

## today's hot line

## what's inside

### Housing Action Due

The Farmington Township Board is planning to approve the senior citizen housing ordinance next Monday night and have all its members named to the proposed Housing Commission.

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### Gotta Squawk?

If you have a desire to protest your assessment and need help, the city assessors are planning a special session to answer all questions. The plan is to ease arguments before the annual session of the Board of Review in March.

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### No More Cabs

As an experiment the Farmington City Council has decided to call a moratorium on the issuing of bond plates for taxi cabs. You can learn the reasons on the second front page.

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### Light On Way

Farmington City Council took the first step this week in providing a traffic light at the intersection of Orchard Lake Road and Shiawassee by agreeing to widen the intersection.

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### On Stage

A Farmington resident is on stage in a Detroit theatrical production. The actress has been seen on the Farmington Players stage and has fans in her home town. Who is it?

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### Ladies Skiing

Our ski expert Bill Cameron has an idea for a ladies skiing program. He explains how it could be arranged in today's "Ski Heil!"

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## upcoming

**MICHIGAN'S A WINTER WONDER-LAND** and each year more people discover the fun of skiing and those noisy new machines - snowmobiles. Sunday's issue of your hometown paper will have pictures of local skiers. Watch for it and maybe you'll get some tips on how to spend your leisure time.



## EXTRA TIME-PIECES?

SELL THEM QUICKLY WITH AN EASY-TO-USE  
OBSERVER TWIN-ACTION WANT AD.....

**Observer Want Ads**  
422-0900

# Businessmen Criticize Downtown Zoning Plan

by WYLIE GERDES

More than 100 businessmen and residents overwhelmingly supported the principle of upgrading Farmington's central business district at a public hearing Monday evening, but tempered their feelings with criticism of details.

Farmington's City Council displayed the recommendations of the Downtown Redevelopment Committee (DRC) of the Planning Commission at the council's regular meeting. The principle behind the recommendations won strong support from the standing

room only crowd, but the DRC's specific recommendations were criticized.

The DRC, supported by the planning commission, presented an ordinance establishing a specific zoning classification for a central business district and outlining the types of businesses encouraged and prohibited.

The ordinance did not specify the area to be covered in the zoning.

ON THE URGING of a group of businessmen, the council recessed the hearing on

the ordinance until Feb. 2 to give the DRC an opportunity to meet with the businessmen's group.

Mayor Wilbur V. (Sandy) Brotherton, in presenting the ordinance, said the council wished to hear the general reaction to the proposed ordinance rather than argue about the area to be included in the central business district.

"The ordinance is a consensus of what they (DRC) think is what is needed. It is a consensus of the problems which have been developing in the downtown area," the Mayor said.

The portions of the ordinance criticized most were its delegation of power to the zoning commission and its vagueness.

John M. Clappison, of 36630 Heatherton presented a petition to the council signed by 49 businessmen which asked the council to table the ordinance. The petition said the delegation of the power to approve building or improvement plans to the planning commission may be unconstitutional.

The planning commission "could and would pick and choose the recipients of its favors," the petition said.

IN ADDITION, he said many persons interested in downtown redevelopment were not given sufficient time to study the proposed ordinance. Clappison commented the businessmen's group doesn't question the intent of the council or the DRC.

"Change should occur only after careful study by businessmen and residents effected," Clappison said.

The petition also recommended five businessmen and five residents of the area which might be in the central business zoning be appointed to the DRC. The council rejected

the additions to the Planning Commission subcommittee.

TERRY BRENNAN, an attorney with offices at 33314 Grand River, also criticized the power given to the planning commission under the proposed ordinance.

Brennan, appearing for himself and builder Thomas Duke, said the planning commission could "write a separate ordinance, in essence, each time somebody wants to do something downtown."

The proposed ordinance

Continued on Page 3A



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT -- It doesn't look like much but this Christmas tree in the Farmington home of Mrs. Margaret C. Halava carried out the true meaning of the Christmas season.

(Evert photo)

## An 'Ugly Duckling' Has Moment Of Glory

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

To an evergreen, the high point of the year may be when it becomes a Christmas tree in somebody's home.

Not all evergreens make it. In the woods this year was an ugly, forlorn little scraggle of an evergreen which seemed doomed never to be the focal point of the holidays.

But this little tree made it. First it was the star of the Observer Newspapers Inc. holiday party -- the Odd Ball No. 2.

True, there were scoffers at the party -- those who scorned the little tree with its sparse 18 branches -- those who laughed at the crooked way its limbs grew.

IN FACT, it seemed fitting that the little tree should be given away as the party's booby prize.

It might have been left behind, forgotten, and never have known the glory of standing in a picture window of a private home during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Halava happens to have a picture window in her home in Alta Loma subdivision in Farmington. She placed the little tree in that window.

Because it was a tree with a distinct personality, the ornaments also had to have a distinct personality.

There was only room for five bright balls on the tree, donated by persons at the party who felt compassionate and happy that the little tree had found a home.

MRS. HALAVA augmented the five balls with two reflector lights, the kind that are used to light driveways.

On the floor she placed a high intensity lamp, shining upward through the tree and its sparse branches.

The effect, perhaps not glorious, was startling.

So startling that viewers driving through Alta Loma to look at Christmas displays did

a double take as they passed Mrs. Halava's home.

ONE DRIVER'S double take ran him into the ditch in front of the Halava home. Fortunately no one was hurt, which might have caused the poor little tree to shed some needles in sorrow.

But the brave little tree had its moment of glory -- it was an ugly duckling that took all the harassment and laughing and lived to grace a picture window in the true tradition of Christmas.

Charley Brown would have appreciated the little tree. So would Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer.

Charley and Rudolph know what it is to have a happy ending.

## Dems Hear An Expert On Planning

"Have you escaped the problems of Detroit by living in Farmington?"

This will be the topic of discussion when Harold Black, an expert on urban planning, speaks at the monthly meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club on Thursday evening, Jan. 8 at the first Farmington Savings Bank, Orchard Lake Road near Grand River.

The meeting is set for 8 p.m. The meeting opens the new season with newly elected officers. Re-elected to one-year terms were Chairman Allen Sligher, Vice - Chairman Joanne Smith and Recording Secretary Marilyn Sitron.

The newly elected officers also include Corresponding Secretary Lois Vagnoni, Treasurer Brian Olmsted and Auditor Allen Salhan.

## City Recreation Plan Passes State's First Screening Test

The City of Farmington's application for \$2,500 in state funds to implement a recreational program has passed its first test.

The Enterprise and Observer has learned that the request survived the screening test by the National Resources Commission and was sent along its way for final approval.

This will be part of the \$100 million bond issue that was approved by the voters last fall.

UNDER THE TERMS, each community was asked to submit its plans for recreation and open space along with the request.

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