

Additional parking allowed



RANDY BORGST / Staff photographer

Owners of a Farmington Big Boy Restaurant will be allowed to pave a 22- by 75-foot unimproved area of city right-of-way to provide additional parking as a result of city council action May 19.

The restaurant, at 20788 Farmington Road and owned by Bashara Brothers, will improve the Chesley Drive right-of-way north of and adjacent to the Big Boy parking lot.

In July 1983, the city council prohibited parking in the area at the request of the city's Department of Public Safety. The department had received "numerous complaints" from Farmington Meadows subdivision residents, due to truck drivers leaving their vehicles running when patronizing the restaurant, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

Owners assured the council that Big Boy employees would park in the estimated eight parking spaces, leaving the remainder of the spaces for customers.

Bashara Brothers is required to submit engineering drawings for the proposed improvement, and will be responsible for annual maintenance in the area. If the owners fail to maintain the area, the city will remove the improved area at the owners' expense, according to the council motion. Also, if the area is needed by the city in the future, the parking area may be removed.

"Who's going to be the judge, the referee?" asked Councilman Richard Tupper about maintenance of the property. "I don't think we (the

council) should be put in that position."

"I'm sure they would maintain it," Councilman Ralph Yoder added.

Councilman and Mayor pro tempore Alton Bennett felt the council had a "moral obligation to go back to the neighbors and let them know we're considering changing."

Mayor William Hartsock said, "The real problem is the diesel trucks. If the restriction of automobile parking was made, I would have no problem."

The council vote allowing the improvements was unanimous.

High school students are now ready for the four-week Safe Rides program scheduled for late May and early June.

The group — including students from Mercy, Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington — trained Sunday, May 18, at Mercy in preparation for the trial program designed to give safe rides on weekend nights to students who know they cannot drive because of drinking, or don't want to ride home with a drinking friend. The local program is designed to cover a 10 mile radius around the Farmington Hills base station.

The four weekends are divided into school groups as follows:

- Harrison May 23-24,
- Farmington May 30-31,
- North Farmington June 6-7,
- Mercy June 13-14.

The trial Safe Rides period is designed to cover a traditional time of year for parties — end of the school year and prom nights.

History buffs

The results are in. Judith Cook (seated) of Farmington and Kenneth Hodges of Farmington Hills are the first- and second-prize winners in the Farmington Footprints in History contest, co-sponsored by the Farmington Observer and the Farmington Historical Society. For the correct answers, see Page 10A.

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