

Brush fires abound

Farmington Hills volunteer firefighter Roger Kemicky extinguishes what remained of a small brush fire which erupted late Monday afternoon on Farmington Road near Thirteen Mile. Fire officials cautioned residents to exercise care in disposing of matches, smoking materials and other flammable substances, as the dry late summer weeks approach. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Goals are within its grasp

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the city council was union contracts.

In May, the city's contract with its municipal employees was approved and ratified for a three year period. This contract contained several increased benefits and a wage adjustment for all union city workers.

But the council and city administrators are having difficulty settling its police officers' union contract. Contract talks for a new police pact are in compulsory arbitration and its last contract just went through litigation.

The result of that circuit court decision was that the city must pay its officers a retroactive cost-of-living adjustment in which the officers will become the highest paid in the state.

City officials say the command officers will negotiate a contract after the patrolmen settle their new pact.

The remodeling of the police department, an addition to city hall and completing the DPW facility were several other issues needing immediate attention by the city.

THE CITY completed the DPW Habstad facility last May after years of waiting out of small and cramped facilities elsewhere in the city and at the county station. Phase one of the police department remodeling has been finished as the records, patrol and traffic bureaus were completed recently. The redesigning of the department's second floor will be included with the addition to city hall slated to begin soon.

In that construction plan, contracts have been awarded to 19 companies and utility installation began in July.

To replace its outgoing finance director, the city council recently hired a 25-year-

old financial expert, who took office in June.

Implementing a master park plan was another major concern of the council and city management. Just last month, the city approved the idea of looking into the potential use of Hills property for community parks. But the idea was approved only after internal conflict among the council members.

The city has agreed to pay out \$33,800 for a 24-month study into the upgrading of its master plan. This study will help the council determine the future use of land within the city's boundaries and is scheduled to be completed by 1978.

A move to combine the Hills and Farmington arts boards into one group was approved, something several board members considered for a long time.

THIS WAS DONE by organizing a Farmington Area Arts Commission and was approved in June.


Senior citizens housing was further down the list of the council's major goals and that move appeared questionable as the Martin Park rezoning issue side the spotlight recently.

The senior citizen group from the area church organization believes that their quest to have the church grounds on Eleven Mile rezoned for a new senior citizens complex will soon be resolved.

One worthwhile result of the council's and city management's 1975 goals has been the survey of senior citizens transportation needs.

This survey was conducted in March by the Department of Public Services and the Farmington Area Recreational Commission. While a summary of those findings are yet to be published, 87 per cent of the 187 seniors polled said they wanted some type of public transportation in the city.

Several other issues of major importance have been considered by the city council and administration, but much still remains to be done in the areas of departmental improvements, public services, social and internal problems and continuing the upgrading of overall city conditions. The council and city government already have accomplished much of what they set out to do seven months ago. Yet they shouldn't stop here because the Farmington Hills community continually is growing and changes must be made to meet that growth.



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Construction sounds are church music

Father Stephen J. Anthony of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 3515 Middle Belt, Farmington Hills, says the sound of hammers outside his window is music to his ears.

After a long wait, construction of the first phase of the planned complex was finally begun this week. At the May groundbreaking, the hope was expressed that the structure would be completed by late summer. But, a number of delays thwarted that dream. However, another approval was gained after the original expired, plans were completed according to city requirements and the stakes were finally placed and excavation started.

The first phase now under construction will include a temporary sanctuary, classrooms and offices. With Vee Associates of Birmingham as the architects and Turner Construction Company the builders.

Father Anthony came to Michigan from California in 1971 to organize the new church which developed through Saints Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church of Detroit.

The small, but very active local group has maintained temporary offices at the Middle Belt site for several years while construction plans have been worked out.

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