

Preservation eyed for historic Harger House

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(F) 18A

Farmington Hills officials are hoping to allow preservation of the almost 150-year-old stone Harger House by placing it in a historical district.

Standard Federal Savings of Troy — majority landowner of the Farmington Hunt Club subdivision — to discuss the possibility of placing the home in a historic district. Under the historic district commission ordinance, the house

could not be demolished and must be maintained.

"We feel that some sort of lease or sale arrangement would be of most benefit to the homeowners group as they would either have an initial sum

of money to use toward further development of the open space area or rental monies on an ongoing annual basis," Costick wrote in his letter to the bank.

The Harger House sits on the subdivision's commons area or open space,

which is intended to be used by all residents.

COSTICK'S REQUEST in early December for a meeting with bank officials came on the heels of a vote taken by members of the homeowners association regarding what should be done with the historic structure sitting in the subdivision's open space area on Halsted, near 11 Mile.

Ballots were distributed to 31 current and building residents in the subdivision and 39 replied, according to Ray Boujoulain, association president. Of the total that replied, 17 voted to demolish the house, 17 voted to continue for the association's benefit, and five voted for maintaining but selling it.

"We are just very pleased that the subdivision recognizes this (Harger House) as an important architectural

feature of Farmington Hills," said Jean Fox, Farmington Hills Historic District Commission chairman.

Sometime after the first of the year, Fox said, city and historic district commission officials will meet with bank and subdivision officials to pursue some type of arrangement so the house can be used and maintained. "Whether this will be by the subdivision or by an outside group is to be worked out with bank representatives," Fox said.

THE HARGER House and barns that were recently demolished were part of a dairy farm. The property is jointly owned by subdivision residents and Standard Federal Savings of Troy. Estimates for restoring the Greek-revival house range from \$40,000-\$150,000.

"It has had minimal maintenance in the last 30 years. Even so, it's in very good condition," Fox said.

Search for school chief moves ahead

Continued from Page 1

board Tuesday. Featherstone made his presentation at a special meeting Dec. 10. Hecker was active as consultant with a 1976 Farmington Public Schools study committee.

'Share with a senior' program is offered

For more than 50,000 low-income seniors in our tri-county area, this Christmas will be just another day. Not enough food and no companionship in a world that seems to have forgotten them.

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Share With A Senior began as a response to the hunger of thousands of elderly persons on the waiting list of **Focus: HOPE's Food for Seniors**, a program that provides basic food items year around for the pantries of the elderly poor. Food for Seniors currently provides good nutrition for 7,500. More than 16,000 seniors are on a waiting list

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Education Services Graham Lewis begins the six-month appointment of interim superintendent beginning Jan. 1. As interim superintendent, he will receive an additional \$550 per month to his salary and \$75 additional per month to his car allowance, as approved by the board Tuesday.

Because of the "good reputation" of the Farmington district, "you will receive a large amount of candidates from outside the state," Alexander said. The board has not yet made specific decisions about geographic areas for the search, Renels said.

Alexander is director of placement for Central Michigan University and his consortium consists of Central, Wayne State, Michigan State, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Northern Michigan and the University of Michigan. Fees are paid by the universities, with school districts paying expenses incurred for mileage and overnight stays by consulting members.

BOTH THE consortium and the

MASB use a national network and similar methods of promoting the position and headhunting to find the best person for the job, Alexander said. His service offers a pre-screening of candidates, but would rely on the district for administrative help. The MASB could handle more administrative chores directly, he added.

"We will make you work through the whole process," Alexander told the board. "You cannot sit idly by."

Hecker has been involved "intimately" with only one superintendent search, but said he could do the job with the help of professionals. His personal interest in the district throughout the years is an advantage, he said. Hecker would charge a fee ranging \$3,000-\$7,000, working on a per diem with travel expenses, he said.

A resident in the audience who worked with Hecker on the 1976 task force labeled his skills "excellent" and supported the use of a consultant with "substantial past contact with the district."

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