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Twenty-Five Cents

Senior citizen housing survey launched

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY
Farmington Hill's senior citizen housing survey originally slated to be in the mails in the middle of April, will be in older residents' post boxes Monday or Tuesday, according to city administrators.

In giving about half of the seniors in the city a chance to describe the life style of the over-60 set, Farmington Hills administrators, planning and housing commissioners are hoping the survey will help them untangle the elderly housing controversy. Survey results will be used in the housing com-

mission's July 7 presentation to the planning commission.
Delayed by city administrators' push to formulate the municipal budget, community development fund and housing rehabilitation project deadlines, the survey is aiming to be an objective look at seniors' needs, according to administrative assistant Michael Dornan.
Part of the delay in sending the questionnaire was a result of efforts to create a survey that would avoid firing up an already heated debate over the feasibility of mid-rise or high-rise housing in Farmington Hills.

according to Dornan.
"THE SURVEY SPEAKS TO THE needs of the senior citizens in the community. It asks them what they need. It's not a survey for zoning changes," he said.
City Mgr. George Majors seconds Dornan's description of the survey. "It's unbiased. We want a good return on the survey. We wanted to eliminate any biased questions," he said.
With help from the housing commission, headed by Tom Czubak, city administrators looked through several drafts before settling on the final questionnaire.

"There were some drafts that I wouldn't fill out," said Majors. There were some very personal questions. Some wanted the name and address of the persons, information about the kids and how much they could afford to pay for a home. It was messy."
In addition, Dornan conferred with gerontologists from Wayne State University, St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac, the University of Michigan, the Michigan Municipal League and the International Nat'l City Managers Association. He also talked to students of aging who worked with the issue in

other cities before collaborating with the housing commission.
"The survey was delayed because Michael Dornan wanted to be conscientious. He wants it to be unbiased and meaningful," Majors said.
MEMBERS OF BOTH SIDES of the controversy have said they believe the city administration was sitting on the survey at the request of the homeowners.
Administrators deny that the survey was delayed for political reasons.
"We're just straight as an arrow around here. Those charges are nonsense," said Majors.

"We don't take sides. I don't even know all the players in the game. We have not manipulated the timing of the survey," he said.
Aiming at as many responses as possible, the survey can be folded to form an envelope. Residents can fold the survey and drop it into a mailbox. Postage is free.
THE SURVEY contains general questions about the types of housing elderly residents use. Income questions can be answered by indicating a general category rather than citing a specific figure.

Preserving history is her goal

Society taps Nancy Leonard

By LYNN ORR

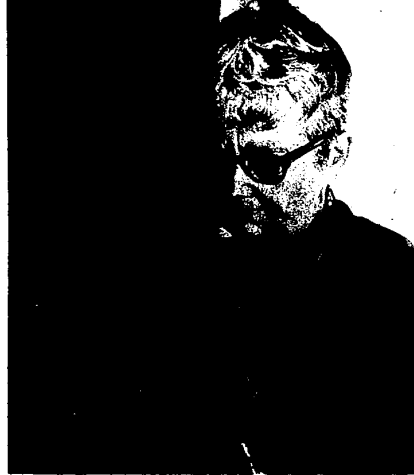
Her friends call her "Mrs. Full-Charge," while her opponents might label her obstinate.
During her nine years as a resident of Farmington's historic district, Nancy Leonard has been "aggressive in the best sense" in pursuing the preservation of Farmington's past.
These efforts have earned her the Farmington Historical Society's Heritage Award for 1977—the seventh year the award has been presented. Mrs. Leonard follows such illustrious Farmington historians as John Allen in 1971; Lee S. Peel in 1972; Paul Schreiber in 1973; Louis E. Gilson in 1974; Kay Briggs in 1975; and Ruth Moehlman in 1976.
Outgoing Historical Society President Kay Briggs presented the award to Mrs. Leonard in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the community.
"She continually works to encourage the appreciation and preservation of all facets of Farmington's heritage," said Mrs. Briggs.

tries to prevent progress from encroaching too heavily on her territory.
"More parking—that's the dirtiest word in 1977," she says adamantly. "I could almost turn into a sign carrier."
Instead, she is a familiar figure at City of Farmington council meetings working on her latest craft project while keeping a sharp ear on the council's future planning.
"You have to keep watch all the time," she says. "If you don't go to the council meetings and find out what's going on, before you know it you wake up and find something gone."
Her latest bout with the city involves the preservation of a home called the Jones house which some downtown commercial-property owners have eyed as a parking lot. Historic-district homeowners, meanwhile, are organizing to preserve the area as much as possible.

