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MCMR's new plan gets big boost

**FARMINGTON Observer**  
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A HomeTown Communications Network publication  
33471 Grand River, Farmington MI 48335 (On the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Aves.)

**BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER**

Farmington Hills-based Compware, which soon plans to move its headquarters to downtown Detroit, is the first company to present a corporate donation supporting a diversity project in the Farmington area.

Compware, which is listed among the top 10 taxpayers in Farmington Hills, sent a check for \$2,500. The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and Farmington Schools have also put up a total of \$2,500.

"The Farmington/Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, in partnership with the Detroit-based National Conference for Community and Justice, will embark on a community strategic planning proposal to develop a model for diversity in the metro-Detroit area."

"We're pleased," said Karen

Bolsen, who co-chairs the MCMR Council with local Realtor Jim Hall.

MCMR plans to solicit donations from other corporations and foundations.

Commitment is one of the most important factors for participation in the upcoming diversity project of the Multicultural/Multiracial Council, Bolsen said.

Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxfield who sits on the project steering committee said earlier the money would be used for both initial support and ongoing plans, group discussions and training within the community.

"We want to create a savings account," Maxfield said.

For years, MCMR has worked actively in the Farmington community to provide information and programs for people to both get to know their neighbors and officials.

Farmington is an area where 85 different languages are spoken

in the schools.

"As we seek to engage key community involvement for the Strategic Planning Process beginning in October, we began deciding who should be involved by focusing on the issues we feel are crucial in our community and started to target constituencies requiring involvement to support work on these issues," Bolsen said.

A two-day retreat in late October, which organizers hope will involve 150-200 people, will be the kickoff for several months of discussion.

Besides commitment, the MCMR developed simple criteria for participants who live or work in the Farmington area: someone who is willing to cooperate constructively, who will listen, respect others and their opinions and be willing to set aside or, at least, suspend any personal agenda.

The committee plans to include all segments of the community in the process taking

into account a wide range of factors like age, socioeconomic status, people who live or work in the area, those of various housing, business people, Realtors and those who fit the "disenfranchised" category.

"Minorities sometimes just want to blend into a community," Hall said at a recent MCMR meeting. "They would like to move into an area similar to this but just to get lost in it and not cause any waves. They are of the same mindset of folks who will send their kids to school and just turn that care and education over. They don't feel empowered enough or worthy enough."

"That's fine until a sensitive issue comes along," said Eugene Seaborn, a principal at East Middle School and also a committee member.

For more information or to volunteer for the committee, call (248) 426-4455.

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**RCOC ROAD WATCH**

Information for Road Watch is supplied by the Road Commission for Oakland County (www.roadweb.org). Information is subject to change.

**FARMINGTON**

■ Road: Farmington Road, south of Nine Mile to Grand River — This section of Farmington is closed to southbound traffic as the RCOC reconstructs and widens the road. During the project, the detour route for southbound traffic is Grand River, Drake and Nine Mile. Motorists traveling northbound on

Farmington should expect delays and are encouraged to use the detour route as well. Completion is expected Sept. 30.

**FARMINGTON HILLS**

■ Road: 12 Mile at Orchard Lake Road — RCOC is widening this intersection (adding a right-turn lane on eastbound 12 Mile and extending the right-turn lane on eastbound 12 Mile). Completion was expected Aug. 16.

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