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Drake Road Ice Arena Proposal Zoning Turned Down By Council

Hopes for another ice arena proposal for the Farmington area melted away from heat generated by the Farmington Hills planning commission Monday.

A proposal by Bondy Gross to build a twin rink arena at Drake and Freedom Roads was denied a public hearing by the City Council by a narrow 4-3 vote.

Frederick Lichtman, Joan Dudley, Earl Oppenheimer and Margaret Schaeffer voted "no," going along with an earlier planning commission denial of the zoning request.

Gross was asking for an "SP-3" zoning for the 11-acre parcel.

Legal advice at the council hearing indicated the rink could not be built in the special classification.

He then asked for, and was denied, a hearing on which ever zoning classification the planners and attorney felt was necessary to build the rink.

Gross' was the third ice rink proposal in two years for the area beginning with a defeated public rink which lost at the polls in the City of Farmington. This was followed by a private development that failed to get property from the school board at Northwestern and 14 Mile Road.

The rink drew strong support from residents active in the Farmington Hockey Assn.

About 15 members of the association in the audience supported the idea of a Farmington area ice rink, pointing out the teams go as far as Westland and Novi to find ice, and there still isn't space.

"I would like to point out we are not critical of the need for an ice rink, only the location," Mrs. Dudley said.

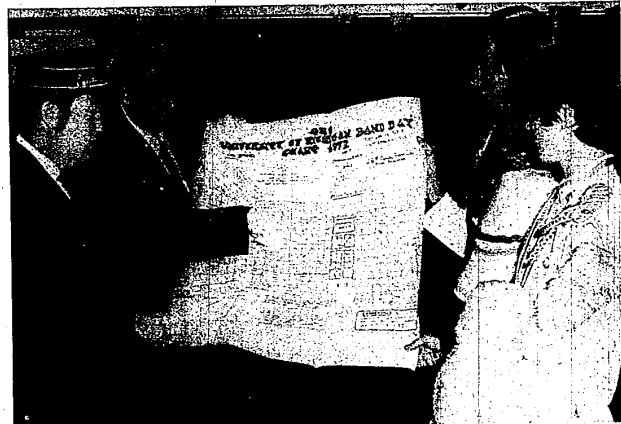
Councilman Lichtman questioned what would happen to the site if the rink failed and the structure was completed in a business zone.

Grace Richardson, representing the planning commission, said in the commission's view the rink would be "spot" zoning in a residential neighborhood.

The suggested site is bounded by Drake park, vacant land zoned residential, a church and the expressway, Gross said.

He said he anticipated spending about \$1 million on the facility.

Asked how he intended to make money, when the defeated city proposal was not expected to generate revenue, he said, "They were wrong - people are driving for miles to ice skate."



GETTING READY for the 25th annual U-M Band Day in Ann Arbor Sept. 29 are (from left) Paul Barber, Douglas MacQueen, Kenneth Notestine and Tom Benesh. (Evert photo)

Circuit Court Trial Set For Fraud Charge

By DAN McCOSH

James Day was bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court Friday on three charges of fraud in the sale of securities for several corporations of which he was president.

Day, a former Farmington resident, waived examination on the charges heard by Judge Michael Hand in Farmington's 47th District Court.

The examination leaves the tangled remains of Day's Southfield-based financial empire still unraveled.

The criminal charges have apparently temporarily prevented a bankruptcy proceeding according to one group of stockholders.

Day is charged with two violations of the state uniform securities act: failure to provide investors with information about their security purchases and sale of non-exempt securities.

Both are felonies with a possible three-year sentence.

In addition he is charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, a 10-year felony.

The charges stemmed from the alleged practice of Day in using proceeds of current sales of securities to pay interest and dividends on prior investments, according to a cease and desist order issued by the State Department of Commerce.

Day was active as president of several corporations named in the charges, including First American Security Corp. (formerly First American Corp.) of Southfield; Security Group Inc., Michigan Funds Corp. and First American Corp. (formerly First American Discount Corp. and American Funding Corp.)

Day was active in Farmington business circles, and the list of complainants includes more than 40 investors, many prominent names in the Farmington business community.

The state bureau alleges Day sold about \$1.67 million worth of unregistered securities over the past 12 years.

The investments in the complaint totaled in excess of \$50,000, with the prosecutor's office expecting claims to eventually rise to \$1 million.

The state securities bureau is still attempting to determine the remaining assets of the company.

At the examination, Judge Hand heard testimony from Donald Gunn, from the state securities bureau, that the corporate ledgers were incomplete, with receipts unposted, during a preliminary investigation by the bureau.

Asst. Prosecutor Peter Keehan called only one witness, Dr. Edwin Blumberg, to the stand, before the hearing was ended with a motion by the defense to waive the remainder of the examination.

Harrison, North Go To Band Day

The Harrison and North Farmington marching bands will arrive in Ann Arbor early in the morning Sept. 29 to perform at the 25th annual

Band Day at the University of Michigan.

Band Directors R. Paul Barber and Douglas MacQueen will field a total of 190 bandmen from Farmington.

To celebrate the silver anniversary, 150 high school bands will present a colorful spectacle in the Ann Arbor stadium.

