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# Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER

## TODAY

**The old stuff:** There are treasures aplenty for shoppers at Hickory Hill Antiques in Farmington. /3A

**Selling of an arena:** Supporters of a proposed ice arena in Farmington Hills will begin selling the idea to voters. /6A

**Ask the people:** A proposal that would allow direct election of Farmington Hills mayors will be decided by the voters in November. /7A

**With dispatch:** Sgt. Joe Rebb, who heads up the Farmington Hills Police Department's dispatch center, was named Officer of the Year by the local Optimist Club. /13A

### OPINION

**On the stump:** The polls will be out for what's being billed as an "old-fashioned political rally" July 2 at Heritage Park. /18A

**Regional approach:** When the sprinklers go on again all over the area, let's think about a new water supplier for metro Detroit. /18A

### SPORTS

**Tracking the stars:** The top area athletes in boys track and field are honored. /1B

**Baseball update:** The North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras continue to have success on the diamond. /1B

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Movies:** Win tickets to see a preview of "Angels in the Outfield," opening Wednesday, July 13. /12B

### SUBURBAN LIFE

**Romantic walks:** The Farmington Garden Club sponsors "Art in the Garden." The event includes a tour of some of the area's most picturesque gardens. /1C

**Poetic license:** Farmington Hills' Trudi (ODElla) Blake, dubbed the ODEmaker, drives an "ODEmobile," with an ODES license. Her work is hanging all around town — and in the Suburban Life section. /1C

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## Plan OK'd; residents dismayed



There were groans of disapproval from the audience Monday, as some Farmington Hills residents voiced their feelings about a controversial development that was approved by the city council.

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington Hills residents said they couldn't believe what they were seeing and hearing.

By a 4-3 vote the Hills City Council approved a special zoning for a shopping center and 180-house development on 92 acres bordered by I-696 on

the south, Middlebelt on the west, 12 Mile on the north and Green Castle subdivision on the east.

"This is uninspired, unimaginative and unsuitable for the area," said Hank Murawski, a Woodcreek subdivision resident.

Several residents, who had opposed the project from the start and pecked

planning commission meetings to say so, said the commission and city council had ignored them.

Sharon Sjein, a resident of nearby Brookhill, said the proponent, Gary Jonna and Jonna Realty Ventures, had shown "no less enthusiasm" for his current proposal than the original plan offered last August that included a retail super store and 250 housing units.

She warned that if the project hit a snag, it might wind up as more dense housing than now planned.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, who along with councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio and councilman Terry Sever

voted against the proposal, said it would increase traffic in an already heavy area and hurt existing businesses in the area.

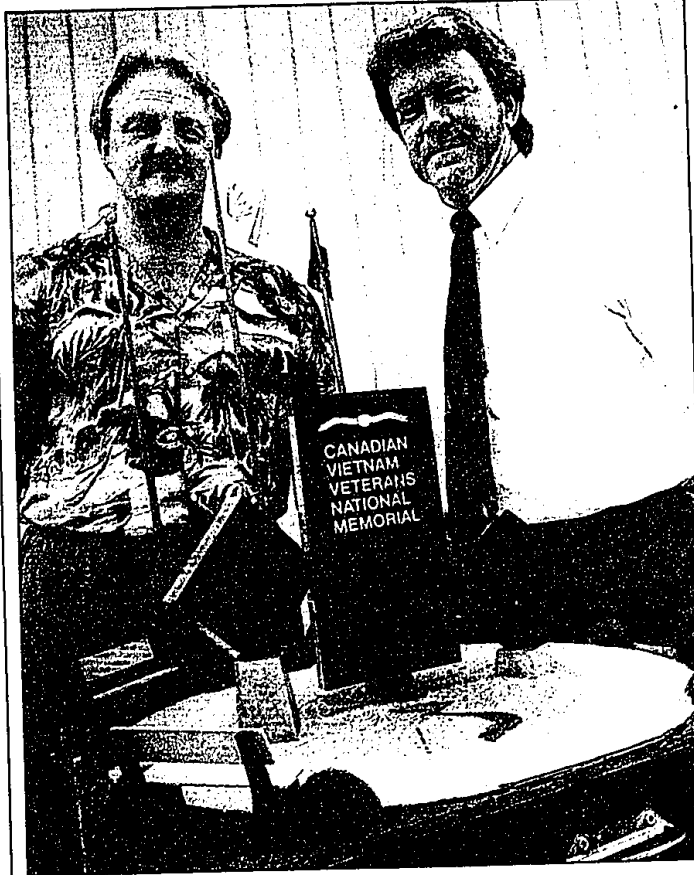
The plan calls for a large supermarket. Vagnozzi said there was no "demand" for more shopping in the area as Jonna had maintained.

