

## on the agenda

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

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
Farmington Hills City Hall  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18

The following public hearings are scheduled for this evening:

- Consideration of cluster site plan for the west side of Haled north of 12 Mile. Proprietor: Selective Group Inc. Owner: Millage and Charlotte Roberts and Stuart Frank.

- Consideration of introduction of zoning map amendment for the south side of 13 Mile east of Orchard Lake Road. Request One-Family Residential to Office Service and Multiple Family Residential. Proprietor: Michael S. Downer. Owner: A. Searchilli and P. Parente.

- Consideration of introduction of zoning map amendment for the south side of Nine Mile between Drake and Haled. Request One-Family Residential to Elderly Housing. Proprietor: Thomas C. Shumaker. Owner: Walter Carroll Trust.

- Consideration of cost hearing for Meadowbrook Heights Road improvement in Section 36.

- Consideration of cost hearing for Scottsdale Road rehabilitation in Section 1.

- Consideration of determination for Eastfield and Greening streets water-main improvements special assessment district and notice of intent.

- Consideration of determination for Thornbrook Drive and Chautau Court Road Improvements special assessment district and notice of intent.

Under unfinished business, the council will consider enactment of an ordinance to make the Spicer House in Heritage Park as a city's historical site. The ordinance was introduced April 11.

Contract awards for Scottsdale paving and Meadowbrook Heights paving will be discussed, as well as a request to review and approve a new city seal.

The consent agenda includes con-

tract awards for road work, a pay-back for the Tuck Road sanitary sewer and purchase of computer equipment for the city.

**Farmington City Council**  
Farmington City Hall  
23600 Liberty  
Monday, April 18  
7 p.m. — special meeting with Board of Zoning Appeals  
8 p.m. — regular council meeting

The council will meet with the BZA in a special meeting to discuss types of variances that may be better dealt with through changes in current ordinances. A discussion of criteria used for granting variances also is planned.

At the regular council meeting, the council will consider a resignation from the BZA, Rouge River Watershed Council membership, a proclamation for Small Business Week May 8-14, an increase in district court judges' salaries, bids for council room chairs, purchase of road salt, and a recommended operating budget for fiscal year 1988-89.

**Farmington Board of Education**  
Lewis Schulman Administrative Center  
32500 Silverdome  
Tuesday, April 19  
7 p.m. — closed board meeting  
7:30 p.m. — regular board meeting

The board will meet in closed session to discuss a workers' compensation issue.

During the regular meeting, teacher-layoff notices, a discussion of open enrollment at Harrison High School, Academic letters for high school students, and purchase of textbooks are all slated for discussion.

The annual PTA Reflections contest winners will be honored and Superintendent Graham Lewis and his staff will also give an update on goals and objectives for the district. A presentation will also be offered from Farmington Families in Action on Say No to Drugs Week.

Also to be discussed are bleacher renovations and electric motor purchases.

# Hills eyes tighter cluster rules

By Casey Hens  
staff writer

Changes were introduced that would lower the density for cluster-type residential housing in Farmington Hills.

The proposed changes follow two months of study by city planning commissioners and a court case with a local developer.

The proposal prompted lively discussion among city council members April 11 before their unanimous vote, which followed a recommendation by the planning commission March 17. The changes will become law following final council approval and publication in a local newspaper.

Discussion centered around density changes — how many units would be allowed per acre — and the percentage allowed for building overlap on attached buildings.

IN APPROVING the measure, the council began the process of officially reducing the density in RA-3 zoning from 4.8 to 3.9 units per acre. The 3.9 was recently used in a consent judgment with West Bloomfield developer Alan Gottlieb, although some council members thought the figure could be even lower.

Council members stressed the importance of

treating the 3.9 as a maximum — not a given — and said the new rules would give planning commissioners the room they needed for decision-making.

"It's important to remember that these are maximums," city attorney Paul Bibeau added. "If . . . density provided in the site plan is too dense, we should make them go back to the drawing board."

Councilman Terry Sever made a second motion, proposing the planning commission reconsider density figures, but fellow council members defeated his motion on a 5-2 vote. Sever called for a "distinction for each district," five zoning districts and three density choices were offered.

