

# New pedestrian walk planned

**By Casey Hane, staff writer**

The state is moving ahead with plans for a Grand River pedestrian traffic signal — and a little problem from local senior citizens hasn't hurt.

Plans call for a pedestrian-activated signal to be placed at Grove Street on the state-owned highway running through downtown Farmington.

It will be located near Farmington Place, a senior citizen apartment complex on the north side of Grand River, whose residents have swamped the Michigan Department of Transportation with letters to move the lengthy process along, officials said.

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman is hopeful the signal will be installed in 1988, but said the city is pushing to have it installed during the next year.

A typical signal installation of this type, he said, takes about three years "beginning to end."

THE CITY was advised of MDOT project approval in November 1985, when city council approved a cost-sharing measure for the project. It was originally to be placed at School Street, but was moved west to Grove following public safety traffic studies.

The signal's installation coincides with the city's Downtown Development Authority's plans for safe pedestrian traffic in the downtown area. The DDA board has included the signal in the DDA master plan for downtown.

The pedestrian-activated signal will maintain a green light for Grand River traffic until a person



This is the site of a future pedestrian traffic light at Grand River Avenue and Grove in downtown Farmington.

waiting to cross activates it, stopping traffic and allowing the crossing. The signal will flash red to Grove Street at all times.

The Farmington City Council recently approved a \$9,163 cost

share agreement with the state, giving a firm amount to the city's share of the \$18,326 project. The city also will pay half, or an estimated \$9,163 per year to maintain the signal, Deadman said.

HE IS hopeful the pedestrian-activated signal can eventually be converted to a fully-operational signal. The city had originally requested such a signal, but state officials determined the need wasn't there. The pedestrian-activated signal is "a compromise from the state... because of the senior citizen warrants," or requirements, Deadman added.

"We are hopeful that after the signal has been installed, the number of pedestrians crossing at this location will increase," Deadman said. "If this occurs we will once again request that the signal be converted... for both Grand River and Grove Street."

The signal will use telephone lines and will be phased with other Grand River traffic lights in an effort to avoid Grand River traffic backups. Deadman estimates the signal will phase in a range from 15-45 seconds depending on when a pedestrian pushes it.

The Grove Street location was selected because of its proximity to the downtown area, officials said. It is planned for the west side of the intersection because of traffic patterns.

A Farmington Department of Public Safety traffic study during select days of November and December of 1985 counted 100 pedestrians crossing Grand River in the vicinity of the proposed signal. A total of 1,532 vehicles exited from Grove onto Grand River with 1,226 of them turning right, or east-bound.

The study showed that 90 percent of the pedestrians were walking to or from the downtown shopping area, according to past city reports.

# Elmore 'Dutch' Leonard on hand for autographs

Birmingham author Elmore (Dutch) Leonard will be on hand 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Little Professor Book Center in Farmington to autograph his new book, "Bandits."

Newsweek called Leonard "the greatest crime writer of our time, perhaps ever." Following closely on the heels of his highly successful novel "Glitz," Leonard has given us what promises to be another best-seller.

"Bandits" is a timely novel about Nicaraguan contras, \$3 million raised by American businessmen to aid the contras and three people who have teamed up to divert the money for their personal use.

The cast of "Bandits" includes ex-nun Lucy Nichols, ex-con Jack Delaney and ex-cop Roy Hicks.

But Lucy, Jack and Roy are not the only ones to have their eyes on the money. Before they make off with the loot, they will have to deal with Col. Dagoberto Godoy Diaz, an ex-bigwig Nicaraguan politico, his cold-blooded enforcer, Franklin de Dios, the CIA and even the IRA.

In addition to writing over 25 crime and western novels, Leonard



Elmore Leonard

has written screen plays for many movies. Two of his own novels, "Stick" and "52 Pick-Up," have recently been released as movies.

"Bandits" by Elmore Leonard, published by Arbor House, \$17.95.

# City's only Class C license open

**By Casey Hane, staff writer**

Farmington will hold onto its only Class C liquor license to attract a more "upscale restaurant operation" to the city.

Meanwhile, eight applicants remain on file at the state's Liquor Control Commission. At least one is a recent application.

The LCC recently sent notification to the city that the license was available and sent a list of the eight applicants on file for council consideration.

The city council took no action Dec. 15 based on city manager Robert Deadman recommendation that

the city wait for an upscale restaurant to apply for the liquor-by-the-glass license or wait for one of the applicants to open a new restaurant of the type the city seeks.

"We would be hesitant to recommend that city council approve the issuance of the city's last Class C liquor license to any of the proposed applicants unless they were committed to constructing a new facility or locating in an existing building an upscale restaurant operation," Deadman said in a report to council.

THE CITY's only available license was recently taken out of escrow following a legal battle and

subsequent appeals with Pal Joey's Inc., owner of The Bootleggers bar on Grand River.

The city is allowed a total of seven Class C liquor licenses, or one per 1,500 residents, which allows licensees to serve liquor on the premises. The city has the final say in who receives the license, according to information from the LCC.

The eight applicants seeking the Class C license were identified only by name by the state and include new applicants Sau Kuen Lau and Yock Poy Lau, who represent the Hong Kong Restaurant at Grand River and Orchard Lake Road.

Other applicants include: The Farmington Racquet Club, now a private facility; B-397 Corp.; Tad M. and Barbara L. Cymann; Lecon-

Storm Inc.; Joseph Parente; David A. Sinicola; and Richard Allen Skinner.

This list and the information about the open Class C license was sent to the city on Dec. 15, according to information from the LCC's licensing division.

Deadman said the list is probably very old, many having applied after the 1980 census when some cities populations increased and they are allowed more Class C licenses. He said he didn't know how many of these were still serious applicants.

Before the state can take action to investigate any applicant, "the city must recommend one over the others," a spokeswoman said. "We cannot authorize any of these for investigation until the city makes a recommendation."

# Contractor pay approved

A Farmington city contractor was only able to complete \$7,000 of a \$35,000 project due to the rainy fall weather.

Payment of the portion of completed curb and sidewalk replacement work was approved Dec. 15 for Italia Construction Co.

The contractor replaced 272 linear feet of curb on Grand River and 1,337 square feet of sidewalk adjacent to the curb. The city will be reimbursed by the state for the work on the state-owned highway.

An additional \$35,000 of state money is budgeted for more curb replacement this year, officials said.

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