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Alkateeb alone in opposition to police plans

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Dissatisfied with the city's preliminary designs for the proposed \$2.5-million police building, Farmington Hills Councilman Joe Alkateeb stood alone Tuesday.

His proposal to give plans to builders and developers to modify and develop hard and fast prices for building costs went without support. Instead, council approved the preliminary design of the proposed facility and agreed to pay another \$30,000 for the next phase.

"I have a bad feeling about this

building. All I am saying is to get some other opinions on this building," he said.

Alkateeb, in turn, vowed to vote against any further plans "from here to kingdom come" for the proposed 32,000-square-foot building to be built adjacent to city hall at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Birmingham architects Luckenbach & Ziegelman Inc. will include in the next set of plans, called the design development phase, drawings which will "more precisely fix" and describe the proposed building's size, character and architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical details.

ALKATEEB WANTED to invite at least five builders and developers to review the preliminary plans, suggest possible modifications and develop prices.

"If you follow this method you will know your price in three weeks," Alkateeb said, indicating builders would better know the costs involved with the proposed building than would an architect.

When the preliminary designs were presented to council in early February, architect Robert Ziegelman estimated the cost of the proposed facility at \$78.13 a square foot.

At that time Alkateeb told Ziegelman the square footage cost is "too high." Responding, the architect said his firm's suggested cost is still \$5 under the national median cost for police buildings.

Besides Ziegelman's estimated costs for the proposed facility, Alkateeb said he doesn't like the suggested triangular shape of the building, as well as the way the roof would be built.

"I don't think that building is all that

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Abracadabra!

Area children enjoy a magic show at the Farmington Community Center last Thursday. Professional magician Daryl Hurst presented a live

magic show to Steven Burgess (above, left) and Scott Campbell. At left, Hurst of Ann Arbor demonstrates a magic box trick.

RANDY BORGSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Property purchased

Farmington Hills officials last week bought property on 11 Mile just west of the city hall for \$50,000 to make room for a proposed new police department.

The land, which is approximately 100 by 350 feet and includes a house, was bought from resident Irene Marks, said City Manager Lawrence Savage.

"It's obvious that if we build another building we will need room in that direction," Savage said, adding the parcel would immediately provide enough room for a new building, including parking.

Savage said city officials had been negotiating with Marks "for quite awhile. We tried, of course, to get it cheaper." But Marks held fast to a minimum \$50,000 for the land, he added.

City officials had already allocated money in the capital improvement fund to pay for the land, Savage said.

City unveils plan for parks

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Farmington city officials took inventory of their parks and recreation facilities — and found them wanting.

To correct the situation, Farmington plans to spend \$200,000 to upgrade its present parks system and hopes to lease land owned by the Farmington School District for added recreational use.

Any improvements in the parks must reflect the demographics of the city — median age 42 years, the second oldest in Oakland County — officials have said.

"We simply do not need expansion of things like tot lots," said City Manager Robert F. Deadman at last Monday's

city council meeting. "The recreation needs of the community have changed."

Facilities at the city's 18-acre Shilawasse Park along the Upper Middle Rouge River are badly in need of repair or replacement, and a baseball diamond on the site has an "inadequate layout" and "substandard" lighting, according to a report issued to council by Deadman.

Council voted, 5-0, to adopt the report and continue efforts to improve the city's parks system.

The park facilities, which go back 25 to 30 years, "have not only served Farmington, but have been the only park-type facilities available to the residents of Farmington Hills," Deadman's report said.

"Usage by a large population base has a tendency to increase the wear and tear on park facilities," the report continued. "Parking is also inadequate and insufficient at this park."

Planned improvements include installing a Vita Course, a 10-station exercise program for senior citizens, at Shilawasse and another city park; addition of one or two lighted ball diamonds at Shilawasse depending on the availability of the school district land; construction of a picnic shelter and additional parking space.

THE CITY will pay half of the \$200,000 improvement costs. Officials hope for a matching grant from the state Department of Natural Resources' Water Conservation Funding

Program. The city must file for the grant by March 31.

"If we can't get the funds, or if we can't fund it ourselves, we may have to close one of the diamonds," Deadman told council.

The school-district land mentioned amounts to five acres immediately west of Shilawasse Park. The site was used as an athletic field for the old Farmington Junior High, now the Farmington Training Center, which lies across the Upper Rouge to the south.

Many residents assume that the land is city-owned and part of Shilawasse Park, according to Deadman.

"We'll ask the school board for a

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Exchange Club celebrates 60 years of service

By Tom Baer
staff writer

When the 12 charter members of the Exchange Club of Farmington first sat

down to lunch in the director's room of the Farmington State Savings Bank, the local newspaper that chronicled the event could be bought for a nickel, or \$1.50 for a year's subscription.

