

# Police yearn for open space

By Joanna Maliszewski  
staff writer

Although providing roomier Farmington Hills police quarters by renovating the empty Middlebelt Elementary School is cheaper, location and energy savings are factors shining favor on building a new department next to city hall for an estimated \$3.2 million.

"It would appear that certainly the staff would prefer this site," said William Costick, assistant city manager, referring to purchasing at least two additional parcels near the city administrative center at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

The two police department improvement options were offered in a study presented to Farmington Hills City Council members last Tuesday by Carl Luckenbach and Robert Ziegeleman Inc., a Birmingham architectural firm. The architects in March were asked to evaluate the department's space needs and determine the quality of four city-suggested improvement plans.

Plans for spending an estimated \$2.5 million for expanding the existing 7,550-square-foot department that's attached to Farmington Hills City Hall are listed in the city's state-required six-year capital improvement plan, designed as a planning tool for future city projects. In the proposed 1983-84 budget, city officials allocated \$1 million as a first installment toward buying an existing facility or building a new one.

ARCHITECTS REJECTED two of the city's four plans including building a new facility directly north of the city offices and purchasing the Alameda School on Power Road and Alameda. Both suggestions failed to meet the architects' minimum requirements for a police department.

According to architects' estimates, the Middlebelt school, on Middlebelt north of Ten Mile Road, which would be purchased for approximately \$410,000 from the Farmington Public School District, would cost about \$3,010,583, including renovation. Building a new department, on the other hand, would cost an estimated \$3,255,513, including the purchase of the additional land.

"The first step is to decide if we're going to seriously consider the school building," Costick said.

That will be done at a special meet-

ing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday when council members adopt the proposed 1983-84 budget and set a tax levy, Costick said. City officials must act quickly on the school building because school district officials are waiting for an answer, Costick said. "It still is no commitment at that point."

If city officials choose building a new department adjacent to city offices, he said, it will be months before any plans are firm because the architects' studies are "only conceptual ideas." Site plans, as well as methods of financing the proposed project would be developed before a final decision is made.

The city's six-year improvement plan suggests providing police with 25,000 square feet of space. But that space can only serve current needs, said Police Chief John Nichols. In a survey of newly built police stations between 1973 and 1978, the national Clearing House for Criminal Justice Planning and Architecture suggests offering 310 square feet per employee, or a total 35,000 to 36,000.

The 34-year-old elementary school offers approximately 41,000 square feet which is about 7,000 square feet more than needed. More exact space requirements could be met by building a new facility, the architects said.

In directing their attention to the Middlebelt school and city hall area, the architects based those choices on certain minimum requirements including location, population growth and sections of the city that request the most police assistance.

FARMINGTON HILLS current population is around 58,000. But the architects said population, based on census studies, will jump to 68,000-78,000 in 20 years. While the city's northwest section appears to have the greatest potential for population growth, when the city reaches full residential capacity both north and south should be fairly equal in the number of residents. So a police station has to be located in the city's center.

But most police assistance calls are received from the city's southeast section. Middlebelt school is located near the southeast section, however, the building is "physically and symbolically separated from the city offices," the architects said.

Sgt. John Kohle sorts through the storage closet in the Farmington Hills Police Department basement. The small room serves as storage quarters for department personnel.

Staff photos by  
Randy Borst



Farmington Hills dispatch personnel are forced to work elbow to elbow in cramped quarters at the station.

## INSIDE ANGLES

**TIM SIPOLS**, a junior at Farmington High School, had his paper, which analyzed the opinions of five authors on Julius Caesar, chosen by the Michigan Classical Conference of College and High School Teachers. Tim was the first "high school" student whose paper was accepted by them. Congratulations Tim.

**BEGINNING JUNE 20** swimming instruction will be offered at the Waterford Oaks Wave Action Pool. Persons age five through adult are invited to participate in the 10-day program. "The Wave Pool offers an excellent instructional site due to the zero to eight foot depth of the pool," said Tom Jackson, Waterford Oaks Parks supervisor, who adds that all swim instructors are certified Red Cross Water Safety Instructors. The waves will not be on during swim lessons. Registration is in progress, with classes limited to 20 students. Fee is \$17.50 per session, per student. For more information, call the Waterford Oaks Wave Action Pool at 858-0918. Waterford Oaks is off Scott Lake Road near Dixie Highway, in Pontiac.

**EDWARD GOEDDE** of Farmington Hills, has been elected to the Tau Beta Pi national engineering honor society at Lawrence Institute of Technology. Students enrolled in the engineering program at LIT, were formally initiated into the society during official ceremonies held recently by the College's Michigan Eta Chapter. Edward was chosen on the basis of his academic merit and had to meet the approval of a screening committee, the LIT engineering faculty, and the national Tau Beta Pi office.

**MARK CHEKAL**, a sophomore at North Farmington High School, spent the weekend in Eastern Michigan University competing in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation International Leadership Seminar. The seminar was sponsored by the Jaycees and Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs. Edward was sponsored by Farmington Hills Junior Women's Club, a member of the federation.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Iris Sanderson Jones, travel editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, who was re-elected to the position of president of the Midwest Travel Writers Association. The MTWA is the oldest professional travel writers association in the United States, founded in 1931.

**DAVID C. DEMKO**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Demko of Farmington Hills, has been elected to the Kalamazoo College Delta of Michigan chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Phi Beta Kappa membership is based on distinguished academic performance in the liberal arts. The national organization was founded in 1776, making it the oldest academic honor society in the country.

**THIS SUMMER** youngsters from all over Oakland County are expected to participate in a Recreational Activities Day Camp sponsored by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation commission. The program is offered in cooperation with participating Oakland County parks and recreation

departments and is open to boys and girls ages 10-15. Participants will be able to take advantage of activities such as soccer, tennis, golf, bicycle motocross, plus a daily open swim in the Wave Action Pool and rides on the Slidewinder water slide. The sessions are limited to 60 participants, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each session is designed for residents in a county location, so participants must register within their communities. Fee is \$45 per week. Registration begins Monday, June 6. For more information, contact the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission at 858-0906 or local parks and recreation departments.

**PETER BEC**, a safety patrolter and pupil from Woodstock Elementary School, was presented a Concurrent Resolution by Secretary of State Richard Austin. The Automobile Club of Michigan hosted the three-day, expense-paid trip to Lansing for 105 Michigan safety patrolters. They visited two museums, the State Police Academy, Michigan State University, the Governor's executive office and the Capitol. They were also honored at a dinner attended by lawmakers and addressed by Secretary Austin.

**CHERRIE VAILANCOURT** competed in the Michigan National Teen-ager Pageant this past week in the Plymouth Hilton Inn Ballroom. In order to compete the entrants must maintain a "B" average or above in school and be involved in various school and community activities. Cherrie is in the 10th grade at Mercy High School and carries an A average. She just finished working in the school play "The King and I" and is a member of the Forensics Club, French Club, and hopes to become a member of the Mercyrals. She does volunteer work at the Mercy Center and at Marion Oakland West of St. Clair Church. Cherrie has also done some modeling for Saks and hopes to become a professional model.

**HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL BAND** entertained park guests at Cedar Point Sunday, June 5. The 100-member band performed under the direction of Mark Phillips at various locations along the midway. "The performance by the Harrison High School Band is an added treat for our guests," said Jack Aldrich, director of park attractions at Cedar Point. "It's always a fun day for the band members. They enjoy marching along the midway. Afterward, they spend the rest of the day in the park."

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Robert B. Lewis of Farmington Hills who was elected to second three-year terms on the Adrian College Board of Trustees. Robert is a 1955 graduate of Adrian and is a partner in Price Waterhouse and Co. in Detroit. As an Adrian trustee, he is chairman of the finance committee and a member of the audit and executive committees. He formerly served as president of the College's Alumni Board of Directors.

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