

# Hills handles center upkeep

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Farmington Hills will provide lawn mowing and snow removal services for the Farmington Community Center at no charge to the nonprofit, self-supporting facility.

Although these services cost the center only \$1,800 last year, to date it has never received direct funding or other assistance from any government units.

The center's board of directors has struggled during the past several years to keep the historic facility open and afloat financially.

These services will be provided as the city takes care of the neighboring Heritage Park, owned by the

city. The center would have the same maintenance priorities as city groups.

Councilman Terry Sever said he was "surprised they (center board members) weren't already getting this service donated."

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said he had "no problem" with the plan, but warned fellow council members of the danger in offering services to non-government facilities.

"We're branching out into a new area," he said. "We're setting a precedent. If (community center) is a non-government entity. Does this open it up for other groups?"

"We may face similar requests in the future."

THE CITY Council voted unani-

mously April 11 to offer the services "for the betterment of the community and its residents," according to a motion, which followed an administrative report and recommendation.

"The community center presently is a self-supporting foundation trying to survive in a very competitive atmosphere," the report said.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb was absent for the vote.

Councilwoman Jan Dotan, who is also president of the Farmington Community Center board of directors, reminded the council of the city's ultimate responsibility to the center.

If the center were to fold, she said, the deed for the building would revert to the Farmington Community Library, which is funded by both

Farmington and Farmington Hills city tax dollars. If the library chose not to use it, it would ultimately be deeded to the city of Farmington Hills.

"We want to do everything to keep it viable and independent," said Dotan. "This service would certainly be an assistance."

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# Surplus food is available

Surplus commodity food will be given out from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, in St. Alexander's Church, 27835 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills.

The food distributed through the Oakland-Livingston Human Service Agency includes cheese, butter, milk, cornmeal, honey and rice. It will be made available every month.

Eligible Oakland County residents should bring proof of total household income for the last 90 days. Social

Security card, and some type of ID in order to register for the commodities.

EACH ELIGIBLE person will be given a new USDA Surplus Commodity Food Registration Card with their own registration number and the distribution site where they must attend during the time period of Oct. 1, 1987, through Sept. 30, 1988. This card must be presented to the clerk for verification every time they receive their commodities.

Senior citizens (people 60 and over) who attend a senior center to pick up their commodities should contact the center for pickup date and time. Also, homebound seniors should contact their nearest senior center to register for homebound delivery. Homebound people under 60 years old should contact their nearest Field Services Office.

Registration does not guarantee receipt of commodity food each time. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis.

# Orell helped prevent crime

During the 1970s when most people were toying with their citizens band radios, Mary Orell was putting her CB skills to a good use.

She was one of about 150 Farmington-area residents involved in the Farmington Department of Public Safety's Crime Prevention Program, which operated as the eyes and ears of the police through use of CB radios, according to a written tribute to Mary Orell.

The 63-year-old Farmington resident died April 5 at Sinai Hospital of Detroit of natural causes.

She was honored at her funeral with a tribute by Commander Chuck Lee of the Farmington Department of Public Safety. Lee, along

with her husband, David, lauded her efforts in the Community Observation Patrol Service. She served as a group leader and was responsible for 20 other COPS members.

"Often times, she would not only cover her own two-hour shift, but would volunteer to fill many additional hours of vacancies," Lee said. "Soon, every police officer in the area recognized Mary's voice and quickly realized just how involved she was in her many efforts to help others."

"Many lonely cold January and February nights, Mary sat alone, ... keeping her ear and heart tuned to the department's base radio, just

in case someone out there needed help."

Lee also commended her "unmatched willingness" to work. "She will never be forgotten," he added.

Mary Orell was awarded a "Citizens Commendation" by former public safety director Daniel Gyros in 1980.

She is survived by her husband, David; three sisters, Vivian Fitzgerald, Kathryn Bristow and Margaret Estick; and two brothers, Franklin Fitzgerald and Thomas Fitzgerald. Burial was April 8 at Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. Arrangements were handled through the Ross Northrop & Son Funeral Home, Detroit.

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