



Advice for Cubs

Peter Nielsen (left), a Farmington Hills businessman and body builder, spoke to the Cub Scouts of Pack 45 at their recent Blue and Gold Banquet at Farmington High School. Each Cub was given an autographed copy of

Nielsen's book "Growing Up Strong." Nielsen asked that his fee be donated to the National Gym Association for Drug Free Athletes. The Cubs are students at Hillsdale and Longacre elementary schools.

Here's chance to speak on block grant spending

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If you want a say in how the city of Farmington Hills spends this year's more than \$300,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant money, you'll get your chance at a Monday, March 16, public hearing.

The city expects to receive \$367,000 — a \$33,000 or 9 percent increase over last year's allotment — from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The money is to be used to help low-to-moderate-income areas or people in the city.

"I think this (CDBG) has been a positive program in Farmington, D.C. You can see the money at work in the communities," said Richard Lampi, Farmington Hills community development coordinator.

City officials plan to divide the block grant money among administration, capital improvements, code enforcement and housing rehabilitation, which provides low-interest loans or grants to income-eligible residents to make necessary improvements on their houses. In 1991-92, the housing program provided 40 such loans to residents.

IN ADDITION to the \$367,000 from the federal government, city

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Hills coordinator

officials plan to include again the \$60,000 the city receives in housing rehabilitation loan repayments to the pot for a grand total of \$427,000.

Of that total, city officials want to spend \$265,000 (including the \$60,000 in loan repayments) for the housing rehabilitation program; \$75,000 for capital improvements; \$32,000 for a code enforcement officer; and \$55,000 for administration.

This will be the third year in which block grant money is proposed to be used to pay for a code enforcement officer specifically for low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

In the first year of the code enforcement program, block grant money alone was used for the then-new officer. Last year, the city council agreed to pay half the \$42,000

salary and fringe benefits, with the other half coming from block grant money.

This year, it's recommended that block grant money be used to pay 75 percent or \$32,000 of the officer's salary and fringes. "There's been a never-ending demand for it (code enforcement)," Lampi said. "I think it's been beneficial."

THE AREAS in which the code enforcement officer will remain the same as last year's area, including sections 36, 35, 34, and parts of 33 and 26, south of Shawwassee. New census information may change those areas next year.

The city's planning and community development department is considering the following projects that may be financed with block grant money. Potential projects for 1992-93 include:

- Belfast drainage improvement in section 35; \$64,000 estimated cost.
- Haynes drainage improvement in section 26; \$60,000 estimated cost.
- Fendt drainage improvement in section 33; \$60,000 estimated cost.
- Randall drainage improvement in section 35; \$60,000 estimated cost.
- Edmonton drainage improvement in section 33; \$60,000 estimated cost.
- Ruth drainage improvement in section 34; \$60,000 estimated cost.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

• ROBBERY ATTEMPTED

An unidentified man unsuccessfully tried to rob a party store on Eight Mile Wednesday, Feb. 26, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The 23-year-old employee at Matt's Beer & Wine, 29010 Eight Mile, told police the man had bought

a beer and was asked to leave when he was found standing outside the store drinking.

The man later returned and put a note on the counter that read, "Get the money or else." The employee told him, "no way," and the man left on foot with the note-headed west-bound on Eight Mile.

When last seen, the man was wearing an orange ski jacket with a tear in it, tee-shirt and working boots.

• THEFTS REPORTED

An AM/FM cassette player valued at \$320 was reported stolen from a 1991 Ford at Perry Drugs, 25870 Middlebelt, Feb. 26.

An AM/FM cassette player valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a 1989 Pontiac parked at Target, 30020 Grand River, Feb. 26.

An in-dash stereo valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a 1989 Pontiac at F&M, 30100 Grand River, Feb. 26.

Writer luncheon

A Farmington Hills writer, Ruth Ryan Langan, with 30 published works will speak at a benefit book and author luncheon March 10 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile between Novi and Taft roads.

Tickets, at \$10 a piece, available at any of the Northville, Novi, Plymouth or Canton libraries. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information call Betty Griffin at 349-7502.

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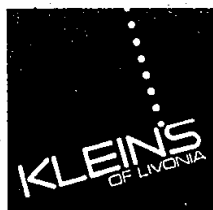
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