

# Farmington Observer

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## Downtown elderly housing passes hurdle

By LYNN ORR

A private development firm's plans to build an elderly housing complex in downtown Farmington got the green light from the Farmington School Board and mixed reactions from residents last week.

The board accepted a \$225,000 offer from Forest City Dillon, Inc., for almost three acres of property, including the old Farmington High School on Thomas Street. The firm proposes to build a 150-unit, mid-rise senior citizen complex on the former school site.

The purchase offer is contingent on rezoning of the land to allow for construction of the complex.

City of Farmington council members received petitions signed by 309 residents supporting the proposed complex, while 95 persons signed peti-

tions calling for additional public hearings on the project.

Council members said the city already has conducted three public hearings regarding zoning changes that would affect the construction of a senior housing complex downtown.

**TWO PUBLIC** hearings were held before the council approved zoning ordinances which allow mid-rise, multi-family construction in the central business district. A third public hearing was held a few weeks ago before the council approved a zoning ordinance particularly for senior citizen housing.

The council also requested the city's planning commission to hold a public hearing when the site plan for the housing complex is considered.

"It appears to me that there has

been plenty of opportunity for any questions in reference to senior citizen housing," Councilman Alton Bennett said.

Mayor Richard Tupper's request for comments from the audience at Monday's meeting failed to elicit a response.

City Mgr. Robert Deadman said that William Dobbs, who submitted the petitions which request additional public hearings, had changed his mind

about the project.

"I TOOK Mr. Dobbs over to the project built by Forest City in Livonia," Deadman said. "And he told me he had changed his mind about the project here in Farmington."

Petitioners requesting additional public hearings expressed concern about federal financing of the project, additional services that might be required of the city, and the community's approval of mid-rise housing.

A questions-and-answers letter prepared by Deadman responded to the concerns. The proposed building would be 54 feet high, 14 feet higher than the old high school on the site, he said. The federal financing aspect of the project guarantees rent subsidy to the elderly residents but does not require low-income housing, he said.

Persons 62 years of age or older, or persons who are physically handicapped and younger than 62 will be eli-

gible to live in the development. All applicants must be capable of independent living and may have an annual income of \$10,000 for one person and \$11,700 for two persons.

The proposed development shouldn't affect taxes or mandate increased city services, Deadman added.

Copies of Deadman's presentation can be picked up at city hall, 23600 Liberty, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## Hills demotes police captain

By LYNN ORR

Farmington Hills Police Capt. Russell Conway failed in his attempt to prevent Hills officials from demoting him to the rank of lieutenant last week.

A police trial board Tuesday found Conway guilty of violating departmental regulations which prohibit recommendation of attorneys to persons who might be involved in criminal prosecution.

Sentencing by the four-person board headed by Police Director John Nichols included demotion to the rank of lieutenant, effective last Wednesday. Conway also will be relieved of command of the detective bureau effective June 19, according to sentencing.

Conway and his attorney, John Lyons, sought an injunction from Circuit Court Judge Steven Andrews to prevent the department from executing sentence until Conway appealed the case.

**JUDGE ANDREWS** Thursday ruled that the department could execute sentencing and that whatever damage

that might occur could be restored by the courts if appeals overturned the trial board's ruling.

Conway will appeal the ruling to an appeal board comprised of three members of the Farmington Hills City Council. Lyons said Conway also has access to appeals of the full council and possible appeals at the circuit court level.

Conway's new position in the department will be executive officer to the commander of the patrolmen's bureau, according to Nichols.

The ruling stemmed from an incident last September, in which a Farmington Hills man alleged that Conway recommended the retention of attorney Harry Rosen. Lt. Richard Niemisto, assisted by P.I. John Hedricks, headed the investigation of the departmental ruling. Hedricks learned of the alleged violation in a casual conversation with the Hills man.

Investigations began in February and ended in April when Conway was presented with formal charges. The police trial board convened two weeks ago and ended deliberations June 6. Sentencing was made public prior to Judge Andrews' rulings.

## Hand is unopposed, as candidates file

Incumbent Judge Michael Hand of the 47th District Court in Farmington will run unopposed for another six-year term of office.

Hand was the only incumbent who failed to get opposition in his bid for another term, as candidates for state and county positions met the filing deadline last week.

Robert Green, a Democrat, of 25720 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington, will oppose state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington), of 23622 Beacon. The men will vie for a two-year term in the

Lansing legislature.

Candidates for the 25th District seat on the Oakland County Commissioners Board are incumbent Republican Robert McConnell, of 30106 Valley Side Drive, Farmington Hills, and Democrat George Montgomery, of 8890 Buffalo Drive, Union Lake.

