

# Roads lead Farmington's improvements list

Completion of Orchard Lake Road improvements, upgrading local roads and improving the drainage system are the top three priorities of the city of Farmington's six-year capital-improvement program.

The \$7.3-million program was outlined by City Manager Robert Deedman at this week's city council session.

The programs will be paid for through gas and weight tax revenue bonds, special assessment district

bonds, local tax levy and federal and county government revenues.

Programs listed in order of priority are:

• **Major roads** — Between now and 1990 Orchard Lake Road will be widened from two lanes to four or five, from Grand River north to Ten Mile. Farmington Road will be rebuilt north of Shilawasee and Shilawasee and Power will be repaired as needed.

• **Local streets** — Repair the local roads in the major subdivisions of the community.

• **Drain project** — The city of Farmington will participate in a portion of the city of Farmington Hills storm drain project. The Farmington Hills project is the Rouge River drain district. Completion of this project will reduce the incidence of flooding south of 10 Mile by building a retention basin on the Spicer Property, west of Farm-

ington Road and north of Ten Mile. The city's share of the project will be \$500,000.

• **Downtown parking** — A study will be done to determine the role of government in providing enterprise in developing improvements within the district with special emphasis on improvements to the older buildings.

• **Community parks** — The city is in

the process of acquiring a federal grant to be used to make major improvements in the Shilawasee Park. The capital improvement program has been reduced to planning for some additional minor equipment for the two parks.

• **Sidewalk improvements** — The program calls for the installation of sidewalks along the major roads in the city and those areas in which breaks are found in the existing sidewalk system. It is also planned that additional barrier-free ramps will be installed at intersections where there are none.

• **Enhanced 911** — The installation of the police-fire-ambulance telephone system will be coordinated with other communities in Oakland County. Financing will be provided by a county-wide ad valorem tax to implement the system and then the city's general fund will be used to finance the operating costs of the system.

• **Solid waste disposal system** — The council will analyze the community's solid waste disposal needs and decide on whether to participate in the Oakland County waste-to-energy plant.

• **Bike path** — The plan visualizes a bike path in conjunction with Orchard Lake road construction. Also a bike path system would be built either along Nine Mile or Freedom roads, linking the communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills with Southfield to the east and ultimately to the bike path along I-275.

• **Recreational facilities** — Currently, all of the community's indoor recreational needs are being met by use of school buildings or the Mercy Center facility. If the community were unable to use the Mercy Center, another building would have to be found for the senior citizen program. If such a need were to develop, a facility could be built on city-owned property or in cooperation with the city of Farmington Hills at another location.

## Graham lauds academic all-stars

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The selection committee will meet Tuesday, April 2. Selection will be based only on academic scores, except in case of a numerical tie. Then, academic honors and leadership positions will be considered.

Principals serving on the committee are: Rev. Philip Acquaro, Catholic Central; Sister Jean Charney, Marian; Ron Cowden, Garden City; Dr. Gary Faber, West Bloomfield; Don Gaviglio, Troy; Athens; Clayton Graham, North Farmington; Dan Hogan, Southfield; Maryann Kell, Bloomfield Hills; Deborah Wayne Nutter, Clarenceville; and Al Zack, Livonia Franklin.

Committee chairman is Dr. Robert Schramke, Redford Union High School.

THE IDEA of publicizing students for academic achievements in the way students have been honored for sports is Schramke's baby.

He conceived the idea two years ago,

after he had presented some RU students with writing awards and later read in the paper that George Perles had been hired at \$95,000 to coach Michigan State University football.

"I'm an ex-athlete. But I thought, this is not right — the overemphasis on that part of our program."

Prodded by students, to whom he explained the idea, he approached the Detroit Free Press. They agreed to sponsor an Academic All-State Team, based on school size, and an Academic All-City Team — both reportedly the first in the country.

This year, Schramke came to the Observer-Eccentric Newspapers with a similar plan. "You do a super job with athletics," he said. "Why not academics?"

As a result the Observer-Eccentric is the first group of community newspapers to so honor area scholars, Schramke said.

"We're pleased to play a role in recognizing an often overlooked asset of our local schools — academic excellence," said Nick Sharkey, O & E managing editor. "After all, it's the function of our schools to educate our youth. Those students who work hard to excel deserve to be honored in their community."

Locally, Clayton Graham, North Farmington High School principal, applauded the Academic All-State Team idea.

"My initial reaction is that it's always nice to give recognition to those kids who do well in what school is all about," Graham said.

Although Graham said that students who do academically well get recognition in class every day, it's a different type of recognition.

"It's not like there's been a void. But they haven't been getting the same kind of media recognition the athletes get."



Clayton Graham

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