

New beautification group ready for action

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The Farmington Hills Beautification Commission will be officially meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday — its first meeting since its quiet death in 1980.

Newly appointed commission members will meet in the city's administrative offices at the corner of 11 Mile and

Orchard Lake roads. They are: Ellen Abbott, Lincoln Avery, William Blakeney, Kay Blakeney, Connie Elstathou, Betty Frankel, John Grissim, Elaine Gunderson, Mary Ann Koroly, Nancy Passfield, Frank Smith, Bob Van Every, Elsie McKeown and Patricia Bauer.

The commission was revived in July on Mayor Jan Dolan's recommendation

that as the community expands "a well-conceived and purposeful effort" is needed to maintain the area's appearance.

An apparent lack of interest and failure to reappoint commission members when their terms expired led to its earlier demise.

FARMINGTON HILLS City Manager

William Costick acknowledged that no comprehensive plan to beautify the city exists. "It (the commission) could give an added touch and encourage private property owners and the city to make improvements."

The commission will be responsible for developing a communitywide program of beautification and improvement, he said. One of the commission's

goals will be to recognize those who have maintained their property and encourage others to do the same.

A multi-year plan, similar to the city's capital improvements plan, would be helpful in identifying problems on both private and public property as well as those areas that need only minor aesthetic and landscaping improvements, Costick said.

PROJECTS SUGGESTED by Dolan in a report to council include:

- Continuation of beautification and landscaping efforts of commercial buildings along Orchard Lake Road between 12 and 14 Mile roads.
- Continuation of the city's involvement with commercial property owners along Grand River from Eight Mile Road to 16-102, to landscape the median and improve the appearance of the area.
- Initiation of major road beautification and street-scapes plans along major corridors such as 12 Mile Road, Northwestern Highway and sections of Farmington Road.
- Promotion of improvement and beautification projects in industrial park areas, among subdivision associations and at smaller spot commercial areas.
- Identification of community eyesores, both vacant and developed properties, and encouragement of projects of general cleanup and beautification.

City, schools cooperate to light up ballfields

By Joanne Maliszewski
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over the Farmington area's lack of sports facilities.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, the city will provide and pay for a lighting system for two school district ballfields. The first of its kind — between Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public Schools.

"This is the first time this type of extensive agreement has been made," said Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent for the school district. "Quite frankly we are pleased for the community."

Talk of cooperation between the city and schools for improved ball fields began about 1½ years ago, said Eric Wurmmlinger, assistant director for the city's special services department.

The agreement comes at a time when residents have expressed concern

eight years," said Eric Wurmmlinger, assistant director for the city's special services department.

Cooperation between the city and school district is easier and less costly than the city buying land specifically for the construction of new ball fields, Nutter and Wurmmlinger said.

"They don't have a lot of property. But they have a great need to have additional fields for the Slo-Pitch program and some of the baseball programs," Nutter said. "By using lights

we can double the potential for play."

Game parking won't be allowed to interfere with the summer driver's education program, headquartered in the school parking lot.

The city also is required to make improvements to the fields when necessary, such as repairing or replacing fencing, improving the composition of

infields and installing permanent restrooms. Farmington Hills is also responsible for maintenance of the fields and parking area.

Because city officials are in the process of taking bids, Wurmmlinger declined to give estimates for the work. But money has been appropriated from the capital improvements fund to pay for it, he said.

Free school lunch available for needy

When school starts next week, Farmington School District students will be bringing home eligibility applications for free and reduced price meals.

Sponsored by the federal government, the National School Lunch Program is available to elementary, middle and high school students whose families can't afford weekly hot lunch fees, said Michael Howard, district food service supervisor.

"It's a way of giving an adequate lunch," Howard said. "If you don't feed them adequately the rest of the day as far as education is a waste."

In the 1985-86 school year, lunches will cost elementary students \$1.15 a day, middle and high school students will pay \$1.50 a day.

Eligibility for free meals is based on household size and income. The income scale ranges from \$9,165 for a family

of two to \$23,205 for a family of eight. Eligibility for reduced price meals is also based on household size and income. The scale ranges from \$13,043 for a family of two to \$33,923 for a family of eight.

Under the reduced price program, eligible students would pay only 40 cents a meal, Howard said.

Although students will be asked to take home applications for the program, Howard and school principals will be working together to make sure all who would qualify apply, Howard said.

"That way we can be sure the people who should be getting it are," he added.

Farmington Observer
(USPS 167-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Economic Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3589) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

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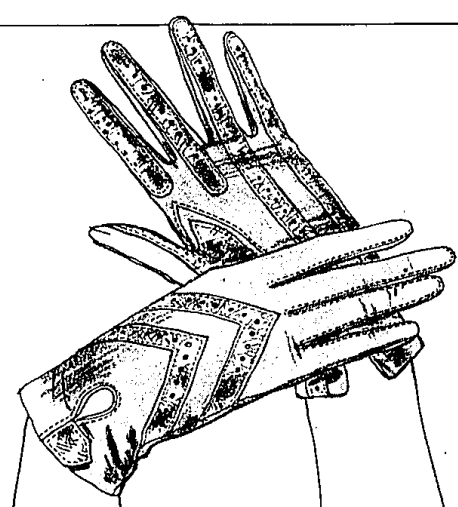
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