

In the cards: Patrick Cowley says plans to expand his family's restaurant include alternative parking plans.

Cowley's expansion plans move forward

The long-rumored expansion of downtown Farmington's Cow-ley's Old Village Inn is getting closer to not being a rumor any-

closer to not being a rumor anymore.

According to family spokesman Patrick Cowley, a site plan proposal for the remodeling and expansion of his parcents' 25-year-old business likely will be presented to the Farmington Planning Commission at its April 9 meeting.

Still being ironed out are architectural drawings for the expansion, which would include construction of a second floor and transformation of the tavern into an authentic Irish pubcomplete with valet parking and expanded menu.

Cowley's Old Village Inn is owned by John and Marie Cowley with day-to-day operations handled by their sons, Patrick, Greg and Michael. The sons will make the upcoming presentation to planning commissioners.

"We're talking with an architectural firm about drawing up plans for a two-story (pubrestaurant)." Patrick Cowley explained earlier this week. "It will have the kind of old-world windows on the bottom, with stone and brick" on the outside. If the plan is approved, construction could begin in earnest during July and be completed by the end of the year. Cowley said the business probably will stay open while work is being done. The sticking point is whether sufficient parking can be found for what would be a larger customer base. The current capacity of 159 would be expanded to more than 300 patrons; many would rely on a valet parking service.
"We're answering the (city's) question about parking the proposing valet parking. Cowley said. "And we've already done some preliminary talks with Avalon Films and the Masonic Temple" about using their lots during evenings and weekends. Cowley said the city is requiring

the family to find another 27 Smart' salads and soupe

the family to find another 27 parking spots.
Cost of the project is estimated between \$750,000 and \$2 million, Cowley said.
"We want to invest a lot of money," Cowley said. "But, it doesn't make a great amount of sense to invest a huge amount of money if we can't get adequate parking."

Beneficial

Beneficial

He added that expanding Cowley's from 2,300 square feet to
4,500 square feet to
4,500 square feet 'will benefit all
of downtown, by providing an
upscale bar and restaurant.*

The second floor would be for
non-smokers, and include the
offering of entertainment and
banquet facilities. On the main
floor would be an enlarged
kitchen and so-called saugs, 'little booth-like areas where people
can meet and at.'. Cowley said.
Current favorites such as the
dart boards would still have a
home at the new Cowley's, and
the menu would incorporate traditional bar fare with 'Heart

Smart' salads and soups.

"We haven't received anything yet." Terri Morency, planning commission chair, said. "We're going to look at the things we usually look for, such his parking, lighting and traffic flow."

Whatever the Cowleys bring to the planning commission, "it should be with a specific site plan... Then, if something needs to be corrected, or if we need more information, they would come back' at the May meeting, Morency added.

The expansion initially was discussed in February 2000, when Michael, Greg and Patrick Cowley introduced their concept for a "Cheers-like" husiness to perhaps be renamed John Cowley & Sons Irish Taven.

The plan was revisited later last year, with the family and planning commissioners exchanging ideas. Morency described that as just an advisory meeting about what the planning commission might expect to be included in any future site plan.

Parents look forward to all-day K

Most signs Monday indicated Most signs Monday indicated general support and enthusiasm for the all-day kindergarten pilot program slated for 2001-02 at William Grace Elementary

Several parents leaving Several parents leaving kindergarten registration Monday afterneon said they are looking forward to the fall, when their children will attend kindergarten. And William Grace secretary Judy Brocklehurst couldn't remember a more-active opening day of kindergarten sign-ups. Registration continues through Friday.

Friday.
"I've been here 20 years and this is the best it's been" on the first day of registration, Brockle-hurst said.

Of those who registered Monday. Brocklehurst said most signed up for the all-day pro-gram, while only two were unsure about whether to sign their children up into a tradition-al half-day program. According to Brocklehurst, the

majority of parents also said they intended to be at Wednesday night's informational meeting at William Grace.

mights informational meeting at william Grace.
Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxifield, about the half-day option for William Grace families, emphasized that "it depends on registration" whether those children attend nearby Alameda Early Childhood Center or stay at their home school. The latter would take place if too few sign up for all-day sessions. William Grace Principal Mark Morawski hopes all-day ehrolment numbers will be good enough to have two sections next year.

enough to have two sections next year.

It is "unlikely" that William Grace parents would opt to send their youngsters to Fairview Early Childhood Center, because it is located further away, Max-field added.

if they're not doing kindergarten, you're probably taking them to a play group or Ilbrary.

Rebecca Smith

They like concept

While leaving registration, parents Ramona Endie and Rebecca Smith applauded the concept of all-day kindergarten, piloted at William Grace.

"I think it's excellent," said Eadie, after enrolling her daugh-ter, Amari, into next year's all-day program. "... I think she'll be

auy. Endie added that she likes how Eadie added that she likes how Amari will enjoy play time and academics and still have an opportunity for a mid-day nap if she wants one. That's the biggest (thing), to have a chance

to rest."

Also enthusiastic about the pilot program is Smith, who enrolled her son, Gaelan. He is the youngest of nine children in the family, and all of the older siblings attended half-day kindergarten. "He's up all day now, he doesn't take naps anymore," noted Smith about whether it might be too much of an adjustment to expect kindergartners to go to school all day long. "And, if they're not doing kindergarten, you're probably taking them to a lay group or library.
"I'm hoping it will be a good mix of play time, arts and crafts, socializing and academic learning."

