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Land use questions keep popping up Developers, Little Caesar's vie for property

By Joanne Mallazawski
staff writer

Spacious offices and a corporate world headquarters that leave room for the existing soccer fields are plans suggested by area developers interested in buying school district property on the corner of 12 Mile and Drake roads in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Board of Education's decision to sell 38.46 acres at 12 Mile and Drake roads — the seven-year home of the Farmington Soccer Club — prompted four purchase offers.

The developers presented their ideas for the land at a meeting Tuesday of the school district's finance committee. Committee members are expected to make a recommendation at the next meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 20. The school board is expected to act on that recommendation following the finance committee meeting.

"We are trying to use this property in the best possible benefit for the community," said Jack Inch, finance committee chairman.

Committed to avoiding an "auction-type" atmosphere over the sale of the property, Superintendent Lewis Schulman told developers they may confidentially adjust the terms of the purchase offers before a decision is made.

While three of the developers proposed office parks similar to those under construction along the 12 Mile commercial corridor, officials for Little

Caesar International proposed moving their existing offices from Haggerly Road to the school site.

Joining Little Caesar's in offering to buy the property are developers Bob Rosen, Jay Eldridge of the Samuelson Development Co. and Mel Rosenbaum for Farmington Partners. The financial terms of each purchase offer were kept confidential and school officials indicated their intention to continue that practice until their final decision is made next Tuesday.

LITTLE CAESAR'S proposal would

'We will review the incorporation or preservation of the soccer program.'

— Charles Jones
Little Caesar's exec

initially include up to an 80,000-square-foot building to house the pizza corporation offices. Owner Mike Illich also plans to include in the proposed headquarters the offices for his other holdings including the Red Wings hockey team, Wendy's and Chuck E. Cheese restaurants, and Olympia Arenas, said Charles Jones, corporate senior vice president.

Plans for the acreage, Jones said, include



Members of the Farmington Soccer Club are waiting to see if they will be looking for a new home after having use of the field for seven years.

Fate of Harger House debated

By Lisa Simon
staff writer

The undecided future of the historic Harger House on Halsted Road, dominated Monday night's emotion-packed public hearing, called by the Farmington Hills City Council.

Settlements for saving the early example of Greek Revival architecture were mixed. Mayor Jan Dolan requested that a solid plan be negotiated by all

involved parties by Oct. 1. The two-hour session depicted the concerns of the varied interest groups involved. They included: several historical organizations, residents of the nearby Hunt Club Estates subdivision, Standard Federal Savings of Troy, and the Farmington Jaycees and Farmington Artist's Club, both large community groups interested in taking over the small property and dilapidated stone house. Approximately 20 concerned citi-

zens made statements before the council.

CITY MANAGER William Costick opened the hearing by reviewing the status of the Harger House. He explained that the subdivision's equestrian theme — which advertised access to horses and riding fields for residents — had proven unmarketable.

The Harger family's antiquated dairy barns and white-fenced riding

area were used briefly by residents, then turned into a now-defunct public stable. The barns have been boarded up and remain unused. House lots have continued to be unsold and of 194 available lots, roughly 70 are spoken for. The Harger House sits on zoned open-space, subdivision land and the future of the building is most relevant to subdivision residents.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Lazy, hazy summer

Soaring temperatures and high humidity are the perfect combination for a stroll through the cool shade of Farmington City Park. Gail Hoffman (center) decided to show her niece and nephew, Paul and Rachel, the sights of the park. The children were visiting the Farmington area from their home in northern Michigan.

Party ordinance gets first trial

By Lisa Simon
staff writer

The first people to get caught breaking the recently instituted Party Ordinance were in Farmington Hills' 47th District Court Monday.

George Sarcevic, 18, and his brother Rod, 17, of 25761 Lynford in Farmington Hills were cited for "operating a house with minors and alcoholic beverages" in connection with a 2 a.m. July 28 incident.

District court Judge Michael J. Hand referred the brothers for a pre-sentence report from the court's probation department. Both pleaded guilty as charged and a court date will be set once the pre-sentence report is filed.

Three other persons were charged with interfering with a police officer and one minor was charged with possession of alcohol stemming from the same incident. Their punishments range from a \$45 fine plus court

charges to a \$70 fine and one-year probation.

NUMEROUS COMPLAINT calls from irate neighbors were received by police early the morning of July 28, according to Farmington Hills police chief, William Dwyer. Persons called, reporting that "there was a very loud party going on, and they suspected that minors were drinking," Dwyer said.

Two police cars were dispatched to the Lynford address. Upon their arriv-

al, police saw approximately 10 males standing on the front lawn, according to Dwyer. It was obvious that drinking was taking place, Dwyer said. "There were beer cans all over the lawn."

Police warned the persons on the lawn, as well as the Sarcevic brothers, that they should disperse from the scene immediately, Dwyer said. Police departed and returned roughly 10 minutes later and found the situation un-

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AIDS watch

Small number of cases show up in county

By Sharon Dargey
and Neal Haldane
staff writers

Oakland County residents who fear they'll contract deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) through blood transfusions or casual contact with victims of the disease can rest easy.

Spokespersons for several health agencies say Michigan residents — and possibly Midwestern populations in general — are less likely to acquire the disease for several reasons. Among them are:

- Fewer persons are exposed to foreign travelers than are New York City and San Francisco residents.
- High risk groups, including homo-

sexual men and drug users, may have taken precautions to avoid the disease after learning about an increasing number of cases on both coasts.

• The American Red Cross in March began screening blood donor samples with what it believes is a reliable test for antibodies linked to AIDS.

"Or maybe we just lucked out," said Dr. Tom Madavan, chief of the infectious disease department at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

"Some physicians feel we will see a huge rash of cases, but we aren't seeing it in the Midwest. We should be seeing more cases. What we have is not high in number compared to the number of drug addicts and the gay population in this area."

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL has treated two AIDS patients. One died. The other currently is under treatment. A spokesperson for William Beaumont Hospital-Troy said no cases have been reported to the facility.

In Oakland County, one case was reported in 1983; eight cases in 1984 and seven cases through July 31 this year. Some 75 cases, about two-thirds of which occurred in the metropolitan Detroit area, have been reported in Michigan this year.

Tom Madavan, of the Oakland County Health Department, said the number of cases in Michigan — as in the rest of

the country — may continue to double each year.

But he added that "the geographic distribution of AIDS correlates with the size of the population of risk groups."

"There's been a lot of concern here in Michigan, but we don't see that many cases."

AIDS, which cripples the body's ability to fight off other diseases, has been more prevalent among drug users and homosexual men than in the general population.

Madavan doubts whether AIDS will become epidemic in the general population. He pointed out that studies by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta indicate health care professionals who treat AIDS victims don't contract the disease.

"That is an encouraging sign. It makes sense, because casual contact does not spread the disease. You don't get it from a handshake," he explained. "If you are careful and practice regular hygiene, the chances are very remote for the general population to come down with AIDS, especially in this area."

THE RISK is equally remote among blood transfusion recipients, according to Dr. A. William Shafer, director of blood services at the American Red Cross southeastern Michigan office.

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