

Officials adopt plan for capital 'wish list'

By JONI HUBBED
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If you've ever made a "wish list" of home improvements, you'll understand the City of Farmington Hills' new Capital Improvement Program.

Timed from the 2002-2003 through 2006-2007 budget years, the document includes in excess of \$100 million in drainage, sewer and water, sidewalk, transportation, public works, fire, parks and public facilities improvements.

"Basically, it's like a laundry list of all capital projects over \$25,000," explained City Planning Director Dale Countegnan. "What we fund is something else," City Manager Steve Brock said as the document was presented to city council members Monday.

The CIP provides a plan for necessary expenditures and ensures all of the items listed are consistent with the city's goals and policies, as well as res-

■ Improvement of Minnow Pond Drain at 14 Mile and Halsted, raising Halsted to eliminate flooding: \$2.5 million (100 percent city)

■ Pollution Prevention Initiative, part of the city's watershed management plan, this requires projects that will ultimately lead to a cleaner Rouge River and may include sewer rehabilitation, relief lines and sanitary storage facilities: \$2.2 million (100 per-

cents) expectations. For instance, residents in several neighborhoods have asked for the installation of sidewalks, to improve safety.

The new CIP calls for sidewalks to be placed in 25 areas throughout the Hills, from Halsted and 14 Mile to Inkster between Shawwassee and Grand River. Nine, including long stretches on 10 and 11 Mile Roads between Orchard Lake and Farmington, are programmed for the 2002-2003 fiscal year; the rest are designated

"future" projects.

The cost of completing the total sidewalk plan would be \$3,445,000, with the city's share being \$2,845,000.

Three dozen road projects are included in the program - everything from the city's participation in the \$100 million Michigan Department of Transportation's Northwestern Connector project, to computerized camera signal controls on 12 Mile, from Orchard Lake to Haggerty. Also on the list are noise abatement berms/walls on I-696 (south side,

cent city)

■ Installing larger water lines for Grand River Homes: \$950,000 (100 percent city)

■ Reconstruction of Fire Station No. 3, a new facility that will have Grand River access: \$3 million

■ City Hall expansion to alleviate crowding in some departments and provide space for technological hardware: \$4.5 million

■ Expansion of the 17-year-old police headquarters building on 11 Mile Road: \$2.7 million

■ Maintaining senior programs and decentralized youth centers: \$1.4 million and \$700,000, respectively, through the parks millage

■ Bike route improvements: \$400,000

■ Athletic field renovations: \$450,000 through the parks millage

east and west of Drake) and I-

275 (east side, from 8 Mile to 9

Mile).

The total cost of all transporta-

tion improvements over the six-year period is \$119 million; however, the city's cost would be just over \$3.5 million. Additional funding sources for these projects include the state and federal governments, Road Commission for Oakland County, state grants, weight & gas revenues and special assessment districts. Countegnan said a couple of the CIP projects are in excess of \$1 million.

Next month, council members will begin budget deliberations, and the CIP will serve as a guide for funding capital projects. Two

Clarenceville opens summer program to 6th, 7th graders

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This summer, Clarenceville 6th and 7th graders won't have to sit around doing nothing, while their younger siblings enjoy summer camp.

School officials have agreed to expand the district's Summer Camp program to include older students. Latchkey Directors Michelle Reilly and Leanne Buckley say the expansion fills a long-time need.

"We've had a lot of inquiries," Buckley said. "A lot of the kids do stay home...and that's a long period of time when your parents are working."

"This is a hole in our service and has been for the 15 years

we've had the summer camp program," Reilly added.

The idea originated with Latchkey staff members. In researching it, they learned the program's existing license could be extended to accommodate 13-year-olds and doesn't have to be licensed for 14-year-olds.

Swimming, field trips

The program agenda they've developed includes field trips twice weekly, a weekly swim at the Botsford pool, walking in the neighborhood, outdoor sports, arts and crafts. Program dates will be June 17 through August 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; camp will be closed July 4 and 5.

Officials were comfortable with the idea, particularly with

budget figures that showed, with at least 18 registrations, the program will pay for itself.

Cost of the program, including staffing, would be \$23,871.20. Charging \$160 for a full week would generate \$2,700 per week, or \$24,300 over the nine weeks of the program.

Camp tuition includes a t-shirt for each child.

Because of construction and asbestos abatement going on at Botsford Elementary, all summer camp participants will be housed in one building. With the addition of the older students, 6th graders will have a chance to meet some middle school students before going back to school in the fall, Reilly said.

Board member Gary Garrison called approval of the program a "no-brainer."

"I wholeheartedly support the proposal," he said.

Board member Bryan Bentley raised concerns about liability with field trips and sessions at the pool. Field trips would fall under the umbrella of school activities, covered under the district's insurance.

Citing his own daughter's experience, Board member John Kanyo said the camp has always been very well run.

"That kid was active all day long. The field trips were well managed. There were enough people and adults there," he said.

Reilly said parents have already indicated interest and have been waiting for program approval.

For more information, call Buckley, (248) 474-9645 or Reilly (248) 473-8905.

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