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Cities eye future with less federal aid

Cutbacks hamper expansion plans

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The slashing of federal and state funding as well as the weakened buying power of taxpayers and businesses made for the biggest headaches for Farmington Hills administrators in 1982.

Cutbacks have delayed road and storm drain improvements, sidewalk construction, the expansion of the Farmington Hills Police Department facility and public works improvements.

Progress has been further hampered because predicted growth either hasn't occurred, or has been put in doubt, said Assistant City Manager William Costick, looking back on 1982.

"The city staff and council are concerned every day about people's ability to pay, and about increasing unemployment. We don't want to bite off more than we can chew, yet at the same time we have to preserve our ability to provide central services."

"It's finding that balance that can be difficult," he said.

Particularly trying was putting the budget together, added Costick.

"The problem is not knowing what to anticipate with respect to the budget. We've been unsure of revenues, so we've been cautious about incurring large expenses."

Dwindling federal transportation and state general operating revenue have taken their toll on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads — "our two biggest major road needs," he said.

Severe cutbacks in federal funding has nearly halted the Oakland County road program. Both 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads are county roads.

"For a growing community, that's a problem. It means we'll have to more carefully plan our road improvements," Costick said.

In 1983, the city will devise a master plan to expand 12 Mile to five lanes and to construct an additional I-696-12 Mile interchange somewhere between Farmington Road and the I-275 ramp. Another freeway interchange has long been recommended in state and county traffic studies.

THE INTEREST and input of a "very good, conscientious City Council," however, has helped Farmington



William Costick
Assistant City Manager

Hills realize some major goals in 1982, Costick said.

The city has:

- Enacted a cable television ordinance and awarded a franchise to Metrovision Inc. of Atlanta, Ga. in cooperation with Novi and Farmington.
- It's projected that by the end of 1983, service will be available to most residents and that a citizen's committee will be overseeing local programming.

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Deadman stresses cooperative effort

By Craig Plechura
staff writer

The year 1982 marked the beginning of what Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman hopes is a continuing trend toward cooperation among surrounding city governments in providing city services.

The accomplishment he referred to as a precedent is the cooperative granting of a cable television franchise to Metrovision by city councils in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

"The three communities were able to work closely together in a joint project that was in the best interest of all three communities," Deadman said.

Further, said the city manager, the three communities have gone further than almost any other municipality in the country in establishing an independent commission governing requests for air time on public access channels.

The commission will be able to administer 2 percent of the cable company's revenues — the total estimated to reach between \$8 million and \$15 million annually — to fund public access fare.

Deadman said the commission's responsibility is to make the medium available to special interest groups and civic-minded associations including senior citizens groups, local drama groups, public schools in all three cities, public libraries and local governments.

FARMINGTON IS involved with Novi, Northville and Northville Township in a study to determine if it would be cheaper and more efficient to have a combined emergency medical service provider. Bids are being sought from ambulance firms and the results should be known in the next few months, Deadman said.

The city is also considering a cooperative arrangement with Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township for a joint "enhanced 911 emergency system," which Deadman said would provide access to computer information banks.

Under such a sophisticated set-up, EMS attendants could call up a patient's medical history during an emergency.

Also being considered is the possibility of sharing detention facilities and



Robert Deadman
City Manager

other aspects of public safety, the city manager said.

But 1982 will probably be best remembered in future years, Deadman, as the year the Warner Mansion opened as the Farmington Historical Museum.

"It was a major accomplishment with a long lasting effect on the community that will be here, hopefully, for an extremely long time," Deadman said.

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Big Boy owner Louis Bashara has found himself in the fray over his restaurant's closing time. Rams Horn owner Gus Kasapis has complained because he must comply with a city ordinance mandating a 1 a.m. closing, as must Bashara.

Closing deadline causes whopper of a problem for local Big Boy

By Craig Plechura
staff writer

The owner of a Big Boy restaurant franchise on Farmington Road, north of Eight Mile in Farmington, will have to close his doors at 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights because the owner of a competing restaurant complained.

Gus Kasapis, owner of the Rams Horn restaurant at 32455 Grand River, accused city officials of "selective enforcement" of a city ordinance barring restaurants located within 150 feet of residential property from staying open past 1 a.m.

Kasapis, who has complied with the ordinance despite repeated efforts to rescind the law, told Farmington City Council members that they were unfairly applying the law by failing to require the Big Boy restaurant to close at 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Councilman Ralph Yoder investigated the matter after Kasapis complained. Yoder found the Big Boy open until as late as 3 a.m. Friday nights (or Saturday morning) and Saturday nights (or Sunday mornings).

Yoder asked fellow council members whether they should allow Kasapis to stay open as late as 3 a.m., as the Big

Boy does, to be consistent. Instead, council members decided to enforce the 1 a.m. curfew at Big Boy too.

"It's not fair to me after 14 years," said Louis Bashara, owner of the Farmington franchise of Elias Bros. Big Boy. "All of a sudden they want me to comply with this law because this fellow who's only been here three months complains."

Bashara said the city council should allow Kasapis to stay open all night but adds that the Big Boy restaurant has no plans to remain open 24 hours.

Farmington Big Boy manager George Razoog took issue with Kasapis' claim that he wants to stay open after 2 a.m. to get after-bar business because it accounts for 30 percent of his business.

"If he's doing one-third of his business between those hours, he's got a bad operation," Razoog said.

Even at Big Boy, Razoog said, the clientele changes after 10 p.m.

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All ages to fete New Year's Eve in Farmington area

The new year will be ushered in with style in the Farmington area by roller skaters at Bonaventure Skating Center, Greek food lovers at the Honey Tree restaurant, and 5-to-10-year-olds at the Farmington Area YMCA.

