

Farmington agrees to role in Eight Mile plan

BY LAIRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Although it only covers roughly a half-mile, count Farmington in to help revitalizing the Eight Mile Road corridor.

The city council passed a resolution Monday affirming it wants to be part of a yet-to-be named non-profit organization concerned with turning the Eight Mile Road stretch into a bustling economic and industrial center.

That's good news to Oakland

County Planning Division representative Deborah Shutt, who gave a slide presentation to the council on the group's objectives. A similar presentation will be given to the Farmington Hills City Council.

"Only a new organization with the sole concern of revitalizing the corridor will give it the attention that is needed," Shutt said to the council.

Farmington will join the organization and will be represented by

Mayor William Hartscock. The city will pay \$500 in dues based on a front footage formula (Farmington Hills, for example, would pay \$6,500 based on the same formula and 6.5 miles of frontage) to help meet a budget of \$30,000. The group has already received a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

"Typically when we get involved in groups such as this we have equal input," Hartscock said. "I'm sure we'll bring some good ideas to the table."

The first phase of the project would include a clean-up, a coordinated police patrol, as well as developing plans for access management, landscaping, signs and transit.

The first phase would cover the initial three years and ideally include 13 communities, three counties and the state in a coordinated effort.

The second phase in the ensuing years would involve converting industrial areas into industri-

al parks as well as having work done around Northland Center and the State Fairgrounds, according to Shutt.

This "vision" is the result of a study, which involved an environmental and marketing scan as well as focus group meetings.

The study found many problems along the corridor stretching across three counties, including an excessive amount of signs, poor lighting, dilapidated buildings and a perception of crime.

That said, Shutt also outlined many of the positives.

She said there's easy access to many freeways (I-275, I-94, I-75 and the Lodge), a strong potential for industrial and economic growth and affordable housing. I-696 has reduced traffic on Eight Mile, but even Shutt sees that as a positive.

"This may create an opportunity for business along the corridor," she said. "Before, people were reluctant to pull off during a traffic rush."

INKWELL

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ALBION VISITORS
Several Farmington students made the trek to Albion College on the college's visitation day Nov. 14. Attending were Nicole Ciaramitaro, a junior at North Farmington; Brian Darold, a jun-

ior at North Farmington; Kendra Brown, a senior at Harrison High; and Barbara Utterback, a senior at Harrison High. Prospective

students and their parents toured the campus, met faculty and students and attended information sessions on academics, special

programs, admissions, financial aid and scholarships.

BUDDIES

Mrs. Kaplan's fifth grade class at Gill Elementary School went to Hudson's at Northland Center where they met their little "Bud-

dies" from Focus Hope Center for Children. After the holiday exhibit at Pinocchio, both groups were treated to lunch.

Pompon

from page 11A

ber \$300. As a result, not every one will be able to attend.

The group will rehearse 1-7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17, at Livonia Churchill High and then depart by bus for the nine-hour journey.

Though some of the choreography needs to be worked out, the outfit will do a cadence to the Fleetwood Mac number and Clinton's election theme "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow."

"It's going to be quite an honor to be there and experience all the excitement," Blazaitis said. "The sport of pompon is getting recognition. It's a year-round sport. Few people realize that."

Members represented 24 cities in the state and are selected from 200 participants who attend summer camps operated by Blazaitis' organization, Mid American Pompon Inc.

Farmington area schools are well-represented on the All Star Team.

Members from Mercy High include: Tracy Winter, grade 12; Tara Rodcliffe, 10; Jessica Dalgler, 10; Amber O'Connell, 12; and Krista Surowiec, 12. Those from Farmington High are: Nicole Abdelmour, 11; Michelle and Lisa Dearing, 12; Sarah Ringstrom, 10; Kristen Seed, 11; and Shannon Anderson, 12.

Kristi Cornwell and Lisa Tomle are both seniors at Harrison High while Leslie Mezur and Jill Harper are both juniors at North Farmington High.

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