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Fed rehab grant sought by Hills despite warning of loss of control

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

In a 5-2 split decision, the Farmington Hills City Council has voted to re-enter the federal block grant fray in hopes of coming out \$417,000 to the good.

But to reap the money, the city must submit an application which includes a housing assistance plan. That plan would outline the number of residential units for the elderly, minorities and large families targeted for construction, rehabilitation or rent subsidy.

Voting against the housing plan were council members Donn Wolf and William Lange. Supporting were Mayor Jack Burwell and council members Jan Dolan, Joann Soronen, Charles Williams and Fred Hughes.

Federal approval would gain funds for improvements in storm and sanitary sewers, water lines, streets and sidewalks as well as housing rehabilitation in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

While in past years, the senior citizen/low-income housing application requirements have caused resident dissent, City Manager Larry Savage says little chance exists that this year's application will cause such a stir.

Although the city could place itself in jeopardy if it formally opposed proposed housing projects for Farmington Hills, the prospect of new construction is dim in light of the current economic and housing slump, he said.

HIS CONTENTION was backed up by Assistant City Manager William Costick.

"The question was, what happens if we don't comply? But most communities haven't been able to comply because there aren't many housing programs left, and building is way down," said Costick.

A housing assistance plan will be presented to council on March 22. If it decides to proceed, a public hearing will be held for early April and work on an application will begin.

Last year the city elected to turn down its \$500,000 allocation, making it one of the few non-participating communities in the metro Detroit area.

Lange and Wolf, traditional opponents of federal programs backed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, were anything but appeased by city administrators' assurances.

"The program is too restrictive in terms of allowing the city to do what it wants to," said Lange. "I don't feel the city will have control."

"Some of the money would allegedly go for sidewalks and for the refurbishing of homes that need to be rehabilitated, but there's no guarantee that's how the money will be spent."

The city has to enter a contractual relationship with HUD, which monitors the program. The agreement gives HUD full authority to do what it sees fit, which could mean the establishment of low- and middle-income housing units in Farmington Hills, said Lange.

BUT THE CITY manager's report on this housing assistance shows that requirements have been reduced in recent years.

In 1978 elderly housing requirements were 126 units, while low- and moderate-income units required were 259. But this year the maximum requirement is 90 for elderly and 121 for low income.

"At least 42 of the units should be new construction," according to the report. Another 106 should be rehabilitated and 63 existing units should be leased rental with federal subsidies.

Red Roof suing for flood damage

By Craig Pichura
staff writer

Attorneys for the Red Roof Inn motel chain have filed two lawsuits seeking a minimum of \$3 million for damages and lost revenue caused by the flood of Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Farmington Hills.

The lawsuits — filed in Oakland County Circuit Court and the Michigan State Court of Claims — say city, county and state officials are responsible for the proper damage by failing to construct proper storm drainage in the 10 Mile and Grand River area.

During the flood, waters reached seven feet on the ground floor of the motel. Guests woke up in floating beds during the night before they all were evacuated safely. Some cars in the parking lot were completely submerged.

The rains forced the motel to close 14 months for repair, including all new electrical wiring and telephone lines on the ground level.

The case has been assigned to Oakland Circuit Judge Frederick Zieman. The hearing date has not been set yet.

Farmington Hills' city attorney, Paul Bibeau, told council members Monday night the city was insured but added that city governments are usually immune from prosecution in such cases.

"If we thought that (public officials were immune from paying damages), we wouldn't sue them," said Michael Knapp, attorney for the Columbus-based motel chain.

City officials listed as defendants in the lawsuit are Jody Soronen, mayor of Farmington Hills during the motel's construction; Donn Wolf, mayor at the time of the flood; Thomas Biasseli, city engineer; and R.H. Miller, building supervisor for the city.

COUNTY OFFICIALS named in the lawsuit include David Snyder, chief of the Oakland County Drain Commission; Paul Van Roekel, Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) engineer; Dennis Grylls, director of engineering for the OCRC; and Edward Neubeck, OCRC design squad leader.

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On a wall in parade-organizer Mary O'Leary Dilworth's "Irish Room" is a photo of Notre Dame griddier Joe Rudzinski, whose family joined the Dilworths in forming the Fighting Golebiks (pronounced go-wum-

kies). The Farmington families are neighbors and avid aficionados of both the Fighting Irish and the Green Bay Packers, who count line-backer Paul Rudzinski among their ranks.

St. Patrick's Day Parade marks another great day for the Irish

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

St. Patrick may drive all snakes out of Farmington and Farmington Hills after realizing how many residents are participating in his parade at 2 p.m. Sunday in Detroit.

Detroit Archbishop Edmund Szoka, the grand marshal of the 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, will lead thousands down Woodward Avenue, including an illustrious state of politicians and local marchers from St. Fabian Church, Dunleavy's Pub and Grub, the Village Inn and McBrooks.

In all, more than 5,000 will join forces in bands, novelty and marching units to make Detroit's parade the fourth largest behind Irish processions in New York, Chicago and Boston.

For the first time, St. Fabian's congregations will bid for a trophy by entering a float depicting the Irish Rover's ballad, "The Unicorn." Other firsts include marchers from the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree and a formation of the Moleskin Shrine Temple's white Arabian horses, compliments of Farmington Hills' Grand Commander Gilbert Rice.

Also entering are London, Ontario's Yer Man's Irish Place, the Pioneers Total Abstinence Society, the 1891 North American Junior Champion Michigan Gaels Irish Football Club; Ancient Order of Hibernian floats from Traverse City and Flint; Clowns of America — Alley No. 58; and the Tim O'Haire School of Irish Dancing.

