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## Capital improvements 'wish list' includes sidewalks

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER  
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Farmington Hills city planners put together a wish list of capital improvements for the city that stretches to the year 2008.

The planning commission recently approved the draft with some minor adjustments. At a recent public hearing about the proposed projects, residents made it known new sidewalks were a major issue for them.

Old Homestead resident Ken Massey said he and his neighbors want a sidewalk on Drake, between 11 and 12 Mile done soon.

"This is the third time we asked for this," he said.

The planning commission recommended moving that proposed future project to the upcoming fiscal year.

Resident Claire Petrak and some of her neighbors wanted 11 Mile between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake to have a sidewalk built along the road.

She said people who live in the subdivisions along the road cannot go from one subdivision to the next because there is no pathway. She added that it would be nice if bicyclists could ride to nearby Heritage Park as well.

The 11 Mile sidewalk project is slated for the 2002/03 season, with a cost estimate of \$500,000.

### HILLS

Other sidewalk projects proposed for the upcoming fiscal year are:

■ Metroview, 8 Mile to W. Lyman.

■ Filling sidewalk gaps on 13 Mile, south side, Drake to Edyth.

■ 10 Mile, north side, Orchard Lake to Farmington.

■ Inkster, Shilawasee to 8 Mile.

■ Halsted, west side, Interchange Court to 11 Mile Ct. and 11 Mile Ct. north, Halsted to San Marino path.

Dale Countegan, director of planning for the city, said the capital improvements program allows the city to identify, prioritize and implement capital projects over several years. Public improvements originating from the CIP process have served to improve the quality of life for all Farmington Hills residents, he said.

Countegan stated the program is a planning tool and not a promise of funding.

Some of the proposed projects for the 2002/03 fiscal year include:

Drainage projects:

1) Kendallwood Flood Proofing, which includes about 13 homes in the Kendallwood subdivision that are still having flooding problems upon completion of

the Minnow Pond drain improvements.

2) The construction of a retention area at the Rollers Pond and a channel cleanout from the Rollers Pond South to 12 Mile.

3) Cleaning out the drainage channel from Frondt Road, west of Gill to Eight Mile Road to prevent flooding.

4) Watermain replacement of the Old Homestead Subdivision. The system has been experiencing numerous breaks and much of the system must be replaced.

5) Watermain replacement on Eight Mile east of Middlebelt, and the replacement of the watermain on Osmus and Tilman.

Some other capital improvements proposed for the next fiscal year are renovations for the city's Heritage Park Historic buildings.

Countegan said the city council will accept the Capital Improvements document at its April 8 meeting.

He said the document is a reference for the council to approve projects that are in line with the proposed budget for the city's next fiscal year. He said the council can follow the recommendations or make adjustments as members see fit.

The council must approve a budget sometime before its first meeting in June.

### CARRIER OF THE MONTH: FARMINGTON

Raymond Ionel, 11, of Farmington Hills is the Farmington Observer's March Carrier of the Month.

The Power Middle School 6th grader started delivering the Observer in March 2000 and maintains a "B" average in school, where his favorite subjects are math and science. The son of Cornell and Lucia Ionel, Raymond has five brothers and sisters.

He enjoys playing football and plans to go to the University of Michigan someday.

Raymond said having an Observer route has given him a sense of responsibility. "I like the tips people give me and the thanks they give me," he said.

He believes others could benefit from having a route, too. "It shows young people that they can reach a goal, too."

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call 248-901-4716



Raymond Ionel

### Local student artists featured

An exhibit of student artwork from Longacre and Wood Creek Elementary Schools is on display at Wendy's Restaurant on 12 Mile, east of Orchard Lake. The exhibit, "Youth Art Month," is featured through March. Participating students will receive certificates and a free meal compliments of Wendy's.

Student artwork from Wooddale Elementary School is on display in the children's department at the Border's Book store located on Orchard Lake, south of 14 Mile. The exhibit is also on display through March.

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