

# Go on a roll in OCC's pool — 3A

# Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 37

Thursday, February 16, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

66 Pages

Twenty-five cents



## Park option renewed

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

While Farmington Hills is awaiting a final commitment for a \$1.2 million state land grant to help buy the \$2 million Spicer property, city officials were expected this week to officially renew a purchase option for the 211 acres.

"It has to be executed prior to Feb. 15," said City Manager Lawrence Savage, adding he had an appointment on Tuesday with representatives of the Elcanor Spicer estate to renew the city's purchase option on the property.

When city officials and Birmingham attorney Nicholas Spicer signed an option agreement in March 1983 to buy the property, the city reserved the right to renew the option for an additional year if on or before Feb. 15 city officials gave written notice and paid the Spicer estate another \$200,000. City officials also made an initial \$200,000 option payment last March.

When the time comes to actually purchase the Spicer property on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile, the city can exercise its option and pay an additional \$100,000.

All of the city's option payments will be applied toward the total purchase price of the property, Savage said.

The city's chances of receiving the state land grant were all but assured in mid-January when state officials listed the planned purchase as the 18th highest priority project out of 44 projects expected to be funded this year.

Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF) officials formally adopted a resolution Jan. 11 recommending the matching grant for Farmington Hills, said Edward Hagen, MLTF staff assistant.

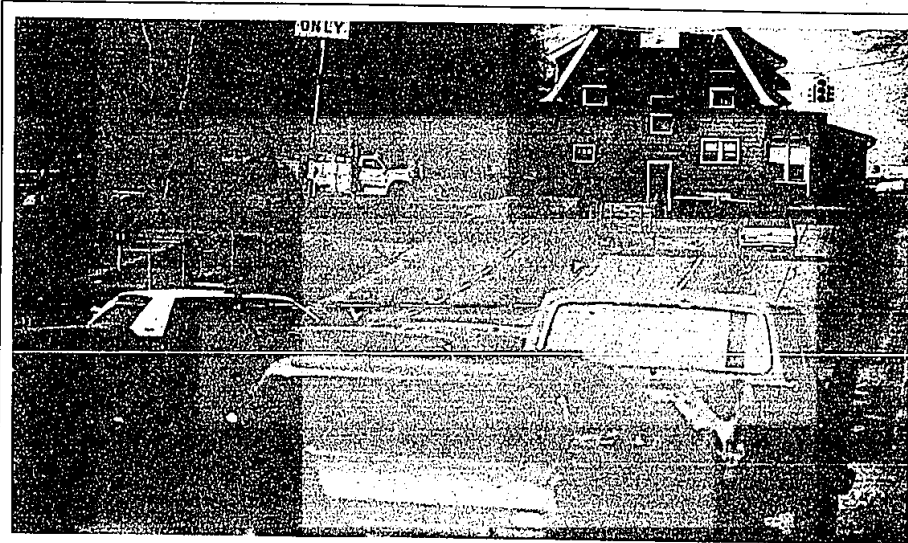
"There is no problem with receiving the Spicer estate," Hagen said in January. "There is enough money to cover (the Hills project)."

MLTF's priority list is expected to be introduced into the state Legislature in March. Final word will come when the Legislature appropriates the money, sometime in early fall.

State land grant officials have \$18.4 million to spend on land acquisition this year. The \$18.4 million includes \$14 million in state money and \$4 million in local money each project sponsor pays to receive the matching grant.

At the state's suggestion, city officials in November added \$400,000 toward purchasing the acreage and requested a smaller \$1.2 million grant. City officials originally requested a \$1.6 million grant.

The state, in other words, will pay 60 percent of the purchase price and the city will pay 40 percent. The city's total share of the Spicer land purchase is \$500,000, including the additional \$400,000 and the option payments.



## On the move

This two-family, 3,200-square-foot house is taking a westbound ride down Eight Mile Road. Owned by Farmington Hills' Leo Adior Dateum, the house was donated to Community Living Centers.

Dealership owners Henry Frohose and Marvin Tamaroff gave away the house to make room to put up a new Datsun showroom and service center.

RANDY DONST/staff photographer

## Funds set for drains

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials will use more than half of the city's anticipated \$550,000 in 1984-85 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money to help pay for extensive drain improvements to combat flooding in Tarabusi Roseland Gardens subdivision.