In the 27th District, two Farmington area candidates will vie for the commission seat, including incumbent Republican John McDonald, of 29912 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington (Continued on Page 2A)



### Observer & Eccentric Color Photo Contest

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Name.....  
\* Phone.....  
\* Address.....  
\* Title of entry(ies).....  
\* Where was it taken?.....  
\* When?.....  
\* Other comments.....  
\* I understand that entries must be original, unpublished work and that Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will not be responsible for return of entries. I have signed releases from individuals appearing in photos available upon request.  
\* Contestant's signature.....  
\* Mail or deliver to: Photo Contest, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Here's a photo focus

Is there life in the suburbs? Observer & Eccentric Newspapers believes there is. That's why we're sponsoring a color photo contest for our readers with the theme, "Life in the Suburbs."

All amateur photographers are invited to enter. Winning color photographs will appear in editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. In addition to duplication, winners will receive gift certificates from World Camera and Sound. The certificates will be for \$100, first prize; \$75, second prize; and \$40, third prize. Three gift certificates of \$10 each will be presented for honorable mention. The certificates will be redeemable at World Camera stores in Birmingham, Avon Township and Livonia.

If you'd like to enter, read on. The rules follow.

The theme is "Life in the Suburbs." All color photographs should be in slide form and should have been taken within the last year (from July, 1977

through July, 1978) in one of the 12 O & E communities.

The contest is open to all amateur photographers, i.e. those who are not employed in photography work or make a living through photography. There is no age limit.

Each contestant may submit two slides. Each slide should be clearly marked with the contestant's name and community.

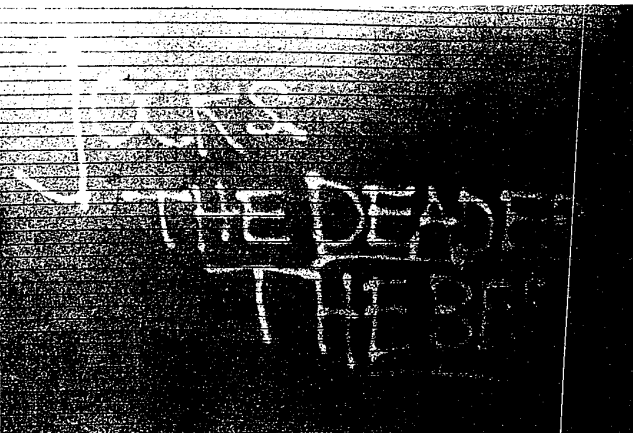
The deadline for receipt of entries is July 31.

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are not responsible for the return of or damage to slides. After the contest, entries may be picked up at the Livonia office, 36251 Schoolcraft.

Photos will be judged by a panel of editors and photographers. Criteria for judging will include composition, originality, how well the subject typifies suburban lifestyle, and how well the slide will reproduce as a color newspaper picture.

Attach the entry blank to your entries.

## Vandals to pay for FHS cleaning bill



This graffiti sprayed on the brick exterior of Farmington High School last week was one of the few printable messages by vandals who defaced the school. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

A group of Farmington High School seniors will pay for their part in vandalizing the high school last week. Det. Ray Lardie of the City of Farmington Public Safety Department arrested two FHS seniors and expects between five-10 other youths to be implicated in the incident. The vandals spray-painted most of the exterior walls of FHS, defacing the building with obscenities and graffiti.

Mark Andrew Hovde, 18, of Farmington Hills, and Bret Stephenson, 17, of Farmington, pleaded guilty Friday afternoon to misdemeanor charges of malicious destruction of property. Judge Michael Hand of the 47th District Court deferred sentencing until investigation of the case is completed, Lardie said.

The vandalism occurred between 10-11 p.m., June 5. Front, back, and side walls of the school were sprayed with paint. Damages are estimated at \$1,500, according to FHS Principal Gerald Potter.

The school district signed warrants for the arrests, Potter said. Those arrested in connection with the incident will not be allowed to take part in graduation ceremonies next week, he added.

If the students have met graduation requirements, they will be able to pick up their diplomas at a later date, he

indicated. The incident is not the first in which the district has agreed to prosecute, Potter explained.

"We're very happy that we got the people involved," he said. "It's going to save the taxpayers a substantial amount of money, because these kids are going to pay for it."

The building was being cleaned Friday afternoon, the last day of school for most seniors. Final examinations are scheduled for next week before commencement exercises at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

### Council meets

Farmington Hills City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m., June 12 in chambers at 31555 Eleven Mile Road.

The council will consider enacting an amendment to the city code requiring connection to the sanitary sewer. It will consider amending the 1977-78 general fund budget to reflect the acquisition of San Marino Golf Course. A flashing light at Drake and Freedom will be considered, also.

There will be a reconsideration of a one-mill drainage levy for the 1978-79 fiscal year.

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### FIREWORKS

The new court rulings concerning fireworks laws have prompted an influx of explosive materials previously unknown in Michigan stores and a quandary for police and fire officials who are attempting to enforce local ordinances. To check out the rules of the incendiary game, see page 2A.