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Group home for seniors opens soon

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Douglas and Diane Hayward are moving closer to establishing the first Farmington Hills adult foster care home specifically for the aged.

"We want a place where when you are old you can go," said Douglas Hayward shortly before the Farmington Hills City Council last week approved the proposed licensing of an adult foster care home for the aged at 21819 Middlebelt, the Hayward residence.

"This is not a group home," said City Manager Lawrence Savage. "It is for the aged. They (will) live in a family situation."

Farmington Hills currently has seven adult foster care homes, commonly known as group homes. But unlike the group homes for people 18 years and older who are mentally retarded or physically disabled and unable to live on their own, the Haywards' home would be for senior citizens who are able to care for themselves yet still need some supervision.

Also unlike group homes where supervisors and other staff are hired to operate the facility and care for the clients, the Haywards plan to live in the home and care for the aged residents. Their request is not for a "group" home but for a "family" home with preference in their clientele for the aged as opposed to the mentally or emotionally ill," said William Costick,

assistant city manager, in a report to the city council.

UNDER STATE law, a city council has no authority to disapprove the establishment of an adult foster care home as long as it is located at least 1,500 feet away from another similarly licensed facility, Costick said.

But because the Hayward adult foster care home would be located only about 800 feet away from a licensed group home operated by Hayward's mother, "the only way the new facility could be licensed would be with the specific approval of the city," Costick said.

Instead of flatly denying the Hayward's request in October based on the state requirement, city officials decided to research the issue because "there is a lot of empathy in the community for senior citizen housing," Costick said.

The choice of solutions available boiled down to approving the Hayward's proposed licensing and because such a home is not provided for in the city's zoning ordinances, the Haywards still will have to seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and complete state licensing procedures through the state Department of Social Services before opening their doors.

Taking the ZBA route allows city officials to establish certain require-

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Being thankful

William Kreitmeyer in his own way has made this holiday season a lot more enjoyable for many people who otherwise might have faced a grim time. Many, including Jeffrey Davis, 3, of Farmington

Hills showed their gratitude. To see why Kreitmeyer got this big hug, turn to page 3A.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

State chamber chief beats drum for activism



James Barrett, Michigan's Chamber of Commerce president, came to the Farmington area this week to urge local business people to become more active in the political scene.

Local business leaders should become more actively involved in the legislative and political process in Lansing, according to the president of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce. James Barrett urged that participation during a speech Thursday at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Botsford Inn.

"In many cases, we underestimate our ability and influence," Barrett said. "Typically we hear from businessmen that there is too much regulation in Michigan. We need to take action on these regulatory issues. So your input is needed on these critical business climate issues in Michigan."

Worker's compensation is one important area which needs business involvement, he said. In 1984, the legislature will have to redefine the definition of disability, and many labor groups want the new wording to reflect benefit increases for workers, he said.

"This is important because this definition says who gets on workman's comp and for how long," Barrett explained. "We have come a long way with workman's compensation, but we still have a long way to go before we can make Michigan more competitive with other states."

Possible increases in unemployment

insurance benefits is another issue that needs business involvement.

"What we have to tell the government is that we cannot afford an escalation in these costs," he said. "We need to lay this groundwork now before the government deals with the issue."

To prove his point about involvement, Barrett cited a study conducted in the 1970s by the state chamber.

That study indicated that 70 percent of the voters said an endorsement by a local chamber of commerce would not make a difference in who they voted for, he said.

But 23 percent said a chamber endorsement would have a positive effect on their decision; only 5 percent felt it would carry a negative effect.

"With 1 percent of the public often deciding elections, think of the impact if we have greater involvement," Barrett said. "We do have credibility with the general public."

Business leaders have become more involved in politics, especially during the last few years, he said. In 1976, Barrett said there were only 40 business lobbying groups in Lansing which contributed \$140,000. Now there are at least 250 business political action committees in the state capital with \$3.5 million in contributions.

"In this state I have seen a dramatic increase in political involvement," he said. "Business has come of age politically, and we are dealing with our adversaries. This involvement is going to be good for Michigan, but we still have a long way to go if we compare ourselves with organized labor."

Fund-raiser is a phoney

If you receive a telephone call from members of organizations asking for donations on behalf of the Farmington Department of Public Safety, you are being misled.

"We do not have any connection or affiliation with these people," said Frank Lauboff, deputy director. "The Farmington Police Department does not allow, condone or encourage any of this."

In fact, Lauboff is asking residents and merchants who are contacted by any organizations claiming they represent the Farmington police or fire departments to contact the department.

Although he doesn't think anyone has donated to these organizations, Lauboff said, "A lot of times you don't find out about the people who give. It's the people who have doubts who call the police to find out if the organizations are legitimate."

"Most of them are legal organizations but they represent themselves incorrectly. It is important for people to know we are not represented by these organizations."

Lauboff said most people who have called the department to complain say the impostors ask for donations through a phone call rather than appearing in person at their home or business.

Public braces for phone change

By Neal Haldane
special writer

After the first of the year the telephone will become another household appliance like a toaster or washing machine, said the corporate affairs manager for Michigan Bell.

Norah Martin said phone customers should take that attitude after the official break-up of American Telephone and Telegraph on Jan. 1.

"Michigan Bell will now provide phone service just like Detroit Edison supplies electricity," Martin said. "The telephone will become like any other appliance you plug into the wall." However, unlike a toaster or washing machine, customers do not have to buy a new telephone.

"Instead of leasing the phone from Michigan Bell you will lease it from AT&T Information Systems," she said. "We will automatically continue to bill you for leasing a phone but now we will turn the money over to AT&T Information Systems."

WITH THE breakup, a lot of rumors have surfaced regarding changes in phone services, Martin said. But a lot of things will remain the same.

"Customers will still call Michigan Bell to establish new service or to disconnect," she said. "They will still call us for touch tone service, custom calling or for phone directories. And local service within the same area code will still be provided by Michigan Bell."

But long distance service will have to be provided by a different vendor,

she said. AT&T, Sprint or MCI are three firms supplying long distance service.

"If you don't do anything after the first of the year you will still have long distance service," Martin said. "We will route you through AT&T and continue to bill you until you decide to try another vendor."

For those customers buying new phones, Martin offers a word of caution.

"I suggest, as with any other appliance, that you look for quality," she said. "And if you have any questions about the compatibility of your new phone with your current service call the number at the bottom of your phone bill."

MOST CUSTOMERS should have received the new, thicker phone bills,

Martin said. The new bills separate charges for local service, leasing and long distance.

Even though the bills have gotten bulkier, charges should remain about the same until Michigan Bell is granted a proposed rate hike, Martin said. When the hike is approved, the average phone bill should increase from \$35 a month to \$38.50 a month, she said.

"Basic rates will undoubtedly go up but long distance rates will undoubtedly go down because AT&T used long distance revenues to subsidize local service," Martin said. "So a heavy long distance user may end paying less than before."

To help customers sort out the changes, Michigan Bell has set up a toll-free number to answer questions. The number is 1-800-555-5000.

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