

# DDA approved for downtown Farmington

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own, buy and accept property within the district. As any city arm, its budget must be approved by council and the

board remains responsible to the council.

THE DDA takes effect 10 days following publication of the ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation. At

that time, Farmington's city manager will call the board's first meeting, where a chairman will be elected, officials said.

The eight appointees will serve their

original terms, then all appointments will change to four years to allow for staggered terms.

All served on the 13-member steering committee of the Downtown Farmington Development Committee, a task force assigned to study downtown interests during the past year.

The group worked with city-hired consultants to determine the direction of development for the retail-based area. The steering committee unanimously recommended formation of a DDA last fall.

THE STEERING committee will continue to function until it can turn over its activities to the DDA board, officials said.

"The (DDA board) membership represents a wide variation of interests including homeowners, professionals, banking, business property owners, retailers and service business operators," Deadman said in a report recommending the eight.

"We believe the proposed appointees will provide the variation of opinions and interests which are necessary in the planning of a viable central business district."

The ordinance was introduced Feb. 3, following a public hearing that in-

cluded mostly favorable comments from about 40 residents, business leaders and property owners. The ordinance was adopted Monday, pursuant to Public Act 197 of 1975, allowing formation of an authority in a specified authority renovation area.

THE LAW requires a majority of a DDA board to hold a property interest in the authority district, and that an equal number be appointed for one, two, three and four years respectively. Of the board, three own property in the district, six own a business and six are city residents.

• Clappison operates an insurance agency in downtown Farmington, owns property in the DDA district and is a Farmington resident.

• Wingerter owns and operates the Bon Ton Shoppes, one located downtown.

• Hohler is a city resident and owns and manages the downtown Civic Theatre.

• Soronen is executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, in downtown Farmington.

• Donner is a Farmington resident.

• Lenchner represents Equitable Management Inc., which owns and

manages the Downtown Farmington Center.

• Heinrich is president of Metropolitan National Bank in downtown Farmington.

• Oglesby is a Farmington attorney who owns property in the DDA district and lives in Farmington.

The authority board has autonomous decision-making powers, including those involving financing of planned projects. A DDA board might decide to levy up to two mills, set up a Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) district, issue revenue bonds, or apply for government grants for projects.

The first step involves determining a plan for the district, before any financing method will be set, city officials said.

Consultants strongly favored the formation of a DDA in January as an economic catalyst for developing the downtown area. Birmingham planning consultant Christopher Wazany and West Bloomfield marketing consultant Nick Nicholas will be retained by the city on an "as needed" basis, Harstock said.

The two worked with the task force group, formulating recommendations from a nine-month study prepared for the city.

## obituaries

### MARY S. CORLISS

Mrs. Corliss, 82, of Farmington died Feb. 11 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

### Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

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Born in Havana, Cuba, Mrs. Corliss was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, William and Robert; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were Feb. 15 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Dr. William Ritter of Nardin Park Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in National Memorial Gardens, Redford Township.

Memorials may be sent to Library for the Blind, 32737 12 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018.

### NIKITA KASTON

Mr. Kaston, 93, of Farmington Hills died Feb. 11 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills.

Born in Russia, Mr. Kaston was retired from Ford Motor Co. He was a World War I veteran and a member of the U.A.W.

Survivors include his son, George; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Cremation was in Evergreen Cemetery, Detroit. Interment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

### JAMES W. FULTON

Mr. Fulton, 79, of Farmington died Feb. 13.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Mr. Fulton worked for Youngs' Animal Hospital.

Survivors include his wife, Annie; sister, Elizabeth Wilson.

Services were Feb. 15 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was celebrated at St. Gerald Catholic Church with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial Gardens.

### GREGORY ALLAN HANLON

Gregory Hanlon, 3 years old, died Feb. 13.

Survivors include his parents, Kenneth and Sarah Hanlon; brothers, Samuel and Scott; grandparents, Bernard and Elizabeth Hanlon and Pete and Dorothy Secret, and Mary Secret; great-grandparent, Anna Franski.

Services were Feb. 15 at St. Alexander Catholic Church with the Rev. James Wright officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Arrangements were made by the Charles R. Step Funeral Home, Redford Township.

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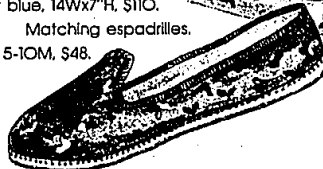
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