

Some object; walks OK'd

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with a cost of \$48,000; 4,740 feet of sidewalk would be needed if the city wants the sidewalks on the west side, at a cost of \$97,000.

The city would not need to buy any right of way on either side. The Farmington Road sidewalk issue dates back two years when the city received both a request and counter-request from frontage owners.

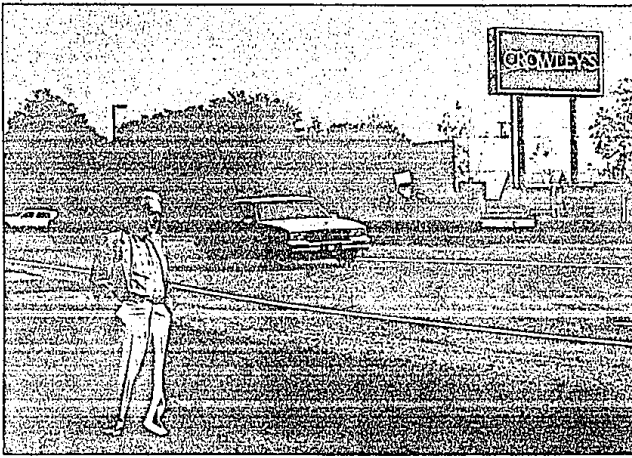
"It's possible to construct a sidewalk totally on either side or partially on both sides," said William Costick, city manager.

Letters about the proposed sidewalks were mailed to frontage owners on Farmington Road, he said.

THOMAS DIASELL, director of public services, said the sidewalks would be placed as far back in the right of way as reasonable to provide the best separation between the roadway and the pedestrian way for safety.

This does not preclude meandering the walk around natural barriers such as streams, hills, valleys and landscaping features (trees, shrubbery).

It is not recommended that walks be placed along the edge of a roadway since this encourages a pedestrian/vehicle conflict that could have tragic results. This would only be considered in instances where natural topography prevents the



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ronald Tipping, who lives on Farmington Road, just north of 12 Mile, stands in his front yard, in the area where a new sidewalk is under consideration.

walk from being farther from the roadway, Biasecci said.

"I've always liked the fact that it (Farmington Hills) was more suburban, more country," Sowerby said. "I'm not sure that we need sidewalks. We are not ready for sidewalks along Farmington Road. I don't think the street is ready for it."

This is mainly a convenience issue, he said.

Soronon expressed support for sidewalks, noting the increasing number of people she sees "jogging, walking and pushing baby carriages" in the city.

The Oakland County Road Commission has approved installation of a traffic signal at Bayberry/Hearth-

stone and Farmington Road, scheduled for installation this spring, Biasecci said.

MINOR IMPROVEMENTS must be done to Farmington Road to accommodate opposing left turns before the signal can be installed.

This signal would provide an additional safe road crossing on Farmington Road and help pedestrians from the west side of Farmington get to the pedestrian generators on the east side, reducing the original argument for placing the walk on the west side, Biasecci said.

Key pedestrian generators are: Pioneer Park, North Farmington High School, Kendallwood Swim Club,

Farmington Area YMCA, Kendallwood Center, O.E. Dunckel Middle School, Farmington Community Library and Farmington Hills Post office.

The city will hold an information meeting with frontage property owners once alignment of the sidewalks is decided.

"I FEEL a sidewalk is greatly needed for the convenience and safety of the citizens," said Joyce Regan, a New Bradford resident.

Quoting a 1987 census, Regan said there were 3,763 residents west of Farmington Road, 2,989 residents east of Farmington. Four public schools are in the area.

There aren't many people walking the roadway along Farmington Road, said Albert Lazar, a Farmington Road resident.

"This isn't a walking community," said Mary Lou Phillips of Farmington Road.

She discouraged cyclists, walkers and children to stay off the road.

"It just isn't safe. I'm afraid of it," she said, citing speeds higher than the posted 40 mph. "I don't see that sidewalks mean safety."

Tigers' Hudson on probation for drinking, driving

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Detroit Tigers pitcher Charlie Hudson pleaded guilty to driving while impaired and was sentenced to one-year probation after his car left the road and hit a utility pole in Farmington Hills.

District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington suspended a 30-day jail term for the 31-year-old West Bloomfield resident on Sept. 13 because the misdemeanor was his first alcohol-related conviction.

Schaeffer ordered Hudson to attend an alcohol education program, pay \$730 in fines and costs, report to the probation department regularly and follow up with any recommended counseling.

She ordered him to violate no laws and to not drink and drive during probation. His driver's license was suspended for 90 days.

Hudson could have been sentenced to up to 90 days in jail and could have had his driver's license suspended for up to one year.

MEANWHILE, THE judge granted the prosecutor's motion to reduce the charge to driving while impaired from driving under the influence.

"According to the prosecutor, Mr. Hudson had no prior drinking and driving convictions," Schaeffer said. "He felt this was an isolated incident."

"One of the other things that went into the equation was the fact Mr. Hudson had injured himself," said city prosecuting attorney Tim Kenny. "Certainly, he has a reminder daily of his drinking and driving."

The higher charge could have brought a license suspension of six months to two years.

Police said Hudson's blood alcohol

level was .11 after the crash. In Michigan, a person is considered drunk with a level of at least .10.

At Kenny's urging, Schaeffer refused a motion by defense attorney Matthew Schlegel of Southfield to have the guilty plea taken under advisement and to clear Hudson's record if he successfully completes probation.

"I think it would be inappropriate for someone drinking and driving to have the matter taken under advisement and have it wiped off his record after one year," Kenny said.

Hudson BROKE both legs after his car hit a utility pole and broke in half when he lost control after passing another car on Northwestern Highway about 2 a.m. Aug. 18.

Hudson was going south on Northwestern Highway at Wellington, just west of Inkster Road, at 2:10 a.m. when he passed another car, cut back in, then lost control.

His car skidded sideways into a utility pole on the south side of the road, tilting the pole and shearing his car in half at the firewall. The road was dry, Farmington Hills investigators said.

The engine compartment was lodged against a Detroit Edison pole. The passenger compartment came to a stop 10 feet away, against a pine tree.

It took Farmington Hills firefighters 45 minutes to free Hudson, whose right leg was pinned. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Hudson is out for the rest of the baseball season. He was traded from the New York Yankees to the Tigers for third baseman Tom Brookens during spring training.

This season, Hudson had a 1-5 won/lost record in 17 appearances. His earned run average was 6.55.

Dems hold candidates night

The Farmington Democratic Club will host a candidates night for the 13 Farmington Hills City Council contenders Wednesday, Sept. 27.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers of the Farmington Hills City Hall, 21515 11 Mile. It will be shown live over Metrovision cable Channel 18, courtesy of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services.

Each candidate will be asked to make an opening presentation of up to two minutes. This will be followed by direct questions from the audience. Questions may be asked of one person, several or all.

Answers will be limited to one minute. Each candidate will have a chance to respond to each question.

Running for four regular terms are incumbents Ben Marks, Aldo

Vagnozzi and Philip Arnold and challengers Bettey Stinas, Albert Rosen, George Sarkisian, Vernon Kieplinski, Ronald Oliviero, Lawrence Lichtman and Jonathan Grant.

Vying to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkatee's four-year term are incumbent Paul Sowerby and challengers Nancy Bates and Herbert Lincer.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

clarification

A map accompanying a story in Thursday's paper about Farmington Hills' introduction of a zoning change to allow for a retirement complex on the Sisters of Mercy

grounds was incorrect.

The retirement complex will be east of Mercy High and Mercy Center, not north.



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