

# Hills Is Planning 1974 Programs

(Editor's note: Mayor Robert McConnell was invited by the Enterprise and Observer to outline Farmington Hills program for the coming year.)

With the establishment of our Department of Public Services, citizens can expect improved road conditions. In 1974 several projects will be undertaken. The first will be a planned program to pave some of our unpaved major roads. Gill Rd. will receive top consideration in this category.

## Improvements Hearings Set

FARMINGTON A special hearing Jan. 21, at 8 p.m. in the Farmington Hills City Hall has been set for several public hearings on neighborhood improvements.

## School Finances

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spring of 1973 solidly supported by many citizen groups and service organizations, was successful, following the failure of several millage requests the year before.

"With another millage expiring next year, we anticipate the same interest and involvement by the community will allow the schools to continue the many fine programs we have been privileged to establish to date.

Roads, explaining the financial troubles facing the district.

"Because of the fuel oil shortage we have had to convert six buildings to gas heat at an anticipated expense of \$37,000 in order to keep all the buildings open.

"Gasoline has increased 65 per cent from 12 cents a gallon to 20 cents, and is continuing to increase. Last year this district used 155,000 gal-

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roads with gravel and slag, along with necessary ditching to facilitate drainage will be undertaken. Money has been budgeted to acquire the city's first trucks and other equipment to provide the improved road conditions described above. Several subdivisions which have petitioned for road improvements will have their roads blacktopped in 1974.

A test section of sidewalk will be constructed to determine the future need for sidewalks along the major roads in the city.

We are currently working on creating two storm water drainage districts, one in the northeast corner and the other in the southeast corner of the city.

A part time fire services coordinator has recently been appointed to coordinate the training of fire department personnel. Budget permitting, this position will be filled full time. Plans have been made to provide additional part time personnel to augment our volunteer force, especially during the daylight hours.

It is anticipated that the northwest pressure districts will be completed in 1974, bringing water to the entire west and northwest portion of the city.

Several sanitary sewer projects are scheduled for construction in 1974 and it is hoped that the paper work and planning on the city's last major trunk sewer (the 10 Mile Rouge arm) will be completed to permit construction in 1975 and 1976.

The parking lot at city hall is currently being expanded, and will be paved with completion scheduled in April 1974. A new addition has been planned to the city hall building to provide a new courtroom and much needed office space. The council hopes to prepare a master plan for the most effective use of the entire city owned site at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Rds.

A citizens committee has been studying the present combination city and privately financed system and a recommendation for change will be presented to the council early in 1974.

It is hoped the proposed plan will provide garbage and trash pickup services at reduced cost to our residents. In addition, the council and its administrative officials are working with the Oakland County Department of Public Works in the preparation of a solid waste disposal plan as required by state law which must be completed by July 1, 1974.

A study is being made to determine if the four present youth oriented programs (Rap Line, FAAC, Youth Guidance and Youth Employment Services) could be consolidated under one administrative board to eliminate duplication and to provide better services to the youth in our community.

A housing commission is continuing to work on the problem of providing senior citizen housing in our community. The criteria established by the state has made this project very difficult and frustrating.

An improved communication system (MODAT) financed with federal shared funds will increase the efficiency of the officer in the field.

Very frankly, if we could do a better job, then we would," admitted Liner. "But how?"



CANNED GOODS were collected for the Goodfellows and other local charities by students at Thomas Beahan Junior High as part of their annual drive. (Evert photo)

## Local UF Is Investigated

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to be accounted for," explained Liner. "Some services are accountable, but many are not."

Health organizations which are indirectly supported by the UF are among those services which are unaccountable, according to Liner.

"What we're really trying to do is make available as wide a network of services in the area we serve as possible," said Liner.

Liner believes there are reasons why people sometimes feel there are no services in the community. "We have a large volume of services going into a community, but the services are often not the kind of thing you tell your neighbor about," he said.

Such services include legal aid and family services such as family and marital counseling.

"People don't recognize what's there. Maybe more publicity is needed. We like to get out the word as best we can," said Liner.

The UF produces a social resources directory which will be published again this year in about a month. This directory lists and describes all programs in the tri county area, and is not limited to UF programs. It is sold to schools and all agencies.

Agencies such as schools, hospitals and police departments are usually aware of UF programs, Liner said. A community information service, a department of UCS,

answers about 30,000 calls a year with a volunteer staff plus two trained social workers. "Their job is to match people with resources," he explained. The 24-hour number is listed in the phone book.

The UF has four major groupings of services. "Child care services provided by the UF are primarily institutional. This includes Boys Republic, Lutheran Children's Society, Methodist Children's Home, Vista Maria, and Big Brother and Sister programs.

In Farmington 14 persons made use of the Big Brother and Sister programs, last year.

Family services include counseling for marital and drug problems, juvenile delinquency and single parents. Placement for foster care and adoption, homemakers, and legal services, including national Institute, Salvation Army and Travelers Aid also place in this group.

During 1972, 235 families in the total Farmington area made use of three family agencies in the area: Family and Child service of Oakland County, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County and the Jewish Family and Child Services. This probably means an average of six-nine interviews per family," said Liner.

Health services include specialized centers such as the Detroit Hearing and Speech Center, Detroit Orthopedic Clinic, League for the Handicapped, Goodwill,

New Horizons, the Visiting Nurse Association, and five hospital outpatient clinics used by Farmington residents.

Group work and Recreation services include support for scouting and YMCA groups. In Farmington about \$180,000 from the UF capital fund drive was used for the land and buildings for the "Y" administration building in Farmington.

Library Starts Child's Course

FARMINGTON Children's literature for parents is the subject of a free five-week course beginning Monday, Jan. 14 at the Farmington Public Library.

Reading interests, pre-school books, storytelling, readers and magazines, audio visual materials, award winners and good body sources will be discussed.

The series, which is limited to 30 participants, will be under the direction of Miss Jill Locke, Mrs. Doris Goldstein and Mrs. Jane Alstrom, children's librarians.

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