Hills resubmits grant application for teen program

Framington Hills officials will know later this month whether the city can count on some federal money for a program to keep middle schoolers cut of trouble.

The city council unanimously approved submitting a revised grant application later this week that could net the city up to 3285,000 in grant money for a "Communities that Care" program aimed at children from 11-15.

The city would match that

The city would match that money by one-half and has budg-ieted \$200,000 through the parks and recreation tax. "It's like heart disease," said

Hills Councilwoman Nancy Bates. "We can identify risk factors for kids."
The program would provide decontralised teen centers aimed at children between the ages of 11 and 16. Those kids are usually beyond the game stage but are too young to drive.
One of the problems for that are group is that they can be exposed to bad influences even in their own homes.

posed to bad influences even in their own homes.

"We have set and violence or television, drugs and sometimes liquor in the home," she said.

"What we want to provide is something for them to do that they will like during after-school hours."

Assistant City Manager Steve Brock, who will be writing the final draft of the grant, said because the program has to be fletible enough se that the kids themselves can determine the kids of recreational and social programs they want to take part in. "Flexibility is the key," he said. "We don't want to come up with a program that tids won't come to. We want to keep up with what they went to do."

But because the grant, which will be administered and approved by the Michigan Department of Social Services, involves tax dollars, it must be specific enough to monitor and not be misused.

That has made getting the money a balancing act. City offi-cials will meet with DSS officials Aug. 16 in Lanning to make their case and could find out that very day whether Farmington Hills will receive all or part of the money.

will receive all or part of the monsy.
They (DSS) really want us to
get this," said Bates, who works
as Rep. Jan Dolan's legislative
aids in Lansing.
Bates said the program would
bring the kids to facilities, such
as the YMCA and Farmington
Hills Activities Center for afterschool programs. The Farmington
schools, Farmington Families in
Action, the Farmington Area Advisory Council and other agencies

could all be involved in various educational and recreational programs, she said.
"We've got a lot of programs." Bates said. "If we can have a place for the kids, we can bring the programs to them."
Brock said middle-school age children would be involved in determining programming.
The grant will include a coordinator, at least in the beginning, to plan and run activities, and program aides for each site in the city. Commission on Children, Youth and Pamillies to provide activities and prevent potential problems for children.

"The city council is backing it so I hope we'll get the grant," said Todd Lips, chairman of the com-

Councilman Jon Grant said Monday's meeting was to keep the council updated on the grant's final form.

"In addition to matching funding, we have to show a commitment beyond that," Grant said.

ment beyond that, 'Urant services are to the grant is for a three-year por riod. The Commission on Children, Youth and Families will sponsor a formal ball in November and is considering other ways to keep the of generating money to keep
"Horizona" program going
the grant money runs out.

Bergstrom mulls run for Farmington City Council

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

To run or not to run. Stave
Bergstrom is deciding.
Meanwhile, as Bergstrom rube
his chin and scratches his head,
the Farmington City Council race
too far is a three-paron affair
featuring incumbents Bill Hartsock and Jo Anne McBhane and
challenger James Mitchell.
They'll vis for two four-year terms.
Filing deadline is Aug. 18.
Bergstrom's possible entry would
at least make it a contested elec-

tion.

"We have some thinking to do,"
said Bergstrom, 38, who is a Mayfield Street resident, "and then
we have to find the time to get 50
signatures."

Unlike Fermington Hills, city
elections in Fermington carry all
the political spark of a box of
matches run through a car wash.
And city folks like it that way,
thank you.

Five candidates turned out to

thank you.

Five candidates turned out to vie for three seats in 1933. However, challengers Tom Lyczkowski and Russel Buyers withdrew as

Arnie Campbell, Mary Buab and Dick Tupper all won terms. "There never has been (a lot of candidates); I don't know," said councilman Dick Tupper, who is not seeking re-election this year. "I never looked at it as a political

"I never looked at it as a political climate.
"We're nonpartizan... We've always wanted people in the wings, but sometimes it's diffi-cult."

A lack of burning Issues is per-haps another reason behind the dearth of council candidates. From the ashes of controversy of-

ten emerge one-lasue upstert can-didacies.

Aside from some good-natured gibes, though, Parmington City Council meetings are perfunctory

Council meetings are perfunctory affairs.

"There ian't controversy making issues," City Clerk/Treasurer Patsy Cantrell said. "Personally, I assume there is a level of satisfaction in how the city is managed."

Money's not a lure, either. The position psys \$800 a year.

Which isn't likely to compensate for the time involved. In ad-

dition to two regular meetings a month, council members attend special and committee meetings with boards and commissions as

with boards and commissions as well as community events.

Those who consider taking a chance at a council term are likely to be longtime residents. Like Bergstrom for instance.

The longtime Farmington area resident is president of Bergstrom Insurance Agency on 12 Mile Road. He has been a member of the Farmington Board of Zoning Appeals since 1989. Appeals since 1989. He's a 1975 graduate of Harri-

son High and has a bachelor's de-gree in business from Michigan State University.

If Bergstrom decides to run, if will be his first attempt at elec-tive office.

"There's not any one issue," Bergstrom said. "(There's) just an interest in local government on my part, and a general interest in good government."

As for those who might be

As for those who might be pondering a run for elected office, Tupper said, "If they've got the time and they have the interest, would encourage them to do so."

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