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done a lot of work on beautification in the area already and somehow, children are more important than flowers."

Action defended

But city council member Bill Hartsock, who is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows, Thursday defended the unanimous decision to table the request and expressed his own disappointment in Hurley.

"He (Hurley) has to realize that it was tabled, it was not a

rejection," Hartsock said. "Monsignor Hurley is way ahead of himself being upset with the council. Everybody has an open mind in terms of looking at these plans and resolving some of the issues."

According to Hartsock, it now is up to the parish's athletic committee to tweak its proposal enough so that it fills in the blanks.

At the core is the plan to move the school's baseball field, to accommodate construction of a

family activities center and expanded parking. Our Lady of Sorrows is in the process of raising funds for the \$5 million expansion, said Hartsock, adding that groundbreaking likely won't begin until at least \$3 million of that target goal is pledged.

Besides Hartsock, council members Jim Mitchell and Arnold Campbell and Lauffoff attend the parish.

"They have an opportunity to come back," Mitchell said Fri-

day. "It's not out of the question that it can be approved. We have approved variances in the past."

The blueprints call for the new baseball field to be built at the north end, with a left-field foul line that would extend right to the edge of 10 Mile Road. City officials are concerned about the possibility of baseballs being hit out into the main road. Moving the field somewhere else to minimize that situation was suggested to Hurley and project architects from Giffels, Hoyam and Basso.

"The issue is not about a baseball field and location of the football field (next to it)," Hurley said. "It's about children using the playground during recess and after school."

Looking at issues

Other issues touched upon included: how approving the

request might set a precedent; the impact a fence some view as less-than-aesthetically pleasing might have on neighborhood property values; the location of fence entry gates, to serve nearby residents who often use the fields; and building a berm instead of a fence.

"We could put up a berm," Hurley said. "And the kids could slide down into the street."

Power resident Mark Winter spoke during the council meeting about his disappointment that neighbors' input was not sought during planning stages by Our Lady of Sorrows. He and others who live near him found out about the pending project through the city.

Although Winter said safety is of prime importance (he noted he has a small child) - "having a giant fence surrounding one of the last pieces of green field we have in Farmington ... would be

a travesty."

Winter Friday said he blamed the architectural firm more than Our Lady of Sorrows for the dispute and called the parish a good neighbor.

"That's their property," Winter said. "I understand that. They can do what they want. But there is a direct ordinance that disallows that kind of fencing."

Two residents on nearby Leelane said they weren't concerned that such a fence might hurt their property values.

"I'm sure they'd do it in a nice way," said Janice Reynolds. "I wouldn't worry about property values at all. You don't want to wait until there's a (safety) problem."

Dorothy Rae said she favors putting up a fence. "I think they need a fence for the kids when they're in school."

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Bug from page A1

wanted him to represent. I think the kids like it."

The caterpillar features a cute, green antenna'd head, white marching feet (to show up better on the asphalt) and an accordion-like body, with seven sections - each containing one letter of the word "respect."

Reason with each other.

Explain your side truthfully.

Speak politely.

Put up only (no put down).

Exercise active listening.

Compromise and trust your decision.

Take turns.

According to Gill social worker Sue Anker, Kagar grew out of the school's so-called "De-BUG

System," a five-step process to solve problems between students.

"It's to get all kids in school thinking about what they can do," Anker said. "Like compromising, taking turns."

Anker said there were some 75 mediations handled between February-June at Gill, following implementation of the "De-BUG System." Even prior to Kagar's appearance, the system has already helped decrease confrontations during lunch and recess, she added.

Several fourth graders who were painting Kagar seem to like the respect bug, and think he can be pretty effective.

"They'll walk by and instead of slugging somebody, they'll say

"better not," said Robert Forte, 9. "It's fun. I like to help people solve their problems. Today, there was an argument, with a lot of pushing and shoving. They ended up being best friends."

Another of those student mediators, 8-year-old fourth grader Monica Hayworth, said she thinks Kagar will help get kids to "think twice" before swinging at each other.

Concurring were Elise Chalk and Allison Matthews, both 9.

"I think it'll help when people look at this, to remember to respect people," Elise said.

According to Allison, youngsters will constantly be reminded to behave every day. "When people come out here, they're always looking at that."

AGENDAS

Farmington Hills Council
City hall, 474-6115
7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27

Agenda items include:

■ Proclamation acknowledging City Clerk Kathy Dornan as president of the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association

■ Consider confirmation of entering into a consent judgment between the city and Oakwood Hills LLC regarding Power Road development.

development.

■ Consider amending consent judgment for property at northeast corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

■ Designate voting delegates for National League of Cities Conference

■ Consider contract for towing and storage services with Hadley's Towing and Recovery.

■ Consider contract for a cir-

cus at Founders Sports Park on July 18, 1998.

■ Ice arena dry floor activities summary report.

■ Preliminary report on storm water management.

Detroit Edison Citizens Committee
Farmington Hills City Hall, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29
■ Edison representatives provide updates.

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