"It is probably the only feasible way of making improvements in this area," said City Manager Lawrence Savage. The proposed drain improvements are a prerequisite to a proposed road paving project in the neighborhood that has been plagued by flooding.

Tarabusi Roseland Gardens is south of Colfax, between Farmington and Gill roads.

Following a public hearing Monday, the City Council unanimously approved spending \$196,000 of the total CDBG money on the proposed drain improvements.

Council members also agreed to allocate the remaining \$114,633 to the city's housing rehabilitation program and \$50,000 for administrative costs.

The city's total 1984-85 CDBG money includes a \$1,633 contingency allocation.

Although council has given their approval to use CDBG money to pay for the necessary drain improvements in the Tarabusi subdivision, the allocation is contingent on at least 51 percent of the neighborhood's property owners indicating, through petitions, that they want their roads paved.

But permanent paving cannot be installed until the neighborhood's drain problems are solved, said Thomas Bisell, department of public services director.

"Without the installation of a main line storm sewer and ditching, a permanent pavement won't last long because the standing water will break up the subsoils beneath the roadway, he added.

"This is an area that has experienced frequent flooding and drainage problems and where our own DPW finds it very difficult to maintain the existing gravel road surfaces," according to a report presented to council.

"The housing stock is currently quite substantial and we feel that with improvements in drainage and to the street surface that this will help guarantee and in fact encourage improvements in the housing and the general conditions throughout the neighborhood," the report continues.

"Without using CDBG money, the cost of installing the storm sewer, ditching and paving in the neighborhood would cost an estimated \$516,300. That works out to approximately \$3,900 per household."

But if \$196,000 of the city's CDBG money is used to pay for the storm sewer and ditching, plus another \$28,000 from the city to help with the paving, and about \$74,000 in Act 51 road funds (gas and weight tax money), the residents' assessments would be reduced to about \$1,650 a household.

COUNCIL MEMBERS on Monday also were expected to consider establishing a special assessment district for the neighborhood's proposed road paving project. Action, however, was put on the back burner until next Monday to give residents time to present petitions with more than 50 percent of the residents in favor of paving.

"Although by the end of Monday's meeting, Bisell had petitions showing 52 percent of the residents wanted paving, time is needed to verify the signatures.

"We are trying to accelerate the program as much as possible so we'll have a full construction season," Bisell said.

The Tarabusi drain improvement was chosen as the priority project for CDBG money from among 13 total suggested projects. Other proposed projects included road resurfacing, sidewalks and sanitary sewer extensions.

While the other 12 projects were also deemed necessary, city officials indicated that the Tarabusi Gardens project would benefit the most people. The other projects also could be paid for through other methods.

Also pushing Tarabusi Gardens to the top of the priority list was that this is the first year the area has been eligible to receive CDBG money.

## Hills council scolded for actions

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The procedure used last week to fill a vacancy on the Farmington Hills City Council "was a near farce," according to Democratic activist Aldo Vagnozzi. "I thought for awhile that Fred's (Hughes) term would be over before you would fill it," Vagnozzi, an unsuccessful appointment candidate, told council Monday.

After 4½ hours of debate and the votes, council finally appointed planning commissioner Robert Anzlovic to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of former Mayor Fred Hughes.

The process council used to weed its way through the 19 candidates began with allowing the 16 candidates in the room to talk with the council for five minutes. Council members questioned each candidate after his or her presentation.

That portion of the appointment procedure was just fine, according to Vagnozzi, despite the fact that he felt Councilwomen Jan Dolan and Jodi Soronen's lack of questioning was an "insult" to the candidates.

The interviews completed, the council members voted for their top three favorite candidates to narrow the field. "It allowed them to throw a sop to some candidates they never intended to vote for in the final round," Vagnozzi said, adding the first tally allowed council members to acknowledge their candidate friends.

"I thought that was a charade." Allowing council members to choose three top candidates in the first vote tally "left it open for game playing," Vagnozzi said.

FACED WITH TIE votes, a frustrated council then debated a motion to bring former Councilman Jack Burwell back into the running.

That motion, however, was followed by another one to also reconsider applicant Maste Kurzeja. But when a vote was taken between Kurzeja and top contenders Terry Sever and Anzlovic, the council tied again.

