitor.

"Even if the nursing home is completely in compliance with the law, they're still institutions," Savonen said. "They have to go to bed when someone tells them, they have to eat breakfast when someone tells them to, and for elderly people that's difficult."

CBC, a non-profit, charitable organization, fields complaints, usually from relatives of people in the facility, and encourages the proper governmental agency, such as the health department, to work for changes.

"Nursing homes know what they should be doing," Savonen said. "They're not doing things out of ignorance, but out of a lack of interest or neglect."

THE MOST common complaint against homes is a lack of sufficient staff, Savonen said. The state requires one nursing care staff to every eight patients. But the required figure is the lowest number of nurses needed to provide minimum care, she said, and some homes don't even have that.

Nursing homes can be fined for violating a patient's rights.

"The health department is very reluctant to impose fines for civil rights

cases, because they don't want to get involved in what (legal action) is bound to follow," Savonen said.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Finishing touch

Workmen Jeff Mitchell places the copper-clad steel cross atop the 75-foot-high steeple of Farmington's Salem United Church of Christ last Monday. Returning the cross capped a rebuilding project made necessary when a bolt of lightning struck the steeple on June 27.

oral quarrel

What should be done to improve nursing homes?

Nursing home residents often feel lonely and worthless. State records show that some nursing homes don't provide the minimal required amount of care to the elderly residents. Ideas on how individuals and businesses can improve conditions often are ignored.

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS?

To call Oral Quarrel, dial 477-5494. You have until 1 p.m. Friday. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

what's inside

- Amusements 9-11C
- Business 5-7C
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