"We've not done what council had intended to do," Sever added.

"I think we have a danger if we try to tell the planning commission they have no latitude," countered councilman Ben Marks. "The fact the planning commission has that ability to go up or down . . . is extremely important."

"Commenting this thing in . . . would be a disservice to the community."

Councilwoman Jean Fox, who sided with Sever on the motion, added, "I think there are many things we can do to improve this."

IN ADDITION to density changes, the zoning text change would:

- change the overlap allowed on attached buildings from 50 percent to 75 percent. "More overlapping will create more open space on the site and less disturbance of the natural areas," city planner Claude Coates told the planning commission in March.

- set a minimum distance between detached units of 15 feet. There is currently no minimum.

- give planning commissioners the option of permitting units to be attached on shallow pieces of land.

- provide a 4-to-1, depth to width property ratio to qualify under the new density provisions.

MARKS SAID the city is receiving an onslaught of cluster development requests, because there is little land left in the city except parcels on major thoroughfares, and land with topographical problems.

Planning commissioners spent "quite a bit of time" on the proposed revisions, said councilman Aldo Vagnozzi. "I'd like to see it take effect and see what happens."

Several council members said they would consider future cluster revisions if they became necessary.

## Cycling whets his competitive spirit

Continued from Page 1

HIS LIFELONG interest in bicycles has led Williams to an important goal: being part of the 1992 Olympic riding team. The U.S. Cycling Federation ranks riders in ability categories. Williams is currently in Category Three with Category One at the top. "I'm almost there. I hope to be there this year," he said.

Williams' other joys include building radio models and generally working with his hands. He also dabbles in photography. He worked on the North Farmington yearbook staff during his junior year.

Future plans include college and possibly opening his own bike shop, Williams said.

"The only problem is, I couldn't devote all my time to riding."

## Spring tree sale slated

The beautification commission, in its efforts to promote and encourage beauty in landscaping, has arranged for its annual spring tree sale for residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Mark your calendar for April 29 to May 7. During this time, Steinkopf's Nursery will offer reduced prices on flowering shrubs, shade, evergreen and ornamental trees that have been carefully selected for planting at

this time of year.

All sales and delivery arrangements will be handled directly by the nursery, at 20815 Farmington Road, north of Eight Mile.

The nursery is closed on Sundays. If you have any questions about the trees being offered, call the nursery at 474-2925.

## City promotes spring cleanup

The annual "Keep Farmington Beautiful" campaign begins next week and will continue throughout the months of April and May.

Sponsored by the Farmington Beautification Committee — an arm of the city — the campaign will encourage both residential and business owners to spruce up and clean up their property.

Members are also encouraging review of landscaping and building repairs to see if improvements can be made.

Also during the campaign, the committee will:

- provide 1,000 "Keep Farmington Beautiful" litterbags to area service stations to encourage proper litter disposal.
- install newly purchased anchored benches in one of the city's


miniparks.

- work closely with a city council committee that is planning a gazebo for city-owned property on Grand River.

- hold a belated Arbor Day tree-planting after the gazebo is completed. Arbor Day is April 21.

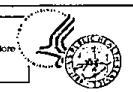
- sponsor a poster contest at three Farmington-area high schools in conjunction with Farmington Hills and its beautification efforts.

The group is also preparing for its annual Flower Sale May 13-14 in the Downtown Farmington Center, which is not only a fund raiser for the group, but encourages colorful plantings throughout the city. Members will also sell Farmington keychains, mugs, T-shirts and paperweights.



**ASPIRIN**

WARNING: Children and low dosages should not use this medicine for chicken pox or flu symptoms before a doctor is consulted about fever. Aspirin is a rare but serious illness.



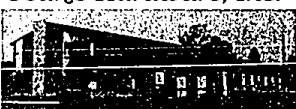
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ESTÉE LAUDER VIDEO MAKEOVER

Wednesday, April 20, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 21, Noon to 7 p.m., Livonia

Learn makeup techniques to enhance your natural beauty. We'll record each step on video tape for you to use as a refresher course at home.

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**Jacobson's**

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