

## Community Corner

This week's question:

What do you think of the way they've developed Heritage Park?

We asked this question in Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.



"I think it's great. The playground equipment is nice and the nature trails are great."

— Sandra Winston  
Farmington



"I like the idea that they're developing it slowly. They seem to be putting some thought into it."

— Darlene Thompson  
Farmington



"I love the wide-open spaces. It's great for the kids."

— Carolyn Browning  
Farmington



"It's fine, but I wouldn't want to see it developed too much more."

— Bill Browning  
Farmington



"I kind of like it. It's kind of unique having a paved trail for the handicapped. The park is pretty. They're doing a good job."

— Jim Kliveshen  
Waterford



"We love it. We walked the loop trail. It's very rural. Keep it that way."

— Martina Schlagwein  
West Bloomfield

# Judgeship hinges on courthouse expansion

Continued from Page 1

law, but the backlog continues in trial, particularly jury trials and preliminary examinations, which magistrates are not allowed to conduct, Schaeffer said.

In 1989, the caseload at the 47th District Court topped 38,210 followed by 37,422 in 1990. Compare that, Harris said, to the district courts in Dearborn and Romulus

courts which are getting a third judge. In 1989, Dearborn had 47,967 cases filed and Romulus, 26,576 cases.

The state Legislature in 1990 authorized a third judge for the 47th District Court, pending approval of the court's control unit (the two cities).

The judges told city officials that additional staff for a third judge can be offset from revenues generated

by the court with its fees and fines. A judge's current \$93,812 annual salary is paid primarily by the state. The judges get \$52,770 of their salary directly from the state and \$41,042 through the cities. The cities are reimbursed \$38,838 of their portion.

THE COST of expanding the courthouse to make room for a third judge rests with the two cities. The

courthouse is being renovated now to make better use of space for employees.

"Even if we don't get a third judge, we still need more space," Schaeffer said.

Based on a plan drafted last year by Farmington architect Bob Allen, an expansion would cost an estimated \$1.8 million. Costs for the court are divided between the two cities based on population and caseload. That means Farmington Hills would be responsible for about 85 percent or \$1.5 million and Farmington, 15 percent or \$270,000.

That means that over 20 years, the debt on bonds — approved by voters

— would be \$183,000 a year. In Farmington Hills, taxpayers would pay 0.066-mill and in Farmington, 0.110-mill, based on each city's state equalized value.

On a \$200,000 house assessed at \$100,000, the Farmington Hills taxpayer would pay \$6.60 a year. On the same house, the Farmington taxpayer would pay \$11. "It's not an overwhelming expense for property owners," Farmington city manager Robert Deadman said.

Farmington councilman Bill Hart-

sock said going to the voters might be the best avenue. It would allow voters to decide whether the court should be expanded and it's less expensive for the cities, whose officials would not have to dip into the general operating funds to pay the expansion debt.

"I think we have to face it (the need for a third judge)," Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said. "The question is how we structure the debt."

## Nardin Park to dedicate new addition

The formal consecration of the 15,000-square-foot addition to Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills will be held Sunday, April 7, at the church, 29087 W. 11 Mile.

Bishop Judith Craig of the United Methodist Church in Michigan will preach and lead the consecration services at 9:15 and 11 a.m.

"In an age when many mainline

churches are becoming sideline churches, it's exciting to be part of something that is alive and growing," said the Rev. Bill Ritter, senior pastor of Nardin Park since 1980.

The building addition contains a new children's center, a nursery, an elevator, a chapel, music rooms, offices for Samaritan Counseling Center and an expanded parking lot. Representatives of the Merritt, McCallum and Cieslak architectural

firm, the T. H. Marsh Construction Co., the church building committee, the board of trustees and other church officials will participate in the ceremony.

Nardin Park Church has served the Farmington area for more than 25 years. It began in 1927 on a site facing Nardin Park in Detroit and moved to its present location in 1985.

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