

Council fights for quality of life

Continued from Page 1
 tion in 1973. The new council represents more than half of the city's homeowner associations.

Ideally, council officials would like all of the city's associations to join. They also would like to see organized neighborhoods form their own associations, which is easier said than done.

APATHY IS the council's continuing foe.

Fighting it by convincing residents and neighborhoods that the council is the best vehicle available to address issues, distribute information and help solve problems is the council's game plan.

"We serve as a liaison between homeowners and the city council. We do that by collecting information throughout the city, presenting ourselves and awaiting a response from the city," Rajkovich said.

"Individually, homeowners associations are good in themselves. But when one has to come up against an issue, it would be better to come to the homeowners council and voice



Bruce Doolittle
council chairman

their opinions," he continued. The council will not take a public position on one-neighborhood issues. Officers and members are interested in issues that affect all residents and neighborhoods.

But the council will offer advice on how to start a neighborhood association or the need for insurance, for example.

"People would do well to get involved. You only get out of something what you put into it," Doolittle said.

RESIDENTS WHO offer to help during a crisis often lose interest in the non-crisis times. But there's plenty of work to be done.

"The real backbone of our homeowners council is our committees. The bulk of our work is having functioning committees," Rajkovich said.



Jack Rajkovich
vice chairman

The 16 committees, which do much of the research and study on issues, range from planning/zoning/land use to sewers/drainage to neighborhood protection to schools and beautification.

To ensure the council's continued credibility, officers and members have taken steps to learn the ins-and-outs of city government.

"It's taken me a year just to understand the rudiments of it. And I don't think many people understand how the city works," Doolittle said.

A program with city manager Costick as a speaker is being considered to educate members on how the city works, including its procedures and responsibilities.

To further ensure credibility, the council can only take an official position on an issue if there's backing from two-thirds of the membership. "We have credibility. Hopefully, the city council recognizes we are speaking from a position of not just a simple majority," Doolittle said.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Monday, March 14

Two public hearings are scheduled. The first is a determination hearing for paving Truck Road, Grand River to Nine Mile. The second is a determination and cost hearing for the 1988 dust control program.

Council will consider a resolution about hospital emergency room closings, receive a report on the Spicer estate house from the historic district and parks and recreation commissions. The fire department's annual report also will be presented.

The council will reconsider its policy on absentee voter automatic mailings. Also to be considered are the naming of athletic field, a proposal from Oakland Livingston Human Services for a \$1,000 donation to support its field services department, and formation of a committee to review proposals for senior housing planned for Freedom Road, between Drake and Gill.

Council also will receive a report on new offices for the special services department at Heritage Park. A contract for the Evergreen Farmington sewer improvements will be considered as well an agreement with Community Emergency Medical Services Inc. A report will be

presented on the petitioning effort for the Karen Place water main.

Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman Administrative Ctr.
32000 Shilwaukee
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15

Salary recommendations for the superintendent and deputy superintendent will be considered during Tuesday's meeting.

During the study session portion of the agenda, four items are slated for discussion:

- academic letters,
- Farmington High School media center,
- Michigan Educational Assessment Program statewide scores,
- Details about the common campus for gifted and talented at Highmeadow School.

Cultural Awareness Committee
Conference room B
Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16

Past Farmington Founder's Day parade chairwoman Suzanne Miller will be on hand to advise the committee on its planned involvement in the festival and parade this year. Members who cannot attend should call Karen Blirholz, assistant to the Farmington Hills city manager, 473-9502.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission

City Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17

The planning commission will discuss the following:

- A proposed zoning text change that would amend density, design standards, site plan submittal requirements and conditions for one-family cluster housing.
- A proposed zoning text change that would amend off-street parking requirements for industrial development.
- Rezoning request from RA-2, one-family residential to OS-1, office service and RC-1, multiple family residential, on the south side of 13 Mile, east of Orchard Lake Road. Proponent: Michael S. Downes. Owner: A. Scarrhill & P. Parente.
- Rezoning request from RA-1, one family residential to RCE, elderly housing, on the south side of Nine Mile, between Drake and Halsted roads. Proponent: Thomas C. Shumaker. Owner: Walter Carroll Trust.

• Special approval request for two lighted tennis courts at the Detroit Tennis & Squash Club, 31031 Drake Road, south of 14 Mile. Proponent: Michael Schram. Owner: Detroit Tennis & Squash Club.

Legion marks anniversary

The American Legion will observe its 69th anniversary March 15-17. Legionnaires of Farmington and Farmington Hills are planning a celebration. Commander George Panaretos of Groves-Walker Post 346 said.

Panaretos announced the appointment of a special committee under the chairmanship of junior vice-commander Don Fradette to direct the local observance. This will feature a dinner-dance, formal initiation of

new members, a talk by a featured speaker and the annual flag burning ceremony.

Festivities in Farmington will be part of a worldwide celebration among the 15,000 American Legion posts throughout the United States and in many parts of the free world.

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