Ken Moriarty Ford of Farmington Hills will preside as parade commentator.

The Rev. Seamus Ryan, fiery pastor

at St. Fabian, finds the whole thing a bit ostentatious.

"I'm supporting my parishioners' efforts, but I'll be too busy to attend the parade," said Ryan who claims he came over from County Tipperary 25 years ago as a missionary "to convert the Americans."

"I have a lot of other things to do besides go parading. In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is more of a religious celebration. But they're being Americanized. The pubs are open now and some parades are creeping in."

BEHIND THE SCENES are officers of the parade's sponsoring organization, the United Irish Societies, which include Farmington residents Mary O'Leary Dilworth and Mike Sullivan, and honorary chairman, Detroit Court-citizen Jack Kelley. Since October, the group has worked to recruit, coordinate, organize and, among other things, find flatbeds for floats.

Ms. Dilworth says all the work is worth it, as does her husband, parade chairman Dan Dilworth.

"We're Irish and we like to do it. I grew up being proud I was Irish — it was part of my upbringing," said Ms. Dilworth, who traces her roots to County Cork.

A member of the national Irish Caucus, Ms. Dilworth had her interest in Irish heritage raised while she was single and working "every place you can name" in Hollywood in the 1960s.

It was Bill Frawley of the 1 Love Lucy show who first took her to Jack

O'Brien's, Hollywood's oldest bar, for "a bucket of suds" when she worked as a production secretary for Desilu Productions.

"It was a hangout for all the old timers — Pat O'Brien, James Cagney, Leo Gorcey of the Dead End Kids, Spanky McFarland of Our Gang, who still wore a brush cut, Clark Gable, Lou Brice, Fanny Brice's brother — a real congenial group."

"You know how it is with the Irish," said the blue-eyed Mrs. Dilworth.

Captured in a picture in the Dilworths' "Irish Room" is a reminder of

those days — a tuxedoed Pat O'Brien who had a big smile for Ms. O'Leary at Hollywood's Deb Star Ball, a make-up artists' extravaganza.

Even having an Italian boss back then couldn't sway her ardor for the Irish.

As secretary for Henry Mancini's lucrative publishing/recording business on Sunset Strip, Ms. O'Leary de-emphasized her boss' ancestry and emphasized that he was married to Ginny O'Connor.

"I darn well saw to it Hank wore some green on St. Patrick's Day," she smiled.

Irish honor St. Patrick with age-old tradition

The Irish extravaganza along Detroit's Woodward Avenue each March rekindles a tradition that dates back to the turn of the century when the Irish community first paid tribute to the Emerald Isle with a parade.

In Detroit, it kind of fell by the wayside when signs went up that said "No Irish Need Apply," said Irish-born Martin Fleming, who served numerous terms as president of the United Irish Societies and the Gaelic League.

"Back in '59, Circuit Judge George Martin thought it would be a good idea to get it going again."

So did about 2,000 others who participated in the parade that year in Dearborn.

"For some reason or another, the greatest wind in the world blew over from Ireland and nearly blew us apart. It rose back with the floats," recalled Fleming, a member of the arrangements committee for Sunday's parade.

The weather was kinder in ensuing years, and a colorful cast of grand marshals took turns gracing the day including the Irish Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin Robert Briscoe; Irish Prime Minister Jack Lynch; Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh; Detroit Police Superintendent Edwin Morgan; 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand; Court Clerk James Killeen, and State Court of Appeals Judge Vincent Brennan.

Mouth is the playground of the mind

By Craig Pichura
staff writer

Our mouths have a mind of their own.

Remember when you last lost a tooth? No matter how hard you tried not to, your tongue just had to explore that hole again and again.

Dr. Jeffrey Kottler, a psychologist and director of the Huron Valley Counseling Service in Farmington Hills and a resident of the city, has just written a book called "Mouthing Off." It examines all types of oral behavior, their causes and various treatments for excessive oral habits.

The idea for the book came about, Kottler says, when he was sitting in an

airport terminal, killing time, waiting for a connecting flight.

"For the past few hours I had been alternating between taking cautious sips of hot coffee, blowing controlled bubbles from a wad of gum (it was trying not to smoke) and occasionally biting my nails," Kottler writes in the introduction.

"I broke the monotonous ritual by retreating to those neon-lighted machines that kept urging me to sample their gummy taste treats. Baby Ruth bars. Potato chips. Peanuts. Ice cream sandwiches. Cokes. Chewing gum. How frustrating to have but one mouth!"

THE BOOK is not a self-help book, Kottler maintains.

"It's an attempt to find out why we have such problems with our oral urges," Kottler says.

He recognizes he's not the first psychologist to explain the human preoccupation with the mouth. Sigmund Freud had a field day with the subject.

Parodying the Freudian approach, Kottler says in the book that he can save you money and tell you what Freud would say about your compulsive urge to chew pencil erasers or smoke cigarettes.

"The needs for oral gratification you faced as a child were never adequately met," the Freudians would say, says Kottler.

"Today, you may attribute your sense of insecurity, inadequacy and pessimism to the unsatisfied needs

for oral stimulation remaining from your childhood."

Kottler says this is highfalutin hokum and little help to anyone who really wants to change behavior.

"Blame your parents, your older sibling, your grandmother, the milkman — whomever," he says. "Now you don't have to do anything to change."

But many people Kottler encounters in his practice have an oral habit they'd like to lose.

He includes himself. A junk-food junkie, Kottler has learned to curb his appetite for burgers and fries and hot apple pies. A chronic nail-biter, Kottler says he still bites his nails but does it

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