



Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 14

Monday, November 25, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

112 Pages

Twenty-five cents

DDA sought for Farmington

For related story, see Page 4A.

By Casey Hana
staff writer

A resolution recommending establishment of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will be presented to the Farmington City Council Monday, Dec. 16.

The 13-member steering committee of the Downtown Farmington Development Committee (DFDC) unanimously approved the resolution Wednesday.

Committee members proposed DDA boundaries around the central business district area, said Harry Wingerter, who chairs the committee and owns the Bon Ton Shoppe in downtown Farmington.

Robert Schultz, administrative aide to the city manager and liaison to the committee, is preparing the resolution and expects council members to call an early January public hearing if they approve the DDA concept.

CITY MANAGER Robert Deadman said he feels the council "will move along at a reasonable pace," possibly making a decision later in January. City council may approve establishment of a DDA by holding a public hearing, then approving an ordinance.

A nine-person committee is proposed for the DDA. Up to 12 members, plus the city's top official, are allowed by law.

The proposal sets DDA boundaries generally at Mayfield on the east, slightly beyond Liberty to the



A view of downtown Farmington, looking west on Grand River, toward Farmington Road.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

west, Slocum on the south and Thomas on the north. It follows current central business district boundaries with one deletion and several additions, Schultz said.

"The area would be reasonably compact" and was considered the "natural downtown area" by the committee. Additions include Burger King restaurant, an office building and parking lot behind the present Farmer Jack, Warren's Corner, R & R factory, the Masonic Temple, businesses on the west side of Liberty, and a small group of businesses on the north side of Grand River. The Farmington Place senior citizens center would be excluded.

THERE WAS discussion of moving the boundary south of Slocum, but it was not approved by the committee, Wingerter said. The committee also reviewed sample bylaws before agreeing on a resolution, Wingerter added. The city council would set DDA bylaws, if approved. A 1975 state act allows a city to establish a DDA with autonomous

decision-making powers relating to public improvements. The latest of a DDA is to promote economic growth, increase property values, bolster the commercial tax base and strengthen ties between merchants in the central business district. A DDA has continuing responsibility to the city.

Please turn to Page 4

Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

IN memoriam. Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Oakland County chapter will conduct a candlelight vigil in remembrance of those killed and injured in alcohol-related crashes. The fourth-annual vigil will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. The program will include the reading of names of victims and the lighting of candles in their memory. The Southfield-LaHarb Madrigals will provide music.

MADD urges everyone to remember that the crime of drunk driving can be eradicated if people learn not to combine drinking and driving. It promotes the "designated driver" — with one person in a party agreeing to stay sober and drive friends home.

If you have a name you'd like read at the candlelight vigil, call MADD: 559-8454.

ON the move. Farmington Hills resident Kathleen Fegley has joined the staff of Michigan Business, Michigan's only statewide business publication. Fegley, who received a communications and business degree from Oakland University in Rochester Hills, was a sales representative for C&G Publishing, covering the Troy market. For Michigan Business, she'll handle southeastern Michigan accounts. The Southfield-based magazine has an audited-circulation of 26,709. It's distributed to top-level business executives at 21,000 companies statewide.

WANTED: A Democrat who lives in Farmington. The city council has a vacancy on the board of canvassers, which meets after local elections to certify results. The four-member board is made up of two Democrats and two Republicans. The vacant Democratic seat carries a four-year term expiring Dec. 31, 1989. If interested in serving, call City Manager Robert Deadman: 474-6115.

SHES elected. Junior Bridget Dowd of Farmington Hills was selected to serve as treasurer of the Trojan Pride Committee at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. The committee's aim is to foster student awareness of USC athletic and special events. Dowd is majoring in exercise science.

HE'S inducted. Senor Charles Bissell of West Bloomfield was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. The chemistry major is a Farmington Harrison High School graduate.

FOOTNOTES: Farmington's first post office was in a house that still stands on Farmington Road. The Farmington Historical Commission plaque, posted outside the house in 1976, reads: "The original house was built in 1825 for Dr. Ezekiel Webb, Farmington's first physician. Dr. Webb was appointed as Farmington's first postmaster in 1826. This house served as a post office, physician's office and as a residence for the doctor. The structure was extensively remodeled in the 1850s. It continues to serve today as a private residence."

2 schools await their report cards

By Casey Hana
staff writer

It appears Harrison and North Farmington high schools will pass their seven-year accreditation evaluations with flying colors.

Word was mostly favorable from members of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS) who recently visited, according to Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent of instruction for Farmington Schools.

Both schools were rated in two-day sessions in November. Harrison's evaluation was completed last week. Feedback received by the district was verbal — formal, written NCACS reports will be sent sometime in the spring, Nutter said.

Preliminary reports will be given to each school before the end of Decem-

ber, according to Jerry Maxwell, who chaired the North Farmington steering committee of teachers.

"They (NCACS) were impressed with the quality of the student body and friendliness and professionalism of the staff," Nutter said. General physical improvements in both school buildings are needed, the committee told school administrators.

AT HARRISON, exterior building appearance, including windows, exterior doors and roofing were areas suggested for improvement, Nutter said. He added that the district has plans to rectify any problems.

