

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## City carving out federal money plans

In hopes of obtaining \$40,000 in community development block grant funds, the Farmington City Council approved a four-point program at this week's council meeting.

Oakland County will make the final determination as to how much money is needed to pay for the program, said City Manager Robert Deadman. The county is the agency through which the funds are filtered from the federal government.

The program includes interest reduction supplements for home renovations, local street and road repairs, implementation of the downtown improvement plan and the senior citizen special cab service.

Since formulation of the preliminary plan for use of the 1976-77 community development funding, further study and citizen input have brought forward two additional areas of improvement which merit attention in distribution of these funds," said Deadman in his report to city council.

The original plan had included street improvement and central business district improvement implementation.

The interest reduction supplement would aid individuals in the city who need to renovate their homes but are unable to afford the entire cost.

In order to encourage renovation of these homes, the city would offer any qualified homeowner a payment of part of the interest costs on a home improvement loan obtained through a local lending institution," said Deadman.

The amount of the city's supplement on these loans would depend upon the amount of the family income of the homeowner. In no case would the homeowner have to pay more than six per cent or less than three per cent interest on the loan.

Market interest rates for this type of loan, said Deadman, range from 12 to 13 per cent. Funding of \$8,000 for this program would supplement between \$25,000 and \$35,000 of home renovation in the city.

IN ANOTHER move to avoid blight, the plan would give approximately \$13,000 towards local street and road repair. The repairs would be in older subdivisions where the roads need repair.

The costs of these repairs have risen dramatically for the past several years and the funds available through local taxing haven't kept pace with the amount of work to be done," Deadman said.

Deadman admitted that the funds would represent only a small part of the work that needs to be done.

In anticipation that a study of the downtown business district will suggest needed improvement, the council has approved approximately \$14,000 of the funds towards improvement, he said.

Among areas to be considered are increased public parking, improved public lighting, area beautification, improved vehicle and pedestrian patterns, improvements to commercial

buildings that have historical significance and improvements to public utilities.

"The purpose of the study was to determine that our central business district will still be a viable place to conduct business in light of the recent construction of several neighborhood and major shopping centers in the area," said Deadman.

Because of the success of the senior citizen cab program, the council will allocate approximately \$2,000 to it, he said.

The present program allows any person over the age of 62 to travel anywhere in the city limits for 50 cents. The city pays the difference between the 50 cents that the senior citizen pays and the actual cab fare.

At this week's meeting the council increased the scope of the program to include physically impaired persons. These people would have to be physically able to use a standard cab for transportation because the cabs presently used don't have facilities for special equipment, which some physically impaired would need.

This program, which started with much less than 100 riders a month, now exceeds three times that many," said Deadman. "The service has proved to be a very successful and worthwhile program. However, with the increased ridership on this service, the city's contribution to the program has now reached the point that it is costing close to \$2,000 a year."



Girl Scout Ann Mather checks out the switch tree in front of City of Farmington City Hall. (Staff photo)

## Van Ameyde retirement planned for next year

After 19 years of service to the Farmington School District, Superintendent Marvyn Van Ameyde has announced he will retire when his contract expires next July.

Van Ameyde, 61, who has served Michigan schools for 40 years at every level of education, made the announcement at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting. After a private conference in his office with the school board, Van Ameyde returned to the meeting room and read his letter of resignation.

"The superintendent of schools wishes to thank the board of education for offering him a new contract for the years 1976-1979," he said in his letter.

"But after 40 years—37 years in administration—I am tired and would like to rest for a while," he said. "When the school board offered me another contract, I began to think

Since many of my goals are accomplished, I thought it would be the best time to retire."

"I AM LEAVING with one year left on union contracts so we can expect a year of peace and continued instruction and while looking for a new superintendent without any major disruption," he continued.

"The assistant superintendents have a new three-year contract so they can give the district the attention it needs. Both these conditions make it a good time for me to leave."

Van Ameyde came to the Farmington schools in 1957 as assistant superintendent of instruction. He worked at that post until 1972, when he took over the reins of superintendent from Rod Smith.

Prior to coming to Farmington he was principal of Southfield High School. He was a professor of education

at Eastern Michigan University where he earned his bachelor's degree. He received his masters degree from Wayne State University and worked on advanced studies at the University of Michigan.

"I can look back over my years as superintendent and say I am proud of the support of the community by parent participation in school activities. I think this was an important development during my tenure as superintendent."

