



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Meadowridge Condominiums, a 76-unit development, is on Middlebelt, just south of I-696, in Farmington Hills.

Meadowbrook landscaping lauded

By Maureen Slack
staff writer

Five Farmington Hills residents were concerned when land near their homes was bulldozed by mistake, destroying small trees and shrubs in the development of a 76-unit condominium complex on Middlebelt at I-696.

"But restoration plans seem more colorful than the original landscaping," city officials said.

On Wednesday, Gidon Zaft of Warren, developer of the Meadowridge Condominiums who also plans to live in the complex, met with city officials and residents on Killarney in the bordering Kimberley subdivision.

The discussion focused on restoration plans.

"It happens," resident William Cizak said. "We are very satisfied with the plans. I think it was just a matter of getting together to know what was going on."

"The plan sounds great," resident Laurie Kupter said. "I think it will look beautiful once everything is done."

The damaged woodland is part of a section designated as wetlands. It was not supposed to be disturbed during development, which began in April, said Thomas Blaszel, Farmington Hills Department of Public Service director.

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Slate's set: 13 eye 5 Hills seats

Ten candidates will vie for regular terms and three will vie for the remaining two years of a vacancy on the Farmington Hills City Council this fall.

No one pulled out of the separate races by the Friday deadline, city clerk Kathy Dornan said.

Five of the seven non-partisan council seats will be up for grabs this fall. Incumbent Jody Soronen is not seeking re-election.

Nancy Bates of Red Clover Court, who had filed for both races Tuesday, decided by the Friday deadline to withdraw from the regular race and stay in the race to fill the vacancy.

In the regular race are incumbents Ben Marks of Briarwyke, Aldo Vagnozzi of Killarney and Philip Arnold of Bycroft.

Challengers them are planning commissioner Lawrence Liehtman of Kendallwood; former council candidate Vernon Klepinski of Dundalk; chamber of commerce board chairman Jonathan Grant of Castlemeadow; Ron Oliverio of Liberty Lane; Betty Slynnes of Bunker Hill; Al Rosen of Conway Court; and George Sarkisian of Minglewood Lane.

Among these 10 candidates, voters may vote for up to four candidates. The top three vote-getters will earn four-year terms, the fourth place finisher will serve a two-year term.

Bates and Herbert Limer of Kings-

gate Way will challenge incumbent Paul Soverby of Covington Club Drive in the race to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkatech's four-year term. Soverby was appointed in March to replace Alkatech until the next city election.

TO PREPARE for the Tuesday, Nov. 7 election, Dornan now must order punch card ballots and other supplies, program the computer to tabulate votes, line up voting precinct workers, update voter registration lists and mail absentee voter applications to every registered voter age 60 or older.

"We're already getting busy," Dornan said Friday. She pegged the cost of a city council election at \$15,000.

The ballot will include two Farmington Community Library proposals: one for bonds to build a new main library and one for an operating levy for the two-branch library. The ballot also will include two state tax proposals.

The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Marks was first elected to the city council in 1984. Vagnozzi was first elected in 1987. Arnold was appointed in December to fill the remainder of former councilwoman Jan Dolan's term, which expires this year. Dolan is now a state representative.

THE CITY'S new tree protection ordinance requires a city permit to remove or relocate most varieties of trees. The planning and community development department will issue permits only if a tree poses a safety hazard, is badly diseased or damaged, threatens utility service, blocks access to a lot or hinders a lot's development.

Marie Donigan, a city staff planner, and Bryan Devlon, a landscape architect from Ludwig & Associates in Farmington Hills, worked with Zaft to create the restoration plan.

Blaszel ordered contractors to stop work at the site Tuesday and meet with residents on Killarney in the bordering Kimberley subdivision.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Farmington School District will be changing telephone numbers during the month of July. The new numbers of interest to the community are:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE	489-3300
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	
BEECHVIEW	489-3655
EAGLE	489-3663
FLANDERS	489-3673
FOREST	489-3688
GILL	489-3690
HIGHMEADOW	489-3699
KENBROOK	489-3711
LARKSHIRE	489-3722
LONGACRE	489-3733
WILLIAM GRACE	489-3747
WOOD CREEK	489-3755
WOODDALE	489-3766
MIDDLE SCHOOLS	
DUNCKEL	489-3577
EAST	489-3601
POWER	489-3622
WARNER	489-3636
HIGH SCHOOLS	
FARMINGTON	489-3455
HARRISON	489-3489
NORTH FARMINGTON	489-3535
SPECIAL SERVICE SCHOOLS	
ALAMEDA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	489-3808
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTER	489-3768
CLOVERDALE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER	489-3819
FAIRVIEW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	489-3799
FARMINGTON TRAINING CENTER	489-3833
OTHERS SERVICES	
FARMINGTON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	489-3352
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	489-3333
FOOD SERVICES	489-3717
MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	489-3440
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS	489-3349
SPECIAL EDUCATION	489-3388
TRANSPORTATION	489-3700
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	489-3360

Published July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1989

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