Another benefit of attending.

Another benefit of attending all-day kindergarten is young-sters would not need to sign up for Educare, a tuition-based enrichment program that now is available for the other half of the day.

Kindergarten round-up wraps

Parents of new kinder-garten students in Farming-ton Public Schools will end the registration process Fri-day, March 2. This year, students can be registered at their home school. The idea is to produce a more-accurate count of regi-strants and to assist in deter-mining staffing and facility needs.

Parents who wish to send Parents who wish to send their kindergartner to Alame-da or Fairview Early Child-hood Centers will still have the opportunity to do so. When registering at the home school, parents must indicate

a preference for Alameda or Fairview. Choice is on a first-come, first-served basis. After registration is completed, students will be assigned to schools. Registration packets are available in the front offices of each elementary school. The child's birth certificate and two proofs of residency are required at the time of registration. Assignments and partention. required at the time of regis-tration, Assignments and par-ent notification will occur before Kindergarten Orienta-tion on April 27. For home school boundary information, please call (248) 489-3329.

CLARIFICATION

All-day kindergarten is not offered at Alameda and Fairview chools. There was an error on page A5 of Sunday's story about indergarten roundups. William Grace Elementary School is the ply school in the district that will have all-day kindergarten during

Tundra from page A1

. "Our shirts glow and our socks glow," said Jackie. "The snow is

"Our shirts glow and our socks glow," said Jackie. The snow is glowing."

Outside the 'tundra," in science teacher Terry Schneider's spectacularly transformed classroom, pupils experienced everything they might find on the North Pole. There were fake evergreens covered with fake snow, papier meche animals of North Pole inhabitants, studentmade snowflakes dangling from the ceiling.

'Adding to the ambiance, visitors could pretend to be Eskimos. They could walk down the hallway in snow shoes or stick their heads into the round holes of cardboard Eskime cut-outs—then looking at themselves in mirrors placed on the other side of the hall. Those cut-outs were created by Alameda paraprofessional Kathy Jenuvai, who was instrumental in helping with the project.

By the end of school on

project.
By the end of school on Wednesday, all youngsters at the center and even some parents will have experienced all aspects of the Alameda Arctic Adventure, said Principal Helene

Blackman.

"It just helps children have the chance to experience something they never will in their life." Blackman said. "They will get into the igloo, see the northern lights, experience seeing the kind of gear they'd use if they spent time on the Arctic."

Waiting for the next group of young visitors to arrive, Schneider said the project is an extension of regular curriculum. Children prepared by reading books and listening to guest author Shelley Gill talk about the Iditered, for example.

"This opens it up to them so it makes them want to learn more and get them enthusiastic about science, Schneider said."... I try to get is that wow reaction. We want that enthusiasm to stay.

Kindergarten teacher Kathleen McElroy said, 'It's just so much more meaningful for the kids, especially for young children" to have hands-on experiences such as the tundra project.

Another benefit for the young sters, continued McElroy, is the fact everybody chipped in with murals and other artwork.

"It's not only the overall effect," McElroy said. "It's the fact they all helped make it. They can point to different things and say, 'I did this' or 'I did that."



Blg foot: Allie Buck tries out snowshoes

Widening from page A1

the road ... all you have to do is look" to know why it is being

Sharing that view is O'Brien,
who said Farmington Road in its
current shape and configuration
and configuration
First of all, there is the poor
payment condition, O'Brien
explained, 'And there's a high
concentration of left-turn, rear-

end accidents where people are turning onto side streets or residences. They are sitting in trained and getting hit from behind because there isn't a left-hand turn lane.

A 12-foot-wide fifth lane will be added. Right of way negotiations are under way with five property owners just north of Colinx (halfway between Eight-

Nine Mile).
O'Brien said the road commission needs the room for sidewalks, utilities and landscaping.

Most of the project, estimated to cost \$7.2 million, is being paid for with money from the federal government. The remaining costs will be divided botween Oakland County and the cities.

Kimberly from page A2

ments. She asked whether offi-cials could require the developer

ments. She asked whether officials could require the developer to put up a bond to pay for any damages due to the location of the project; city attorney John Donohue said, "No." Ellis said people have a right to develop their properties and he had a sworn obligation to uphold the citys ordinances. He then said he would vote against the project. When it was tabled, he and Barnett cast the opposing votes.

before, and I still believe it's pushing the envelope. It's far too close to the wetlands," he said. "This is one of the most poorly designed situations I've seen since I've been here. Counciliman Chris McRae asked whether the developer had considered taking out a lot closest to the wetland if the DEQ declined to approve a pond with less slope. Currin said the company had not.

Saying the development met the letter but rea!

ho and Barnett cast the opposing pany had not. missions, the votes.

Saying the development met agreed to stretce "This one, I voted against the letter but not the spirit of Countegan asid."

city ordinances, McRae superseded Barnett's motion to kill the
project with a motion to table.
City manager Steve Brock said
he would sit down with the
developer to work out a solution,
keeping in mind "the developer's
legal right to develop the properlegal right to develop the properlegal right to develop the properliminary plat 20 days after submissions, the developer has
agreed to stretch out that time,
Countegan said.

8.25%

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