

Hills city hall will undergo renovation

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Some Farmington Hills employees will be getting relief from their increasingly cramped quarters. With the completion of the new \$3.7 million (including furniture and equipment) police facility, plans are in the works to use the former police building for expanded city administrative offices.

The Farmington Hills City Council recently authorized spending

\$150,000 from the capital improvements budget to remodel and repair 5,300 square feet in the former police building. The remodeling plan calls for moving some of the offices currently in city hall into the former police building and to provide additional room for meetings and conferences. "It allows everyone at city hall a lot more room," said Karen Birkholz, assistant to the city manager. Under the plan, designed to keep interrelated departments together,

the city manager and personnel offices will be moved to the second floor of the old police building. "There is more traffic that goes to all the other (city) offices than my office or personnel," City Manager William Costick said.

BECAUSE THE old police building has no elevator and it is too costly (\$40,000-\$50,000) to install one, signs will be placed on the first floor informing handicapped people how to contact officials in the city manager or personnel offices, Costick said.

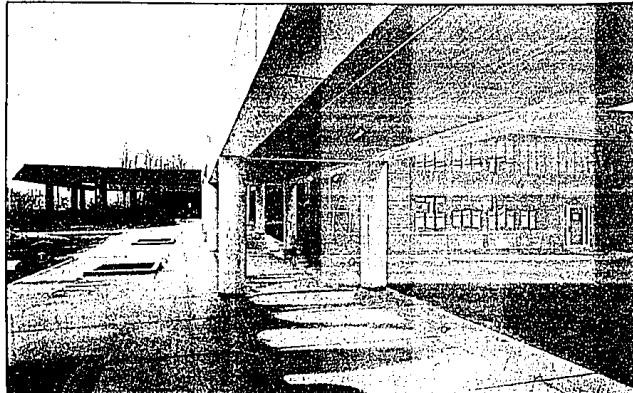
The Department of Special Services will move to the first floor of the old police building. Meeting rooms also will be added to both the first and second floors.

In city hall, some changes also will take place. The finance department will move into the city manager's office, while others will stay where they are and be expanded.

But the remodeling plan depends on moving the recreation division of the Special Services Department to offices in the Spicer estate house in Heritage Park, west of Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

It's expected that in the future Heritage Park will be the center of the city's recreation activities. City officials also want staff to be at the park while it is being developed. Dan Potter, director of special services, will have offices at the Spicer house and city hall, Birkholz said in a report to the city council.

Other special services divisions — senior adult, video production — will remain at city hall.



The former police department quarters in the western wing (above) of Farmington Hills City Hall will soon become administrative offices.

PLANS FOR the remodeling were developed with the help of a committee of city council members and city staff. The committee plans to begin the remodeling process with the help of an architectural consultant. "The architect will serve only as an advisor in those technical areas such as electrical or mechanical

trades where we might need some additional professional assistance," Birkholz said. "For the most part, however, the city will act as a general contractor and will bid out the different jobs."

Work that will be covered in the \$150,000 budget for the old police building includes paint, carpeting, drywall, mechanical and plumbing, electrical and some furnishings.

Remodeling of the city hall to accommodate the change and expansion of existing offices is not covered in the \$150,000 budget. Money for

city hall remodeling is yet to be budgeted, Costick said.

Originally, \$250,000 was budgeted for the remodeling of the former police building and city hall. But the city council reduced the budget to provide additional money for the city's sidewalk program, Costick said.

Police employees moved into the new 32,000-square-foot facility on March 9. Because of problems encountered during construction, the building's completion was eight months behind schedule, Costick said.

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Broomfield's district includes the Farmington area.

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