

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Senior Citizen Ride Program To Be Tried

A 50 cent rider, one day a week, will give transportation to senior citizens anywhere in Farmington next month.

The Farmington City Council approved an experimental program to begin in January on Wednesdays providing limited taxi service to people over 62 years of age.

The council approved subsidizing the program for a trial period of 90 days, up to six months, for a total of \$250, to determine how it will be used and what it will cost.

Vern Foster, owner of Suburban Checker Cab, Inc., told the council he would be willing to assign a taxi to the city one day a week between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

A senior using the service would be picked up at his home and delivered anywhere within the city limits for 50 cents.

The cab would be constantly "on call" and others could be picked up en route.

Foster said he was willing to subsidize part of the program, if the city would contribute \$10 a day. He said he is willing to subsidize all other costs during the trial period.

At the end of the trial, Foster will meet with the council to review the actual cost of operating the program.

The council would then have to decide whether to continue the program.

Foster hopes to find out both the demand for such a service, and how practical it would be economically.

"Although it is very limited in scope, it may aid us in determining if our local senior citizens would use a Dial - a - Ride or point - to - point service of an expanded nature if it were available," city manager Robert Deadman said.

Foster said he would be willing to start the service after the first of the year. The city plans to prepare handout materials to be distributed at the senior citizens activity centers.

The program got started following an investigation of several possibilities for mass transit for Farmington.

Newly - elected councilman William Hartsock made improved mass transit a campaign issue, and raised it again shortly after taking seat on the council.

Preliminary reports to the council indicated little help would be coming to Farmington from the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority, the unit which controls mass transit plans in the area.

Farmington Hills recently began a program of listing car pool riders, and City Manager George Majors indicated about 50 applications have been received so far.

Farmington's program would not serve Farmington Hills, and Foster indicated there would be an increase in cost to go the longer distances in the Hills.

"We certainly will be looking at the program anyway," Majors said.



GOODFELLOW DOLLS are on display at the Farmington Library. 12 Mile branch, prior to going into the Goodfellow baskets. Tracey Myers looks at two of the dolls before they go to some needy child. (Photo by Fran Evert)

FHS Yule Concert Is Tonight

The Farmington High School vocal music department will present its annual Christmas concert "A Christmas Music Box" tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. in the auditorium.

Five vocal groups will be featured including the Falconaires, Twelve Tones, Concert Choir, Women's Chorus and Men's Chorus.

Under the direction of instructor William Feucht and Janeen Ellis, FHS senior and concert chairman, the concert will also feature a visit from Santa Claus who will lead the traditional holiday tunes.



COUNTING UP the proceeds are Mrs. Lola Clarkson, Mrs. Betty Evans, and Mrs. Dorothy Ogelsby. (Evert photo)



DR. EDWIN BLUMBERG sells a Goodfellow paper. (Evert photo)

Goodfellows Best Ever

The Farmington Goodfellows collected a record \$3,475 during their paper drive, according to Chairman Richard Tupper, but they still could use more toys.

Tupper, who is heading a new Goodfellow organization which is operating for the first time this year, said some big contributors of toys were unable to donate this year.

Contributions of usable, or new toys should be dropped off at the Elks club on Orchard Lake Rd.

Names for recipients are to be turned in to the Chamber of Commerce office, Grand River and Farmington Rd.

New Forms Are Used

Retirees Are Enlisted To Help With Taxes

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

If you're a senior citizen in the Farmington area with a tax problem, an information booth staffed by senior citizens can help you.

Following a meeting attended by more than 500 persons held to discuss the new property tax relief law, city officials realized that senior citizens in the area would need information and help in filing for rebates.

That resulted in the information booths currently open from 1:30 p.m. five days a week in the city offices, 23800 Liberty. Although the service is primarily for city of Farmington residents, no one is questioned as to residence.

The group of six volunteers is chaired by Henry L. Trombley, a former postmaster in Farmington for 45 years.

Since retiring Trombley has been a "hobbyist," repairing and building furniture.

Also a volunteer is Gerald Harrison, former school superintendent in Farmington, who has traveled and served on numerous local boards since his retirement.

Other volunteers include Herb Taylor, Claude Loos, Gordon Sherman and Mrs.

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--Gerald Harrison

Ruth Henke. All volunteers received a training session with a representative of the state treasury office.

Trombley said that during the last two weeks more than 40 persons have been helped by the staff. This doesn't include information given over the phone and referrals to treasury offices located in Detroit at 18347 W. McNichols and in Pontiac at 2233 S. Telegraph.

He said that it would be impossible to determine how many persons are affected by the new law. Harrison added that he would estimate 50-60 per cent of those 65 years of age or older would be affected by the new law.

Three other categories of those eligible for tax relief under the law include those who are blind, who pay no tax, and servicemen, veterans or their widows.

"Because of a change in the law this year, many who received some relief in property tax last year may be confused," explained Harrison. "Under the new law many senior citizens not previously able to qualify for tax relief now can and don't know it."

Under the new law, the maximum relief available is \$500 with a sliding scale based on income. In this sense, family income includes social security and all other forms of income.

Also under the new law, renters can apply for property tax relief by using 17 per cent of their rent as a property tax. Previously income was limited to under \$6,000; however, now there is "theoretically" no income limit.

Property taxes are limited to two per cent of taxes for income between \$4-\$5,000, three per cent of taxes for income between \$5-\$6,000, and 3.5 per cent of tax bills for incomes of \$6,000 or more.

Trombley described the six page form as a "crossword puzzle."

In order to complete the form, the total amount of income for the previous year must be known. Refunds may be credited against

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Does Anyone Have A Good Suggestion?

Unightly vacant lots, damaged street signs, messy places of business and trash problems all have been called to the attention of the Farmington Beautification Committee through the suggestion box program.

"A lot of good suggestions have been received through the boxes in the past," said Mrs. Joan Barbrick, committee chairman.

The boxes are located at the White House Valet store, 33215 Grand River; the Farmington City Hall, and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce office.

"The Farmington Beautification Committee is interested in your suggestions for making Farmington a beautiful place to live and work. All suggestions will be reviewed at the monthly meetings held at city hall."

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