

# Hills council rejects EDC waiver

By Julie Brown  
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council voted unanimously Monday to deny a

request from the Oakland County Economic Development Corporation to waive jurisdiction on the Mercy Care project.

"The city's EDC has recommended

that we not waive jurisdiction," City Manager William Costick told council members. The city's EDC made that recommendation following discussion at its regular meeting Feb. 12.

The board of directors of the Farmington Hills EDC based their recommendation on two factors, Costick said. They were dissatisfied with the county EDC's reasons for requesting the waiver; members also indicated their belief that the city EDC is responsible for funding economic development projects in Farmington Hills.

EDCS GENERALLY exist to attract and retain businesses in their communities. The Farmington Hills EDC has existed since 1970; it was preceded by the local Industrial and Economic Development Commission.

A waiver of jurisdiction would have allowed the county EDC to undertake the financing of the Mercy Care medical office project. The project is being built at a site north of 12 Mile Road on the east side of Orchard Lake Road.

"Apparently, Mercy Center went to the county. The general gist of it is if they go out and file with the county, the city loses revenue," Costick said Tuesday. That revenue is equal to one-half of 1 percent of the total cost up to \$5 million, and one-third of 1 percent beyond \$5 million.

"There wasn't anything that justified why it should be transferred," the city manager said. "There weren't any persuasive reasons."

## Michigan history will be discussed

"Michigan in Perspective," the 27th annual local history conference will be Friday and Saturday, April 12-13 at Wayne State University's McGregor Memorial Conference Center, 495 W. Ferry Mall.

Charles Phillips, director of information services for the American Association for State and Local History and editor of History News, will deliver the "Henry D. Brown Memorial Lecture" on "A Culture at Risk: Who Cares for America's Heritage?" at the April 12 dinner. John Dann, director of the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, will speak at the April 13 luncheon on "The William Clements Library: A National Treasure."

In addition to exhibits sponsored by Michigan book dealers, local historical societies and other organizations, sessions will be devoted on both days to Michigan history. Some of these presentations include "The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Local History," "Canal Building in Early Michigan," "Acadians since 1755," "An Oral History of Kentucky Blacks in Michigan," "An Invitation to Michigan's 150th Anniversary" and "Preservation for Profit."

Presenters are from such institutions as the Michigan Bureau of History, the University of Manitoba, the American General Benevolent Union, the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Windsor Art Gallery and Wayne State.

Registration for the two-day conference is \$3 with students admitted free.

There are also nominal charges for luncheons and dinner.

Further information is available from one of the conference sponsors, WSU's Walter P. Reuther Library at 577-4003.

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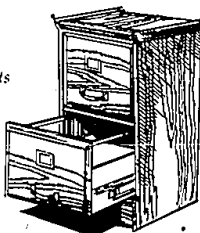
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