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In the past, a hefty contribution came with the Farmington Coordinating Council PAC's endorsement. Helen Ditzhazy received \$750 and Feldman \$737 last year from the council.

There's not much polling for dollars. Webb had a fund-raiser at Leo's Coney Island in Farmington Hills, which netted around \$750.

Candidates see positives in a low-spending election.

"I think the big thing that's

A usually generous contributor is sitting out this election. The political action committee for the school employee unions said it doesn't plan to endorse any candidates in this year's election.

down is signs," Inch said. "That's reducing it considerably."

Inch and Webb said they have signs leftover from four years ago. Both said they might put them up at polling places June 13. For

Inch, that still leaves four signs as there are only eight polling stations.

"I'll probably put those on my front lawn," Inch said with a laugh.

Olde towne group seeks new city involvement

By Sue Buck Staff Writer

The Olde Towne Neighborhood Association in Farmington Hills wants to encourage business development, while keeping a sense of pride in the area.

Olde Towne community leaders have enlisted the city's help to develop a task force and also to seek whatever funding may be obtained.

This means studying and sprucing up the Grand River Corridor in the southeastern section of the city.

They want to organize a task force which will include local businesses, both those who take meticulous care of their property and also those who could use what Olde Towne treasurer Masie Kurzeja calls "a little peer pressure."

"Some properties could be upgraded with simple housekeeping tasks such as painting of buildings, awnings, property cleaning and fence moving so a streetscape could be undertaken," Kurzeja said. "A little imagination and desire to improve could go a long way."

Councilman Terry Sever suggested that the city might want to buy some right of way.

"We should see if there is any block grant money," councilwoman Nancy Bates said.

Added city manager Bill Co-

HILLS

tick: "Some EDC money might be involved."

The project is expected to be developed over the next year with monthly meetings.

"A survey of all the property on Grand River should be done (video, letter, driveby) at the beginning of the study effort," Kurzeja said.

The final report will be submitted to city council by July 1, 1995.

Geographic limits are the business and commercial areas along the north and south sides of Grand River from Eight Mile and Grand River to Orchard Lake and Grand River.

The homeowner group wants to:

- Encourage and support a rehabilitation program for the business and commercial centers along the Grand River corridor.
- Aggressively repair and demolish old structures that are no longer economically viable.
- Make the corridor a composite of socioeconomic attractiveness for all within the immediate area.
- "Decorate" the commercial area so that the existence of new facades lends character to the streetscape and shopping experience.
- Have or develop a continuous green space between the curb and sidewalk bordering and flowing

with the traffic on Grand River for the area's safety.

Kurzeja said the group's goals and objectives also include developing a continuous green belt from curb to setback wherever possible. If that's not possible, then from curb to sidewalk, with all curbing to be wrapped around street corners and repaired.

The group wants to encourage redevelopment of the land and foster continuation of existing conforming uses and structures.

It also wants to prevent strip development which the homeowners group believes "would be disruptive to Grand River, an already high-traffic highway."

They plan to prepare a videotape of Grand River along with pictures and demographics and stabilize the value of the residential properties adjacent to Grand River.

"How a neighborhood looks is very important to its residents," Kurzeja said. "Its external skin" is often the only method which the city and its other residents use to judge whether a neighborhood is a good or bad place to locate a business. Keeping your neighborhood looking good has many aspects."

The group wants to review appropriateness of the master plan and zoning for possible changes.

"We take a sense of pride in the community," Kurzeja said. "We're here to stay. Are they (businesses) here to stay?"

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