"I am also proud of the fact that our instructional program is envied by other districts and systems in the state as well as the nation."

And that's what this business is all about," he said. "Those two accomplishments I am particularly pleased of, and I can leave knowing the district is in a good position instructionally."

## Yuletide greetings

Girl Scout Ann Mather checks out the switch tree in front of City of Farmington City Hall. (Staff photo)

## Farmington cab service extended to hospital

After an in-depth study of senior citizen cab service in the City of Farmington, the city council has voted to continue and expand the cab service to include persons with physical disabilities.

The service, previously operating primarily within the City of Farmington, now will include transportation to Botkford Hospital emergency room, located in Farmington Hills. The taxi service also transports residents to the Farmington Community Center in the Hills. The new service begins today, Thursday.

UNDER THE PRESENT system

senior citizens are charged 50 cents a ride, with the city picking up the remainder of the tab.

We believe the senior special has provided mobility for our community's senior citizens," Deadman told city fathers in a report this week. "The effectiveness and desirability of the program speak well for the service as the ridership has steadily grown since its inception."

In a previous survey, the city administration estimated three to five riders a day for cab use. But in May the cab service averaged 11 riders a day, with a total of 327 riders that month, according to Deadman.

We reported to council that the sen-

ior citizens cab service would cost approximately \$200 a year to operate.

With the growing ridership we believe the cab service would cost approximately \$2,000 a year using the present guidelines for eligibility as a gauge in determining these estimated costs," said Deadman.

The administration recommended the service to Botkford after conducting their survey and entering with Kern Foster, owner of the Suburban Charter Cab Company, and operator of the senior special.

We believe that requests to go to the hospital are infrequent yet are es-

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## Goodfellows seek Christmas aids

The Farmington area Goodfellows will be hitting the streets on Friday, Dec. 5 to raise funds so every family has a merry Christmas.

While Goodfellow officials expect to aid more than 200 persons during this year's drive, volunteers are needed to make it a successful drive. Selling newspapers is only the beginning. Volunteers contact Dick Tupper at 474-5771.

INVESTIGATORS ARE needed to determine the specific needs of families, including number of children, ages, dress sizes and shirt sizes. Also needed are persons to deliver the toy boxes and food baskets. Distribution

day will be Saturday, Dec. 20 at 8 a.m.

Persons also are needed to dress dolls. Dolls are furnished but the clothing must be either handmade or purchased by dressers. Aid is needed in shipping and cleaning the dolls and other toys which are donated through the Toys for Tots program.

Shirts and dresses are donated and must be sized and put in plastic bags. Packing of each dress and shirt must be according to required size. Each family to be helped will have a form giving all information required to pack the toy box. Packers will select the toys and other items as indicated by number of children and ages. Help is needed in contacting churches, schools and other sources to provide the toys.

RECORDS MUST BE kept on the basic information used. A cross-reference is kept in case of lost forms. Letters need to be written for various items. Thank-you letters also are sent to those who have donated items and trucks.

For those who are able to knit and crochet, volunteers are needed to make mittens, hats and scarves to be given to needy children.

Especially needed are items for school-age children.

Scraps of yarn are needed to be given to interested senior citizens who are active in this work.

## Nominations sought for 'Man of Year'

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the "Citizen of the Year" award to be presented in January.

This is the sixth year the award will be given.

Nominations must be filed or postmarked by Jan. 15, 1976, according to Chamber Executive Director Ed Lane.

There isn't any limitation on the nominee's age, sex or residency. A man or woman in any field may be nominated and nominees aren't required to live in the Farmington area. But they must have contributed outstanding service to the Farmington community.

From the field of candidates a screening committee selected by the Chamber will pick the top three nominees and the winner will be chosen by the Chamber's board of directors. The person selected will be honored at the Chamber's annual meeting in January.

"It is our hope that this award will spotlight community activity and serve as a challenge to all the community minded citizens," said Lane.

Nominating forms are available at the Chamber office, 22715 Farmington Rd. Completed forms may be brought to the office or mailed to Chamber office, P.O. Box 15, 23715 Farmington Rd., Farmington, Mich. 48024.

## Students aid Goodfellows

Farmington High School is holding a canned goods drive Dec. 15 for the benefit of the Goodfellows Christmas food distribution.

Chairman Claire Wingard said sophomores, juniors and seniors will compete to collect the most cans. The canned goods should be fresh and in good condition.

The Farmington Goodfellows will distribute the cans to needy families.

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