

# Farmington Observer

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## Senior housing plans move one step closer

By LYNN ORR

Farmington Hills City Council took the first step toward construction of a city-owned senior citizen housing complex last week.

The council authorized the housing commission and building authority to select an architect for the design of a senior housing project to be built on land donated to the city last year by Hills resident Ronald Hanaway.

The six-acre site is at the northeast corner of Freedom and Drake roads in the southwest section of the city.

While Councilman Keith Deacon expressed a desire for a public hearing before authorizing any moves concerning the project, Mayor Jan Dolan affirmed that the selection of an architect would not commit the city to a senior citizen housing project.

Council approval of the architect and preliminary plans is required before the next step in the construction process.

The joint recommendations of the housing commission and building authority include construction of an elderly housing, 50 per cent of which would be relegated to one-bedroom units of 550 square feet. The remaining 10 per cent would be divided between two-bedroom units and efficiency units.

HEIGHT and area of the proposed complex have not been determined, but construction costs are projected at \$6 million, including professional fees, insurance, cost of bond issue, interest payments and construction contracts.

Each unit is expected to cost about \$24,000 to build, with a projected number of 250 units. Annual operating costs of the project are estimated at \$70,000, while rental fees would be about \$280 per month.

Both the housing commission and building authority would like that rental figure to be in the area of \$200-250, says Tom Czubiak, chairman of the housing commission.

A monthly rent structure in that area would meet the needs of retirees with an annual household income of less than \$15,000, the report presented to the council indicates.

In addition, discussions with personnel in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) indicate the federal bureau is interested in subsidizing units in completed

projects with moderate rent structures, the report reads.

"It is planned that after completion of the senior housing project, application could be made for federal rent subsidies for at least 50 per cent of the units." Federal subsidy under Section Eight allows a qualified senior citizen to pay 25 per cent of his or her annual income in rent, while HUD pays the remainder of the rental.

**THE PROJECT** is planned for independent senior status, which requires few support services, such as health facilities, to be constructed in the first phase.

"Perhaps the major function of a retirement facility is to serve as a source of security when in the future, this resident may require more and more services as he or she continues to age," the report reads.

Additional support services could be incorporated on the additional 5.3 acres that may be donated to the city, officials say. Hanaway, who gave Farmington Hills the Drake Road site, reportedly indicated that if senior housing were built on the initial six-acre parcel within five years, the remaining acreage would be presented to the city as well.

A third phase of the project might include the addition of nursing beds for use by all residents when necessary, the report reads.

Activity and service programs to be included in the first phase of the project are indoor space for shuffle board and other activities, small indoor spaces for social gatherings, library and reading room, a lounge to include washing machines in an adjoining room, craft and hobby area and general meeting room.

**A NEED** for senior citizen housing in the city was established through projected increases in population; surveys undertaken by the housing commission; and long waiting lists for senior housing projects in Oakland County, according to the report.

Farmington Hills' general population is expected to increase 17 per cent by 1980 including a 38.6 per cent increase in the population of residents 60 years and older.

According to the study, senior citizens 60 years and older in Farmington Hills with annual incomes of less than \$9,000 total 42.6 per cent of the senior population, the study reports.

## Drivers protest parking tickets

An unusually large number of irate motorists are writing letters and making protest phone calls to Farmington's 47th District Court these days.

It seems the drivers are protesting tickets received when they parked their cars in slots reserved for the handicapped. But, according to court administrator Marilyn Duguid, many of the more than 150 persons ticketed in the past two months, just don't obey the rules.

"One woman wanted the ticket excused because she was chattering a handicapped person," Mrs. Duguid explains. But the law is clear, she says.

"If they're going to park in those reserved spots, they must have a permit on the windshield. Once they get the ticket, they just don't understand that a ticket must be processed. If they don't have a valid permit, it would be easier for them not to park there."

And the court would rather have an informed public than the fees accrued from the \$10 parking tickets, she adds.

The number of tickets doled out for illegal parking in the handicapped area is unusually high, Mrs. Duguid says.