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—Nancy Leonard

The house is presumed to have been built by Remember Loomis (a woman) in the 1850's, and as one of 18 Farmington homes bearing historical plaques, the house is a treasure.
Most of the doors are original, and the front door is flanked by fluted pilasters, a typical trademark of Greek-revival style homes.
Mrs. Leonard's collection of blue and white spice jars and shelves of books add to the cozy atmosphere in what is referred to as a "sunshine house" for its many windows. Her collection of clocks ticking quietly in the background mask the city traffic on Shilawasse that only ceases between 3.5 a.m.
In addition to restoring her own home, Mrs. Leonard has been active with the historical society and the historical commission serving as an officer, organizer and float designer and display arranger for the showcase in city hall.
And she intends to keep pleading her cause.
"It isn't the shops we have here that attract people to this area," she maintains. "It's pretty and peaceful here, with tree-lined streets and old houses. Some people look at this with the eye that it will be commercial some day, but we're trying to hold the tide."



Heritage award winner Nancy Leonard jots down some notes for her mounting files about the history of Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

NANCY LEONARD'S contemporary appearance belies an avid interest in the past. In a turtleneck sweater, slacks and sandals, she can be found sitting in her den with the phone at her ear, clip file at her side, and cats (Pugley and Dinky) at her feet.
While fielding calls from such persons as an Eagle Scout interested in talking to a Farmington "old timer," Mrs. Leonard can gaze at her backyard with three herb gardens and one of the original Farmington community wells.
"I'm a clipper," says Mrs. Leonard who maintains she long ago outgrew her file cabinet and resorts to piles of papers to confirm dates. Like other members of the historical society, she has a garage full of Farmington mementos which she hopes to place in a future museum. In the meantime, she

"WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD," says Mrs. Leonard. "The people are great, but so is the whole city. I've heard some people say that Farmington isn't very friendly, but if you are, they are—and I'm not the shy kind."
"I'm sorry I didn't discover this place 30 years earlier."
A Detroit eastsider, Mrs. Leonard and her husband, Arthur, an attorney, moved to Farmington nine years ago and fell in love with their Greek revival style house built circa 1858-59.
In restoring the house, they peeled as much as five layers of wallpaper off the walls and did some extensive repairs. They are still working to unstick some windows painted shut years ago.
To remind themselves of the extent of their restorations, the Leonards left the back of one door in its original state. But squeaky, uneven floors and drafts in the winter are a small price to pay if you love antiques. And Mrs. Leonard has firm roots in the past.

Birth control lessons loom for kids

Although family life education classes in Farmington Public Schools include human biology, sexual norms and the role of the family in society, instructors must skirt the issue of birth control.
Michigan is one two states in the nation which bans the teaching of birth control in public schools, but a recently-introduced bill may amend the public school code to permit birth control instruction.
"The law withholds some very important information on how young people should be responsible for their

behavior," says Joyce Paape, of the Oakland County Health Department. As the nursing supervisor of nine staff nurses in Farmington, Clawson schools, Ms. Paape strongly supports an amendment to the school code.
"The whole impetus behind the current code is a moralistic stance to legislate sexual activity," she says. "Parents need to know that we're not giving young people license to do whatever they want—we're giving them information."
Ms. Paape is resigning her present

position to begin a teaching career in community health nursing at Oakland University. But in her eight years in public health nursing, she has seen many misinformed teenagers in trouble.
The large number of abortions among teenage girls is the worst form of contraception, she says, and the current code makes it very difficult to teach the facts about venereal disease, which is at epidemic proportions among teenagers.
She also emphasizes that if birth control instruction was permitted in public schools, parents would have the option to keep their children out of the program.
"If they elect to do that, they'd better get busy and teach their children at home," Ms. Paape says. "They're sending them out without important information."