Now, 60 years later, the Farmington State Bank is extinct, its gray bulk filled with trendy shops, and \$1.50 will purchase only six local papers, not 52. All 12 charter members have passed on, the last survivor, John C. Clark, having died a few years ago.

But the Exchange Club of Farmington lives on.

"It started out as a service club to provide businessmen with a means of exchanging ideas," said Herb Henry, secretary of the Farmington Exchange, explaining the club's name.

"They would meet once a week to exchange ideas among themselves, and see if they couldn't help each other in their business and professional lives,"

said the 67-year-old Henry, a member of the Farmington Exchange since 1920.

THE CLUB, then as now affiliated with the National Exchange Club of Toledo, still meets each week. These days, they gather Wednesday mornings for lunch and a speaker at the Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington.

"I don't think the objectives have changed at all over the years. It's always been a self-help organization, trying to help the community."

Henry, a Farmington resident and a retired General Motors executive, joined about 70 of his clubmates recently at Farmington's Huron River Hunting & Fishing Club (known affectionately as the Hunt and Grunt) for a party to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Farmington Exchange.

They plan to continue the celebration by "going after new members" in Henry's words, and by supporting a national Exchange plan to build centers which would aid abused children.

The program, known as ESCAPE



(for Exchange Club-Scan Child Abuse Prevention Effort) has produced two such centers, in Little Rock, Ark., and Jacksonville, Fla.

"Exchange Clubs are always trying to start community projects and trying to carry through with them," he said. "Then they turn them loose and let them stand on their own, and turn to something else."

The Farmington Exchange has been involved in such notable local projects

as the Farmington Community Band and the annual newspaper sale to help needy children, according to Henry.

The Farmington Exchange, with its 60-year history and its 75 members, ranks as the largest and oldest service club in the Farmington area, Henry said.

"We don't have the strict rules about attendance and things that some of the other clubs have," he said. "We have a set of bylaws, of course, and we pay dues and belong to a national organization, but we don't have to make up attendance like they do in some other clubs."

THE EXCHANGE club had its beginnings in Detroit around the turn of the century when several businessmen, jewelry manufacturer Charles A. Berkey among them, decided to meet for "a get-together brainstorming once-a-week deal," according to Henry.

The Detroit club joined three similar organizations from Michigan and Ohio to form the National Exchange in Toledo with Berkey as its founder.

The Farmington club has a close tie

with the national organization. One of Berkey's sons, Reed Berkey, is a member of the Farmington Exchange.

"He's way up in years now," Henry said. "He's an honorary member and doesn't come often."

The Exchange's philosophy and ideals are expressed in the Covenant of Service, written in 1923 by the late past National President and former Governor of Mississippi Thomas L. Bailey.

The covenant is a pledge which all members must take — and live by. Like many service clubs, the Exchange does not allow women to be members. It's a national rule and a controversial one considering the woman's movement of today.

"I can't recall any ladies ever having been in the Exchange," Henry said, "although we've had women speakers." Asked how he'd feel about women being in the Exchange, Henry said, "It would't bother me a bit."

The Exchange Club's logo above a circle with a large X with a Centurion around it. The club's motto — Unity for Service — is displayed above the letters.

oral quarrel

Should state have sobriety checks?

If the Michigan Drunk Driving Task Force has its way, Michigan will have a program requiring motorists to stop and be checked for sobriety. Maryland now has such a program.

The plan, however, has its critics who claim that the check lanes would constitute an infringement of individual rights as well as be a waste of police manpower.

While the debate rages, the governor-appointed task force is holding a

series of meetings across the state to discuss the proposal and the problem of drunk driving in general.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PLAN TO STOP MOTORISTS FOR SOBRIETY CHECKS?

To answer this question, call us at 477-5498 anytime before 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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CREATIVE LIVING
REAL ESTATE SECTION

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO AREA REAL ESTATE
IN TODAY'S EDITION OF THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

Bonds will build drainage system

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills will sell limited-obligation bonds to pay the city's \$2.4-million share of the \$4-million Caddell Drain to prevent future flooding problems near the Red Roof Inn area.

Although council unanimously agreed to sell the limited-tax bonds, it has yet to decide how it will pay the principal and interest on the bonds.

That decision most likely will be made in late spring during the city's budget sessions. The Caddell Drain is planned to al-

leviate floods like the major one that struck the Red Roof Inn and Bob Sellers area in late 1981.

Besides Farmington Hills, which is footing 60.5 percent of the project's cost, Farmington, Novi, Oakland County and the state are also paying for the drain. Farmington will pay about \$475,000.

Novi officials recently agreed to sell limited-obligation bonds and Farmington was waiting to see what Farmington Hills officials did before making a decision, said City Manager Lawrence

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