Drivers at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills ranks at the top for misuse of the restricted areas. Bill Knapp's restaurant on Grand River near Drake, Franklin Center at Fourteen Mile, Great Scott at Thirteen Mile and Orchard Lake Road, Kmart at Orchard Lake Road south of Fourteen Mile, and both city halls are the other top spots for ticketing, records indicate.

**AND BOTH** Farmington and Farmington Hills police are enforcing the local ordinances designed to reserve handicapped parking areas for those who need them. "Need," Mrs. Duguid says, requires a permit.

Forms are available in the city

clerk's offices of both Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, located respectively on Liberty at Grand River, and Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Applications also are available by writing to the Michigan Department of State, Administrative Services Division, Special Services Section, Lansing 48918.

The applications must be signed by attending physicians and mailed to Lansing for processing. A window sticker will be mailed to the applicant.

A motorist's declaration of assisting a handicapped person just isn't enough, Mrs. Duguid says. Police will ticket all cars parked in restricted areas that lack the valid disabled persons' parking permit, she says.

**THE REVISION** of Michigan's Motor Vehicle Code, in effect since Oct. 1, 1977, makes it illegal for non-handicapped persons to park in parking spaces reserved for physically handicapped persons. Both Farmington and Farmington Hills have effected local ordinances to that effect as well.

State officials project that between 150,000-200,000 people are eligible for special parking privileges. Eligibility requires use of a wheelchair or physical characteristics which limit walking.

To assist persons with valid parking stickers, local officials are attempting to elicit the cooperation of businesses in the area in designating handicapped parking areas.

The Farmington City Council agreed to offer handicapped parking signs at the city's wholesale cost to merchants interested in voluntarily providing restricted areas.

Under a new Michigan law, all parking areas must include handicapped parking areas. The law is not retroactive, however, to include parking lots already constructed.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners recently authorized \$1 million toward road improvement projects. Total cost of the projects in Farmington is estimated at \$32,200.

## Oakland County OKs city road projects

Two of three road projects submitted by the City of Farmington were approved for construction by Oakland County.

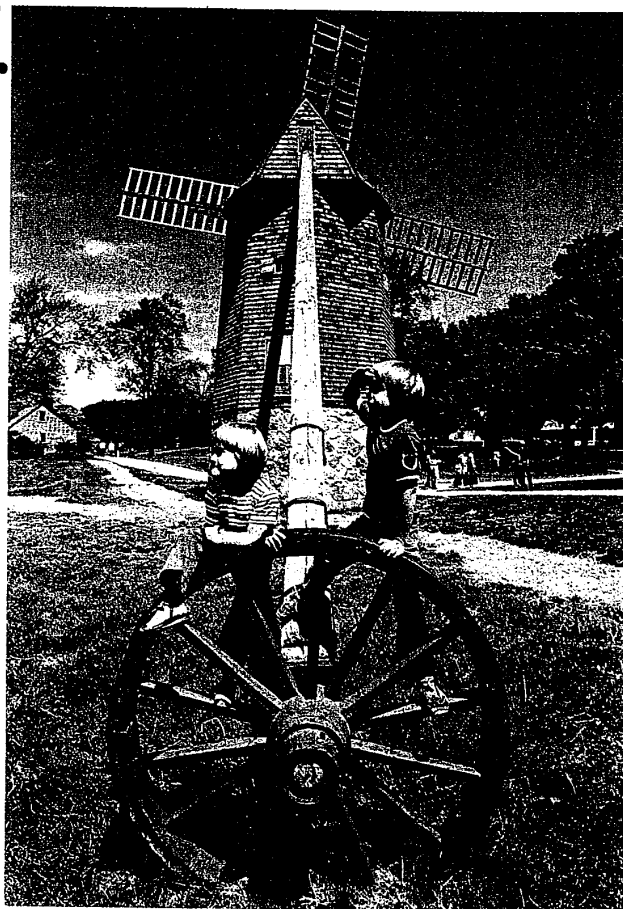
Farmington will be paying a total of \$7,033 as its share to improve the Orchard Lake Road-Shiawassee intersection and a portion of Ten Mile between Orchard Lake Road and Power.