The U-M marching band will accompany 1,500 twirlers

on the field while playing "Everything is Beautiful."

Other tunes featured will be "Theme from the Summer of '42" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Offices To Be Built

Outlot 'D' Rezoned

The tenaciousness of former Wood Creek President David Goldman was appreciated, but not duplicated, by Farmington Hills Council members Monday.

They agreed to enter into a consent judgment with developer Paul Inman and allow the development of an office complex on Northwestern Highway on "outlot D," ending a 10-year controversy over the zoning of the area.

Members of the council argued they would probably lose an appeal of a recent Oakland County Circuit Court decision which ruled residential zoning in the area unconstitutional. They agreed a consent judgment would allow greater control over the development than an appeal.

Goldman argued the case for 200 petitioners from the Wood Creek area, opposed to the change.

He had previously addressed a letter to the council which stated the council promised to appeal the decision.

Mayor Robert McConnell played a tape of the meeting being questioned, adding "There will be no Watergate in Farmington Hills." The tape indicated no such commitment had been made.

"We appreciate Mr. Goldman's arguments," Councilman Margaret Schaeffer said, "but this is not a rezoning - the case was decided on the facts in court before we became a city."

Inman plans three office buildings on the site next to his food brokerage office on Northwestern.

The zoning case stretches back nearly 10 years and became a focal point of the politics of Wood Creek, making and breaking the careers of several local politicians.

Goldman was elected mainly because of his strong stand on the issue, citing what he called the "domino theory," threatening the totally residential zoning of the former village.

Wood Creek became part of the City of Farmington Hills when the charter was adopted.

PR Seminar Is Scheduled

The postponed session of the Observer Newspapers' first annual publicity-press relations seminar will be held Wednesday (tonight) in the new Observer building at 3625 Schoolcraft in Livonia. It is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads.

Originally scheduled for Sept. 12, the initial seminar program had to be set back two weeks because of circumstances over which the Observer news staff had no control but which resulted in the building being closed at 7 p.m.

Tonight's session is for all of those who registered for Sept. 12 and were notified by phone of the postponement.

A third seminar has been arranged for Thursday, Oct. 11. It will be staged for all of those who registered previously but had to be turned down because the quota of 75 for each session had been reached.

More than 80 are expected to attend each of the two remaining meetings.

Last Wednesday's session drew high praise from the 65 attending. Each was pleased with the excellent manner the three panels explained how to get news and pictures published in the seven Observer newspapers.

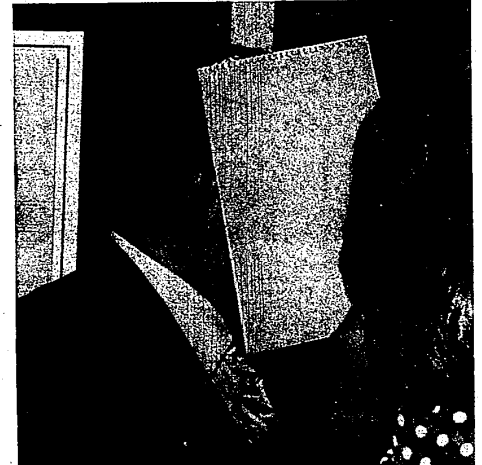
News Editor Tim Richard

and Chief Photographer Robert Woodring were in charge of the panel dealing with pictures. Life section and Church Editor Margaret Miller and Southfield Life section Editor Loraine McCluskey handled the second panel meeting which discussed news for the women's, church, entertainment and sports sections. The third group heard Executive Editor R.T. Thompson and Assistant News Editor Fred DeLano tell of the deadlines and ways to get news to individual editors.

Emory Daniels, Dan McCosh, Steve Barnaby and Charles Varkoly, who are in charge of the Southfield, Farmington, Garden City and Redford editions, joined in the talks.

The registrants were divided into three groups and attended each of the three panels. A social hour was held after the program and gave all a chance to meet and talk with the individual editors.

Tonight's seminar will follow the same format. All attending are urged to register at the main entrance (at the flagpole) and then go to the cafeteria where all will be welcomed. The registrants will be divided into three groups and then guided to the three meeting rooms.



JAMES DAY hid his face from a cameraman as he entered the Farmington District courtroom Friday. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

Industrial Subsidy Investigated

Farmington Hills is investigating a subsidy for White Motor Corp. via tax-exempt municipal bond financing, Mayor Robert McConnell told the council Monday.

The company recently purchased the former Star Cutter property, a 24-acre industrial site which housed Farmington's biggest employer.

White plans an engineering research center, moving about 80 employees from Sterling Heights and Torrance, Calif.

McConnell said the company paid approximately \$1 million for the property, and plans approximately another \$1 million in improvements.

He said the industrial development committee was discussing the possibility of helping finance the White move by the sale of revenue bonds, using the city's tax-exempt status but not obligating the city's credit.

A meeting with corporate officials and the city council was slated for the next regular council meeting.



MRS. SYLVIA BROWN of Farmington was presented the United Foundation speaker bureau's "Demmy" award by R. Bates Feinell, rector of the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, has traveled through the metropolitan area giving speeches on the Torch Drive. The United Foundation's drive begins Oct. 16 with a goal of \$34 million.

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