Incumbent Trustee Emma Makinen favors repeal of the ban, while Eugene Lemberg says he sees no potential conflict since parents will have the option to withdraw their children from the class.
"The judgment should be made in our community," says Peter Sanders, cautioning that the board and administration need to make sure the "right" teachers are in charge of the classes.
Citing the fact that 50 per cent of the births in Washington D.C. are illegitimate, Richard Wallace said he favors repeal of the ban.
"We must do whatever we can to enlighten our youngsters and control this problem," he says.
Candidate James Paeponis was unable to attend the meeting.

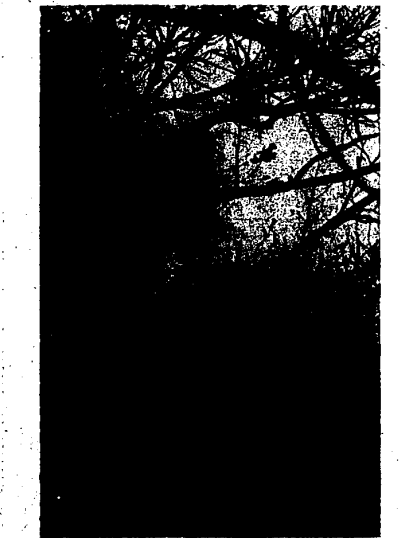
Deadline is June 14 for council petitions

AS COORDINATOR of the family life education program in Farmington schools, elementary superintendent Larry Friedman is currently coordinating the K-12 program to eliminate overlaps in education.
But if the law is amended to permit birth control instruction, the outline would have to be changed. Parents would retain the right to withdraw their children from a particular class, however. And the secondary program in the senior highs is a voluntary one—students sign up for the class—it is not mandatory.
At the League of Women sponsored candidates night last week, four of the candidates seeking a seat on the Farmington Board of Education responded to a question from the audience concerning the birth control ban.
Candidates for four seats on the Farmington Hills City Council have until 4 p.m., June 14 to turn in petitions at the city clerk's office in the Hills City Hall.
No less than 78 and no more than 155 signatures of registered voters in Farmington Hills are required for candidacy in the Aug. 2 election.
The seats of council members Joan Dudley, Frederick Lichtman, Robert Amori, and Earl Oppertbauer are up for grabs in the August vote.
City of Farmington residents interested in entering the council election have until Aug. 12 to file petitions. The seats of council members Alton Bennett and Richard Tupper and Mayor Dr. John Richardson will be up for election later this year.

Carpenter house eyed as museum

By LYNN ORR

And the historical society has two years leeway to see a dream realized.
"It's going to be a big job," says Kay Briggs, outgoing president of the historical society. "But we're determined."
Called a Michigan farmhouse, the Carpenter home was one of the original Power homes and is believed to be one of the oldest structures in the area. It was probably built between 1824-34, according to Nancy Leonard, historical society member, and could be easily transformed into a museum.
"Half the society members could unload their garages," she says in refurbishing the home with Farmington pieces retrieved when other structures were demolished.
One of the society's first fund-raising efforts will be a "tea sale" June 10 at a member's house to get the fund raising underway. And society members will be busy the next few months planning other means to get the project off the ground.
Farmington may have a museum in its future—if the Farmington Historical Society can raise the money to move one of the oldest homes in Farmington to a vacant location and finance its maintenance.
The Carpenter House (named for its last owners) is currently owned by the First Baptist Church of Farmington, located on Shilawasse east of the Farmington Rd. intersection.
The church has offered the historical society the house, which is located on the west side of the church. The Carpenter house property has been eyed as a possible addition to the church parking lot.
To convert the house to a museum, the historical society will have to move the house to a vacant piece of property, as yet undetermined, and come up with the money to assure maintenance.



Name that bird

A curious Farmington Hills resident called to tell us that a strange bird was residing in her backyard. Experts we may be, but this feathered fellow has us stumped. If you think you know what kind he is, drop us a note. (Staff photo)

Budget hearing set for tonight

Residents interested in contributing their opinions on this year's \$8 million Farmington Hills budget should attend the public hearing at city hall, Orchard Lake and Eleven Mbs., at 8 p.m. in the council chambers.

inside

Candidates speak
Candidates for the Clarenceville Board of Education give their views on the issues in the upcoming election. To see what they have to say, turn to page 4A.

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