At North Farmington, overcrowding and lack of storage were noted, although Maxwell sees this as an "indirect positive. It means people really want to come to our school as the population

increases," he said. "Of course, the overcrowding is a major issue we will address."

After Thanksgiving, North Farmington staff members will meet and review self-evaluations done during the past year. Maxwell was involved with about 100 meetings in preparation for the evaluation and has saved all correspondence for future ratings.

Maxwell said he would strongly consider chairing the committee again in seven years.

NCACS committee members suggested the district specially train and orient teaching staffs, which have increased as school populations have grown, according to Nutter. This was discussed specifically at Harrison, where 25 new teachers have been put on the payroll.

A PRELIMINARY program of

teacher in-service training is being prepared by Robert Coleman, director of personnel/employee relations, Nutter said.

Farmington administrators visited both schools during the evaluation periods.

Nutter spent several hours at each session where he was available to answer questions posed by NCACS visitors. A team of 21 persons visited Harrison and 23 visited North Farmington. They were comprised of a mix of school personnel from other Michigan districts.

The visit culminated more than a year of work at each school. Steering committees of seven teachers evaluated their schools and compiled extensive reports for review by the NCACS.

TEAMS WERE chaired by Donald Batten of Harrison and Maxwell of

North Farmington, who presented their findings to the school board last month.

The written NCACS reports will evaluate more than 20 subject areas at each school, making determinations of strengths to be commended and weaknesses to be corrected.

Although the association was founded in 1895, the seven-year cycle of school accreditation by the group started only a decade ago, Nutter said. Farmington High became a NCACS member in 1920, North Farmington in 1982 followed by Harrison in 1972.

Farmington High School is scheduled for evaluation next fall; staff members are just beginning their preparation year.

what's inside

Around Farmington . . .	6B
Cable connection . . .	7A
Classifieds . . .	Sections C,D
Crossword puzzle . . .	6C
Entertainment . . .	8B
Obituaries . . .	7A
On the agenda . . .	4A
Police/fire news . . .	5A
Shopping cart . . .	1-5C
Sports . . .	1-3B
Suburban life . . .	5-7B
News line . . .	477-5450
Sports line . . .	591-2300
Home delivery . . .	591-0500
Classified line . . .	591-0900

Based on tradition

Joe Alkateeb in line to be Hills' next mayor

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If tradition holds true, Joe Alkateeb — current mayor pro tempore — will be Farmington Hills City Council's new mayor.

Councilwoman Jody Soronen, meanwhile, would like to be the new mayor pro tempore.

But council's annual reorganization — election of a mayor and mayor pro tempore — won't take place until its regular meeting of Monday, Dec. 16.

Current Mayor Jan Dolan announced Monday that Alkateeb, about her in continues as mayor until after discussion — also scheduled for Dec. 16 — of the city's proposed creation of a Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) district along the 12 Mile Road office corridor.

Under TIFA, city officials could establish a special taxing authority to make public improvements on 12 Mile and repay the costs through future property taxes captured from current private development. The city's TIFA proposal has drawn opposition from certain quarters, particularly officials in the Farmington Public Schools.

Alkateeb's election as mayor is expected without debate because the po-



J. Alkateeb councilman

sition almost without failure is always handed down to the mayor pro tem. The positions of mayor and mayor pro tem are honorary and given to council members on a rotation basis.

IN THE past, council has elected its mayor and mayor pro tempore after new council members take office in January following a November election.

But passage in November of a charter amendment calling for newly elected members to take office immediately following the election's certification allows council to reorganize before the year's end. The charter amendment eliminates lame-duck council members.

Walls there's little debate on who will become mayor, the position of mayor pro tem is occasionally a more political matter. Council members nominate one of their colleagues. Although the position is generally given to a member considered "next in line,"

council members in the past have often disagreed on nominations.

According to city charter, the mayor presides at council meetings and "shall be recognized as head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law, but shall have no administrative duties." The mayor pro tem, according to charter, serves as mayor during the mayor's absence or disability.

Soronen's bid for mayor pro tem took council unexpectedly last week. "I am interested in becoming mayor pro tem," Soronen unexpectedly told council. "I would like you to consider my spoken petition to you." Soronen's bid received no response from council members.

RECENTLY RE-ELECTED to a four-year term, Soronen has served on council since 1978. She was mayor in 1980. Late last week, Soronen said she was seeking nomination as mayor pro tem because, "I enjoyed acting on the city's behalf when I was mayor and I feel I can be an additional service in that position again."

Alkateeb was elected to his current four-year term in 1983. His first council term ran 1978-82. Although Alkateeb served as mayor pro tem in 1981, he was defeated in his bid for re-election before an opportunity to become mayor.

Of the current council members, only Ben Marks and Terry Sever — both recently elected — have not served as mayor pro tem or mayor. Councilwoman Joan Dudley, former charter commissioner, served as the city's first woman mayor in 1977. Councilman Donn Wolf, who was first elected to council in 1980, served as mayor in 1981.

Last year, Wolf failed in his attempt to postpone the mayor pro tem election until after a recount of ballots cast in a special election between Marks and Sever. Sever captured a council seat only to lose by one vote to Marks in the recount.

The GIVING SEASON

IN WEDNESDAY'S EDITION