"What we don't need is another empty building," he said.

Oliverio said the city did not need more shopping. "We need quality, not quantity," she said.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates, who along with Mayor Larry Lichtman,

See PLAN, 2A



JOHN STOKEMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Remember the Canadians: Ed Johnson (right) and Rick Gidner look over a model of the war memorial that will honor Canadians who participated in the Vietnam War.

## Local man pushes for Canadian memorial

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Their names are in a three-ring binder Ed Johnson carries. They're 113 pencil sketches taken from The Wall in Washington, D.C., that honors those who died in the Vietnam War.

Johnson, a Farmington resident and Vietnam veteran, thinks those names deserve a better place than the vinyl notepad. After all, he said, they are Canadians who died fighting for the United States in Vietnam.

"For every Canadian, they might have saved an American life," Johnson said. "How many lives did they save? We owe them a debt of gratitude."

Johnson formed a group with another Vietnam veteran and retired Southfield police officer, Rick Gidner, called the Michigan Association of Concerned Veterans. Their main cause is to erect a memorial in Canada to honor Canadians who died in Vietnam.

A 15-foot memorial is being built and designed by Chris Reynolds, who is Gidner's brother-in-law. Cost of the monument is estimated at \$111,000.

Johnson and Gidner have traveled to Ottawa, spent their own money and melted their credit cards in the process. To date, they've received \$75 in cash and donated materials.

Nonetheless, the monument is expected to be ready, and a tentative dedication date is set for July 9.

Veteran groups on both sides of the border have voiced their support. Newfoundland Tory Sen. Jack Marshall has taken up the call in Canadian Parliament.

What's the problem?

For one, there's no place for the donated monument. National Capital Commission refused to make land available, stating that Canada was not involved in the war.

See MEMORIAL, 4A

## City seeks millage increase for taxing problem: roads

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Road improvements could be in store for Farmington voters if they approve a 1.6-mill tax increase in November.

Farmington's City Council approved the ballot proposal, 5-0, Monday evening. The question will be on the ballot for the Nov. 1 general election.

"The streets in the city are aging," said city manager Frank Lauboff, who presented the plan to the council on

Monday.

"It has been the policy of the city to replace streets when residents of the local street petition city council for replacement, or when the city manager reports to council that a local street has become unsafe and requires major repairs," Lauboff said. Some 7.36 miles are defined as "major streets" and 26.9 miles are defined as local or residential streets in Farmington.

The city receives state-shared revenues that must be used for maintenance of these roadways.

Using the actual market value of residential homes, a homeowner with a home valued at \$75,000 would pay an additional \$66 annually if the proposal passes. A resident with a \$100,000 home would pay \$80 more per year, and anyone with a \$150,000 home would be charged \$120 annually.

In the past, street repairs have been financed through special assessments to residents, Lauboff said. Other funding has come from state-

shared revenues.

However, these revenues are not expected to keep up with road repair needs over the next several years, Lauboff said. Rising costs of road repairs and replacement will also place a greater burden on Farmington residents if the practice of special assessments is continued as a financing means.

The planning commission has estimated that over the next two years,

See ROAD, 8A

### For kids and pets

The Farmington Founders Festival is coming up — and so are Kids Day and the Festival Pet Show.

The Pet Show, part of Kids Day, begins at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, on the stage of the Showmobile in Farmington's City Park, Shilwassee and Power roads.

Official entry forms containing rules of the event are available at parks and recreation department playgrounds, the children's sections of both branches of the Farmington Community Library, the Chamber of Commerce office, the Farmington Area YMCA, Farmington-area pet and pet supply stores and at the Plaza Veterinary Hospital.

All Pet Show entrants will be given a certificate of participation. Trophies will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in each cat-

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

Entry. Entrants and their pets will be invited to ride on or walk alongside a float in the Festival Parade on Saturday, July 16.

For more information, call Plaza Veterinary at 476-3602.

### About your library

Attention anyone interested in learning more about the Farmington Community Library.

A library orientation program is planned. At the Farmington Hills branch on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads, sessions are planned for 10-10:45 a.m. Saturday, June 25; 7:30-8:15 p.m. Wednesday, July

13, and Monday, July 18.

At the Farmington branch on Liberty Street, sessions are planned for 10-10:45 a.m. Saturday, July 9, 2:15-3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21.

For more information or to register, call the libraries at 653-0300 (Farmington Hills branch) or 474-7770 (Farmington branch).

### Memory Lane

From the June 24, 1954, issue of the Farmington Enterprise:

Omar Sanderson was named chairman of the Farmington Area United Fund and Community Chest campaign for 1954.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21896 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.