Motions to increase the field of candidates to eliminate the tie votes after the first cuts had been made shouldn't have occurred because it was a change in the procedure council had agreed to prior to the candidates' interviews, Vagnozzi said.

"The procedure was being changed at the whim of the council members," Vagnozzi said.

Instead, following the candidates' interviews, council members should have chosen only their top candidate rather than three because there was only one vacancy to fill.

"It would have been a more honest vote," he added.

Vagnozzi also criticized what he felt was the council's leaning toward a secret rather than public vote for the appointment. The council, however, did cast written votes and then City Clerk

Floyd Cairns publicly announced each council member's vote last week.

"I know leading up to it (the special meeting) some council members wanted a secret ballot," said Vagnozzi, who contacted the state Attorney General's office to make sure a secret ballot was prohibited.

"I don't know if anyone who wanted a secret ballot," Councilman Donn Wolf responded.

But Vagnozzi continued, chiding, "At one point, the mayor (Charles Williams) said that if we had a secret ballot, we would have to have a referendum. Please turn to Page 6

## Make that address plain, firefighters urge public

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Problems have been few lately. But Farmington Hills police and fire officials are reminding residents and merchants that a city ordinance now requires address numbers to be clearly posted on all buildings and visible from the road.

To help improve emergency police and fire response time, the Farmington Hills City Council last September adopted an ordinance requiring all property owners to display identification numbers on buildings.

The ordinance was prompted by fire and police officials who said emergency personnel were having problems locating houses and businesses because the addresses were either unclear or not posted.

"We've been getting quite a lot of calls from businesses," said Lt. Richard Marinucci, adding that the department sent merchants letters reminding them of the ordinance.

ALTHOUGH FIRE officials have noticed some houses still do not have visible addresses, letters have not been sent to residents. Most of the apartments and condominiums, on the other hand, "are in compliance," Marinucci said.

Much of the problem is that many houses and businesses are so far from the road that seeing the address becomes almost impossible. In other cases, there are no street numbers on a building at all, so both firefighters and

police officers must figure out which building is which. Nighttime and bad weather only add to the problem.

The ordinance, however, requires more than just placing numbers on a house or place of business.

Residents and merchants, according to the ordinance, must use numbers at least three inches high — large enough to be "readable from the centerline of the adjacent roadway by a person of normal vision." The address must be in numerals rather than script.

If your house or place of business is more than 90 feet from the road, the numerals on the building must be at least six inches high. The color of the numbers, regardless of how far the building is from the road, must contrast with the immediate background on which they are mounted.

## oral quarrel

### Should chewers and sniffers be warned?

Since 1964, health warnings have been required by law on cigarette packages and cigarette advertising. The current and cigarette warnings and bans have never applied to chewing tobacco and tobacco snuff. But now a consumer group has asked the government to mandate

warnings on labels and ads for these products. The tobacco industry opposes the plan.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: Why should snuff and chewing tobacco carry health warnings similar to those required for cigarettes?

To answer this question, call us at 477-5493 anytime between 1 p.m. Friday. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please see Monday's Farmington Observer.

## what's inside

Amusements . . . . .	10-14C
Business . . . . .	7-9C
Classifieds . . . . .	Sections D-E
Club Circuit . . . . .	7B
Community Calendar . . . . .	3B
Creative Living . . . . .	1-3E
Crossword Puzzle . . . . .	12E
Editorials . . . . .	10A
Engagements . . . . .	2B
Memory Lane . . . . .	3A
Obituaries . . . . .	4A
Sports . . . . .	1-5C
Suburban Life . . . . .	1-8B
Travel . . . . .	2B
Recreation news . . . . .	8A
NEWSLINE . . . . .	477-5450
CLASSIFIED ADS . . . . .	591-0900
HOME DELIVERY . . . . .	591-0500

### "MOST PLEASED BY RESPONSE"

M. Wilcox was gratified with the results of the Observer's Eccentric HOUSING PET'S classified as placed. "Found an appropriate home for my 3 year old Boston Terrier. Received 16 calls. I'm a happy subscriber — who reads the Farmington Observer more thoroughly than the others!"

Remember...

One call does it all!

591-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa