

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

Options eyed for cop shop in the Hills

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

How a new proposed police building would be paid for remains unanswered, but Farmington Hills officials will meet with architects, police and other city staff to discuss what type of building is needed to alleviate the current station's space crunch.

A special meeting on the proposed building is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, in the city council chambers. Among the issues that will be discussed at the meeting are the building's size, costs and design and the use of the existing police department building once a new one is built. Council members have been discussing moving some administrative offices into the existing building once the department moves to a new facility.

Currently 108 employees work in the police department building, which is 7,500 square feet in area.

Council on Monday rejected a request by Assistant City Manager William Costick for a resolution contracting with Lockenbach & Ziegler, Birmingham architects, to develop preliminary designs and cost estimates for a new building. Council members wanted to wait until they had determined at the special meeting what type of building should be built and how much should be spent.

"These people are used to building a Lincoln," councilman Charles Williams said. "Can they build a Ford LTD?"

"We have to end up with a functional building with as low a cost as we can," Williams continued. "These architects may not want to build that kind of building."

THE ARCHITECTS in June presented council members with a study showing the city's choices for a new police station between renovating the empty Middlebelt Elementary School and constructing a new facility near the city administrative center at 11

'We have to end up with a functional building with as low a cost as we can.'

— Charles Williams
Hills councilman

11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

But in late June, council members voted 6-1 to forgo buying the empty school on Middlebelt north of 10 Mile.

Even though the school has not yet been sold, city officials are moving ahead with preliminary plans for putting up a new department.

Council members, however, had expressed concern over the architects' original \$3,255,513 estimate for a new building, including the purchase of at least two parcels near city hall. Officials apparently had expected a new facility to cost about \$2.5 million at the most.

But even renovating the empty, 41,000-square-foot school, architects estimated, would cost the city about \$3,010,583. Even though renovating the school is cheaper, location and energy savings appeared to point council members in the direction of a new facility near city hall.

The recently adopted 1983-84 budget does not provide any "new money" for a police building. But after dipping into reserves to balance the budget, the city still will have about \$1.3 million in surplus money that could be used in part to begin paying for a station, Costick said.

Methods of financing, however, will be worked out later after architects develop some preliminary building plans and cost estimates, he said.

"Whatever we pay now can go toward the total plan," Costick said.

According to the assistant city manager, the architects' work on preliminary plans is not expected to exceed \$25,500. If council members approve the proposed contract following the July 26 meeting, the architects will be paid with money from the city's capital improvement fund.



A big day

Children had their own special day Saturday in Farmington City Park. The annual Kid's Day

event drew large crowds to see clowns, demonstrations by the police and fire departments and live animals. Ricky Schwartz (above) shows off his eating skills during the watermelon eating contest.

Science gets new advisor

By Tom Baer
staff writer

If you're an elementary-school teacher with a strong science background, then you may be interested in a recent decision by the Farmington Board of Education.

Sitting in regular session last Monday evening, the board voted unanimously to establish the position of "elementary science consultant" in an attempt to improve its presentation of the subject next term.

The new consultant will work with teachers of students in grades three through five in four Farmington elementary schools.

"Nationally, the teaching of science isn't what it ought to be," said Farmington Superintendent Lew Schulman after the meeting. "Generally speaking, elementary teachers have a general background. Some of them don't know much science."

"Again, speaking very generally, science education isn't what we'd like it to be. We'd like to strengthen and improve it."

The consultant, who will fill a union position, will develop science lesson plans and work with teachers in the classrooms, according to Schulman. "It's not an administrative position at all," he said, "and maybe we shouldn't have used the word consultant. This person's sole job will be to teach kids."

One board member who agreed wholeheartedly with the decision was Trustee Janice Rolnick, a former elementary-school science teacher.

"We found it (teaching elementary science) a problem," she said. "It wasn't equal throughout the district. We're going to try to remedy this with the consultant."

ANOTHER BOARD member, Trustee Emma Makinen, voted for the measure, although she voiced some concerns about "too many layers of people" in the system.

"I'm very supportive of the idea, but I'd like it to be a one-year program

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Public invited to party

In keeping with this year's Farmington Founders' Festival's theme — "Reviving Our Heritage" — the four-day festival will begin a bit earlier with a reception Saturday, July 23, at Farmington's historic Governor Warner Mansion Museum.

"This is the first year the mansion has been involved," said Jean Fox, member of the festival's reception committee. "Here is a chance to have a lovely social evening."

Scheduled 7-9:30 p.m., the reception will feature music of the period (1869-1920) by the Museum Music Guild, directed by Marjorie Mowat, museum tour, hors d'oeuvres offered by committee member Don Adams.

Reservations at \$12.50 a person, \$20 a couple, are required and can be made by calling the Farmington Chamber of Commerce at 474-3440.

"It is open to the public," Fox said. "This certainly is not an exclusive

thing. Because of the food, we are anxious to know who is coming."

But the reception committee has mailed invitations to Gov. James Blanchard, state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Southfield, and state Rep. Sandy Bretherton, R-Farmington. Although official invitations have not been mailed to city leaders, the reception committee "is hoping they will come."

The reception, Fox said, will take place on the mansion's lawn, and valet parking will be available.

School board elects Prutow as president

The gavel changed hands, the women changed places and the Farmington Board of Education had a new presiding officer.

Heleen D. Prutow, who spent the last year as vice president of the seven-member school board, was voted its president last Monday, replacing Janice Rolnick, who'll become a trustee.

"I'm having withdrawal pains already," Rolnick said during a break in the meeting. "I really enjoyed my year as president."

Prutow, whose term expires next year, will serve a one-year term as

president, a position she's held once before.

Replacing Prutow as vice president is Richard J. Inch. Board Secretary Emma Makinen and Treasurer Richard J. Wallace retained their positions in last Monday's election.

The rest of the board, all trustees, includes Susan C. Rennels, recently elected to a four-year term, and James E. McGilincy.

The board will meet next at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the central office, 32500 Shilwassee Road.



Heleen Prutow

oral quarrel

Wanted: questions for future quarrels

Questions, questions, who has the questions?

The Farmington Observer has asked a lot of questions (and received hundreds of answers) in Oral Quarrel since the feature began last September. Usually our staffers come up with the questions. Now the readers get their turn.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

WHAT QUESTIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE FARMINGTON OBSERVER'S ORAL QUARREL FEATURE?

To answer this question, call us at 477-5468. You will have until 1 p.m. Friday to answer. To see what other questions readers want answered, read Monday's Farmington Observer.

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CREATIVE LIVING
REAL ESTATE SECTION

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO AREA REAL ESTATE
IN TODAY'S EDITION OF THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

Protect your child with restraint seat

Botsford Hospital has launched a two-pronged program in conjunction with area police departments to emphasize the importance of using seat belts and child restraint systems.

Infant and toddler seats are being rented on a yearly basis for \$5 and \$12, respectively. Each rental requires a \$10 refundable deposit.

Infant carriers protect children who weigh less than 20 pounds. Toddler seats are for children who can sit up by themselves and weigh up to 40 pounds.

Infant and toddler seats cost anywhere from \$20 to \$40. Interested persons should call Botsford's department

of health promotion and development between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at 471-4001.

"Each year thousands of children are injured or killed in automobile accidents because they are not properly restrained," said Botsford's Shoula Steinfos, director of the department of health promotion and development.

"As a result, auto accidents are the number one killer of children between the ages of birth and 15."

Those applying for the rental will be required to attend a one-half hour edu-

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