A proposed intersection improvement on Grand River at Nine Mile and Orchard Lake Road was denied by the

county road commission as too costly for the current program.

An approach lane will be added at the Shiawassee intersection while an overlay of the road bed will be constructed on Ten Mile, under the program in which costs are shared by the local community, the county, and the county road commission.

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A wagon wheel and a famed windmill create an historical setting from which Matthew (left) and Scott Opaleski can view Greenfield Village. Like thousands of others before them, the youths were on a tour conducted by a local guide. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

## History, summer jobs mix well for collegians

By KATIE KERWIN

Not every summer job offers a combination of fresh air, constant contact with the public and 300 years of history.

And the college students employed as guides at Greenfield Village seem to enjoy the unusual opportunities their job provides.

Debra Waldron finds being a village guide "totally different" from any other summer job she has had.

"It's fun to work out here and it's a good environment," she said. Miss Waldron, a Farmington Hills resident and a sophomore at Michigan State University, is interested in going into public relations and called her job as a guide "a perfect chance" to get experience in dealing with people.

"The majority of people who come here are very friendly and interested in learning," she said.

Debra Pierce got into the job through a love of history. She said she considers herself lucky, since "all of my friends have jobs as waitresses."

Miss Pierce, who lives in Birmingham, said she too likes meeting the many visitors to Greenfield Village and learning to handle the different situations that arise on the job.

The guides are stationed at the historical buildings throughout the village and rotate a different site each day. They talk to visitors about the background of the building they are in and about the people who lived there, and answer visitors' questions.

"It can be embarrassing when someone stays through about four of your talks," Miss Pierce said. "You try to vary it so you don't sound like a wind-up doll, but it can be hard."

working there and has changed her major at the University of Michigan from English to art history.

"I would like to become a museum curator," she said, adding that her work as a guide influenced her plans.

Miss Rowe, a Farmington Hills resident, said that her dealings as a contact with the public have "brought me out of my shell. I never had public speaking before I came here," she said.

Linda Maifert, another Farmington Hills resident, who signed up on the spur of the moment, hasn't regretted it either. She said she likes working outside and meeting people.

"It's nicer than most summer jobs," she said. Miss Maifert, an Oakland Community College student studying business administration, added that American history is a hobby of hers.

**VISITORS** often like to make kidding remarks about the historical buildings, the guides all noted. What they probably don't realize is their own lack of originality.

(Continued on page 2A)

## Meeting planned in Hills

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL  
31555 Eleven Mile

7:30 p.m., Monday July 24

\*Cost hearing for road improvement in Kendallwood.

\*Cost hearing for sewer improvement in Briar Hills Subdivision.

\*Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee for Citizens Participation in Community Involvement concerning a citizens participation plan.

### Unfinished Business

\*Consideration of request by Coventry Lake Civic Committee to pave Fourteen Mile.

\*Consideration of changing the zoning of land in the Twelve Mile-Drake area from R2C to allow parking and business on the property.

\*Consideration of changing the zoning of 21430 Haggerty and 21260 Haggerty between Eight Mile and Nine Mile from single family residential to office service.

\*Consideration of changing the zoning of land at 22304 Orchard Lake Road between Fink and Rockdale from residential to office service.

\*Consideration of approving contract with Department of State Highways and Transportation for Railing Replacement on six structures on highways I-66 and M-102 in Farmington Hills.

\*Consideration of increasing size of zoning board of appeals.

\*Consideration of awarding contract for purchase of towpath trucks for DPW maintenance.

\*Consideration of executive session to discuss settlement of lawsuit: Gerald C. Beller et al. vs. City of Farmington Hills.

## inside

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Classifieds Sections C, D  
Inside Angles 3A  
Sports Section C  
Suburban Life Section B

### CANDIDATES SPEAK

Democratic state senate incumbent Dan Cooper of Oak Park and primary challenger Doug Ross have been going at it hot and heavy over the last few months. To see how they stand on the views, turn to Page 3A.

**ALL GREENFIELD** Village guides undergo an expensive six-week train-