Here's a listing of some of the Farmington fun on tap for New Year's Eve 1983:

BE MY GUEST restaurant and bar has slated a New Year's Eve party, featuring for \$15 per couple and \$8 per person a bottle of champagne, party hats and horns and entertainment by Loose Change, a top 40 country western band, from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m.

BOTSFORD INN has planned a special New Year's Eve menu, highlighted by poached Dover sole stuffed with crabmeat and shrimp or a prime rib special for \$13.95, and a roast pork loin

with sweet and sour sauce with apple dressing for \$11.50.

Diners are welcome until 10 p.m.; and may wander into the Coach Room to listen to pianist Dan Burger from 6 to 10 p.m.

Rooms, from \$45 for a double with bath, are still available. CHARLES PLACE features a buffet dinner that includes, for \$55 a couple, fried chicken, shortribs, sauerkraut, cabbage, vegetables and a bottle of champagne for two at midnight.

Reservations are being taken. Entertainment will be offered by Albert Glasier, a "one-man band" who plays top 40 and oldies. Festivities continue until 3:30 a.m.

COL. CLICKERS CHICKEN CLUB offers a full smorgasbord dinner, replete with New York strip and Delmon-

ico steak, fish and chips and Shepherd's pie at 8 p.m.

Diners are included are hot hors d'oeuvres. A \$2 cover charge entitles participants to entertainment by Justin Tyme, a five-piece top 40 band. Complimentary champagne and party favors will be distributed at midnight.

DENNIS SEAFOOD, 74V. EERN is accepting reservations for dinner, and is featuring three specials. Steak and fried shrimp, a half-salad of ribs and fried shrimp, and the seafood platter special all are \$10.95. Any two dinners plus champagne costs \$25.95.

All the "New Year's paraphernalia, and an assortment of noisemakers and hats will be passed out at midnight. Dinner will be served until 12, while partying, entertainment and drinks will last until 2 a.m.

DARLIN' LILLY'S is selling \$30

tickets for its dinner and New Year's continental breakfast. The menu features fillet mignon, prime rib, New York steak, shrimp and scallops and includes a split of champagne, potato, vegetable, rice pilaf, bread and dessert. Seating begins at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served by reservation only at 10:30 p.m. The 2:30 a.m. breakfast features coffee and pastries.

Parties will be entertained by Pam Martin and Pizazz, an easy listening/top 40 dancing group from 9:30 p.m. until 4 a.m. Reservations aren't needed for festivities in the lounge.

DIGGERS CHUCK MUEB'S is planning business as usual, with discounts on champagne if ordered in advance. Reservations for dinner will be taken until midnight. Steak and crab legs and other "top of the line entrees" will be

offered on the menu, printed daily.

Diggers is hoping "enough people will be here for a good party" on its second floor where celebrants will watch the ball fall in Times Square in New York on a wide-screen television and enjoy "the regular hoopla," with free champagne and noisemakers at midnight. Estimated closing time is 2 a.m.

DR. DOODLES restaurant, open until 4 a.m., is accepting dinner reservations for patrons who'll be offered a New York strip steak dinner for two for \$19.95. That includes salad or cole slaw, breadsticks and potato.

Champagne and party favors will be on the house. DUNLEAVY'S PUB AND GRUB will be closed on New Year's Eve.

AT EVERYBODY'S, Auld Lang Syne crooners will be treated to a spaghetti and chicken buffet dinner at 7 p.m. The \$30 tickets per person buy salad, pota-

to, vegetable, bread and butter, an open bar and party favors. Reservations are being taken.

For \$20, those wishing to catch the entertainment supplied by Bulets, a top 40 band, from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m., enjoy an open bar and welcome 1983 with party favors can celebrate at Everybody's.

GINOPOLIS opens its new restaurant at 12 Mile and Middlebelt just in time for New Year's Eve. Diners will be offered New York steak, prime rib and lobster tail until midnight or 1 a.m., and may dance until 4 a.m. to top 40 tunes selected by a disc jockey.

Ginopolis, decorated with handcrafted oak and brass and a Victorian flavor, will increase its seating capacity to 175 from the 80 persons its former site accommodated.

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oral quarrel

You still have chance to tell your resolve

So good readers, you were too busy last week shopping for those last-minute gifts to decide on your New Year's resolve. Sure, a few of you called. (Some people always are prepared.) But we want to hear from many more of you.

For that reason, we are going to re-open last week's question and keep the line open the entire weekend so you

have a chance to respond. Deadline will be noon Monday. That's right, Monday.

The Oral Quarrel question is:

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? DO YOU THINK YOU'LL STICK TO IT THIS YEAR?

To answer Oral Quarrel, call us at 477-5498. Your responses will run in next Thursday's edition.

Wind storm darkens homes

Winds gusting as high as 59 m.p.h. Tuesday afternoon knocked down electrical wires in numerous locations in Farmington and Farmington Hills leaving some homeowners without power for almost 24 hours.

In Oakland County alone, 12,500 Detroit Edison customers were left without electrical service at the peak of the storm shortly after 1 p.m., said Paul Potter, community affairs representative for the power company.

By Wednesday morning, 800 Detroit Edison customers — including dozens of homes in Farmington Hills — were still without power.

The biggest problem locally, Potter said was caused by the failure of a portion of a major electric circuit located

north of Thirteen Mile Road, west of Drake.

Scattered homes throughout the two cities reported power outages, he said, caused by breaks in lines leading to homes.

Poles in Farmington and Farmington Hills report no accidents caused by downed wires and poles.

Wires were down at 29298 Twelve Mile, 28001 Grand River, 28302 Halsted, 28601 Howard and in the vicinity of Halsted and Twelve Mile and Halsted and Grand River.

A pole fell down in front of 2161 Kendallwood and wires were arcing in front of the post office at 32455 Twelve Mile.

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