

Historic homes hold sway

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills' historic home dwellers say it's not all memories and nostalgia living at an antiquated address. Modern-day realities of traffic, paved roads and utilities often disrupt the serene sentimentality of it all.

They let Farmington Hills City Council know their feelings on what they see as another intrusion to historical living at Monday's regular meeting.

Council members were going to consider approving an amendment to historical living at the northeast corner of Orchard Lake and 11 Mile Road, which includes driveways for both roads.

But the developer asked that it be tabled until a solution can be worked out.

Historical folks are upset about the 11 Mile driveway into the proposed two-story office development. Council members told the developer to come back with a revised site plan with two driveways at its Aug. 18 meeting.

"We can continue to work with historical, city and neighborhood groups," said Adrian Lyman, A&L Realty spokesman. "...I think we can get (the issues)

resolved."

An entryway will cut into the yard of the adjoining Royal Aldrich home and a required deceleration lane will affect the Bado hired man's house across 11 Mile, said Ruth Moehlman, Farmington Hills Historical Commission spokeswoman.

The Aldrich house is on the National Register of Historic Properties. The home's current occupant Steve Olson spoke out against the 11 Mile driveway.

Michigan's National Registry coordinator also asked in a letter to council that the 11 Mile driveway not be built. The historical commission is expected to follow suit.

"It's very important for us to preserve these homes," Moehlman said Tuesday. "We can replace trees; we can replace a lot of other things, but we can't replace an 1842 house."

Though the matter was delayed, residents spoke passionately about historic homes.

John Willyard lives in the historic John Garfield House on 13 Mile. He said he puts up with nuisances paved roads, utility easements and trash thrown on the lawn, and yet welcomes school tours and gets numerous people pulling up to look at the home.

"We do all this because we love the historical nature of the area and the historical nature of our homes... in a way that doesn't make a lot of financial sense," Willyard said.

"This is a house (Aldrich house) that has been there for generations and we hope for generations to come."

Sherry Stewart lives in a house on 13 Mile, which was restored by Henry Ford. The structure, built in 1845, was moved from the Clarenceville area to 13 Mile, Moehlman said.

Stewart said a green buffer is needed between the proposed two-story office complex and the Royal Aldrich House. "I don't think you can save that buffer if you put the driveway there," Stewart said.

Not everyone opposes a driveway on 11 Mile, namely the Springland-LaMurn Civic Association representing nearby subdivision residents. Two driveways will alleviate cut-through traffic in their subs, said Debbie Foster, association spokeswoman.

"It's very much a safety issue," Foster said, "and that's a primary concern of residents of the subdivision."

Heartfelt homecoming



Crowning moment: Senior Kristin Jaber, above, accepts roses as she's crowned homecoming queen for Clarenceville High, as her mom, Jan Jaber, cheers Friday night.

STAFF PHOTOS
BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Welcome back: Chuck Rousseaux, 1948 Clarenceville High graduate, sings along to the National Anthem at Clarenceville's Homecoming Oct. 24. The 67-year-old Farmington man wore his 50-year-old letter sweater to the game. He said he was passing the school on Middlebelt the week before and saw the sign announcing the game and decided to attend. He also brought along his 1948 yearbook and watched his former team for the first time since 1952. Rousseaux played football for the team and his senior year, the 47-48 season, the Trojans record was 4-3-1.

"I played left end and scored a couple touchdowns," Rousseaux said.

Hills' Optimist Club offers scholarships for student essays

The Farmington Hills Breakfast Optimist Club will sponsor an Essay Contest entitled, "My

Opinion of Freedom" beginning in October. All high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors

are eligible to participate according to Sharon Hain, club chairperson for the event.

The local club will select a first, second and third place winner in its contest, with the first place entry automatically entered in district competition where it will be judged against other club winning entries from the surrounding areas. The first place district winner will receive an all-expense paid, four day trip to the Freedom Foundation Leadership Workshop and a plaque. International awards

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■ First place: Plaque, trip to convention for winner and parents, and a \$5,000 College Scholarship.

■ Second place: Plaque and a \$3,000 College Scholarship.

■ Third place: Plaque and a \$2,000 College Scholarship. All essays must be original and submitted by Dec. 1, 1997, to a local Optimist Club. For further information, contact Sharon Hain at 83238 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48334 or call 553-7699.

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