

Sorrows facelift gets push from planning commission

The Farmington Planning Commission Monday night unanimously got the ball rolling on a \$5.9 million, two-phase facelift for Our Lady of Sorrows School.

With the site plan and special exception use expansion permit approval, required because the campus is in a residential zone, changes will start coming fast and furious.

■ Perhaps by the turn of the century, Our Lady of Sorrows elementary school teachers will have brand-new classrooms instead of portables from which to instruct students.

■ Traffic to and from the private Catholic school in Farmington will be more easily managed, with driveways off Rafael Street.

■ There will be a 28,000-square-foot family center, the main component of the project's first phase (which is expected to begin in June), complete with pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms, a gymnasium and chapel.

■ On the drawing board is a physical link between Sorrows' elementary and middle school wings.

Margaret Stirling-Hamilton, vice chair for the planning commission, likes the plan — presented Monday night by a representative for Giffels Hoyem Basso Architects — because of barrier-free access for the handicapped as well as the proposal to link the elementary and middle school wings.

"It will provide (students) an opportunity to get from one to the other without going outside," she said.

Another plus, Stirling-Hamilton explained, is the plan to eliminate the Power Road driveways to the school and replace them with driveways off of Rafael. Existing entrances and exits for the parish located on Power Road will not be changed.

The elimination of portable

classrooms is part of Phase 2 of the project, which will be managed by Jenna Construction Co. of Bloomfield Hills.

Richard DeBeliso, executive vice president and director of operations for Giffels Hoyem Basso, said they hope the family center would be completed in time for the second semester of the 1998-99 school year. Bids for parts of the work will begin soon.

DeBeliso said a 1 1/2- to two-year timetable for the entire project is a reasonable projection. The only thing that could hold up the process is an unforeseen snag during upcoming final review of the proposal by the state.

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, a member of the Sorrows parish, said the improvements will provide better services to those who will use the enlarged facility.

"We're pleased that Our Lady of Sorrows, with these renovations, is making the facilities handicapped accessible," Lauhoff said. "That's being sensitive to the community's needs."

And many members of that community came forward to help Sorrows, according to several, who estimated that members of the Sorrows family pledged \$3 million of the total project tab.

Planning Commission Chair David Gronow and Our Lady of Sorrows Monsignor Walter Hurley could not be reached for comment.

But DeBeliso said Hurley and others from Sorrows were at the planning commission meeting and were "very pleased and felt like it was a good decision."

A public hearing preceded the



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Frank Lauhoff
—Farmington city manager

decision. Only one person spoke, in opposition to the plan.

"He had concerns about traffic flow and he was concerned about the impact of adding more students," Stirling-Hamilton said, noting that less than 100 children could be added because of the expansion. "I do think that (traffic) is addressed with the Rafael access and changing the configuration of pickup and dropoff points."

Lauhoff concurred. "It will increase their enrollment, but only marginally."

FARMINGTON'S FAVORITES

People who live or work in Farmington or Farmington Hills are invited to help choose Farmington's Favorites with one vote each. Please fill out the entire form to ensure your vote is counted. Address and phone number will be kept confidential.

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■ Tell us why:

■ How do you like your burger?

■ Person nominating:

■ Address:

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To fax in your vote: 477-5722

To mail in your vote: Farmington Observer 33411 Grand River Farmington, MI 48335

Deadline: Monday, April 27 5 p.m.

Where's the best beef?

Now here is an opportunity to drool over. The Farmington Observer wants you to select the tastiest burger in Farmington or Farmington Hills.

It's part of our new feature, Farmington Favorites, which gives readers the clout to pick the best things in town.

And your fave doesn't have to be just like the traditional hamburger that Wimpy consumed en masse.

You can vote for a veggie burger, turkey burger or an "anything" burger.

All we ask is that this burger can be obtained at one of the fine dining establishments (deli, bar, bowling alley, etc.) in either city.

We'll collect the tallies (see accompanying coupon) and report them in an upcoming issue.

—Dave Varga, editor

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SHOPPING HOURS • MON-SAT 10-9 • OPEN SUN AT NOON

Waste day

Bring hazardous materials May 9

Residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills can properly dispose of hazardous household products like oil-based paints and pesticides 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9.

Products such as cleaners, solvents, turpentine, pesticides, antifreeze, oil-based paints, herbicides, glue, car batteries and gasoline will be accepted.

Single containers of hazardous waste are limited to 5 gallons or a total of 40 pounds. This program is for residential use only and a driver's license must be presented as proof of residency.

The drop off site will be 47th District Court at 32795 Ten Mile Road, at the northbound Raphael Street entrance. Technicians from Waste Management and Chemical Waste Management will unload cars.

When packing and transporting household hazardous materials:

■ Make sure each container is properly labeled.

■ For solid materials, place each container in its own plastic bag and close tightly.

■ For liquid materials, make sure the cap is secure. If missing,

transfer the contents to a secure container and label properly.

■ If the container is leaking, transfer the contents to a non-leaking container with a label.

■ Place containers in a box with a sturdy bottom.

■ If containers are made of glass put paper between each item.

■ Put the box of hazardous waste on the floor in trunk of the car.

Latex or water based paint won't be accepted as these materials are non-hazardous. Such paints may be disposed of at the curb on regular garbage pick-up day as long as the lid is removed and the paint is dried up.

Other unacceptable items include compressed gas cylinders, radioactive material (including some smoke detectors), explosives, shock sensitive compounds and medical waste.

All unacceptable items will be repacked, properly labeled and returned to the resident. The Department of Environmental Quality may then be contacted for appropriate disposal information.

Karmanos to be honored by Junior Achievement

Compuware Chairman and CEO Peter Karmanos, Jr. is one of four area business leaders to be honored tonight by Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan during the Business Hall of Fame Ceremony.

Karmanos, who co-founded Farmington Hills-based Compuware Corp., will be recognized during the sixth annual black-tie dinner and induction ceremony at The Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn. A reception will take place at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

Compuware, under Karmanos' 25-year direction, has become Michigan's fifth leading software exporter, offering more than 60 software products to customers in dozens of countries. He also is co-owner of the National Hockey

League's Carolina Hurricanes and the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers.

Also being honored is Birmingham area builder William Pulte, businesswoman Irma Elder and Philip Caldwell, former chairman and CEO of Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn.

Another Farmington Hills connection tonight is recognition of one of the 1997 honorees, Florine Mark, unable to attend last year's dinner because of a family tragedy. Mark is president and CEO of Farmington Hills-based The WW Group, Inc., the largest franchisee of Weight Watchers International.

For more information about tonight's dinner, call the Junior Achievement office at (313) 964-3900.