

# Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

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Twenty-Five Cents

## 6-year plan mapped

## 'Wish list' outlines Farmington's future

Farmington's City Planning Commission has drawn up a \$13 million wish list which includes the construction of a senior citizens' residence, street improvements, and a continuation of plans to redevelop the downtown business district.

At least one of the projects included in the six-year capital improvement program—the addition to the Department of Public Services building—is slated to begin in March.

But some of the programs on the list could end up being discarded, according to City Mgr. Robert Deadman. The projects have yet to be funded and require further city council and planning commission action.

Street, housing and recreational improvements make up a major portion of the proposed program.

The commission would like to see Maple, Hawthorne, Valley View and Prospect paved with seven inches of concrete. Curb, gutters and storm drains would be installed on the streets.

Astor, Fink, Sherwood, Shaw, Adams, Grace and Hillcrest streets would receive sealcoating instead of concrete paving.

"THE PROJECT INCLUDES participation by local property owners through special assessment and community participation through general

obligation bonding," Deadman explained.

Another street that could be given a face lift is the Farmington Road, Shawasse intersection.

"We have capacity problems at that intersection," Deadman explained.

"There isn't room at that intersection for the proper stacking of cars in the left turn lane," he said.

Under the proposal, 12 feet would be added to each of the left turn lanes. A pedestrian bridge would be constructed across the upper branch of the Rouge River, which flows under Shawasse.

The improvement could be partially funded through a Federal Urban Systems Improvement grant totaling about \$115,000.

In addition, Nine Mile would be widened at the Grand River intersection. A sharp curve on Nine Mile before Grand River would be eliminated.

The commission's plans include widening Orchard Lake Road to five

lanes from Grand River to Ten Mile.

These road projects could be funded by the city and the Oakland County Road Commission.

THE ROAD COMMISSION could contribute an estimated \$800,000 to the project.

The last street improvement project on the list provides for the construction of an entrance and exit ramp from westbound 196 at Farmington Road.

The improvement would provide access to the downtown shopping area and eliminate traffic capacity problems at the intersection of Grand River and Halstead Road," said Deadman.

The ramp is unlikely to add to the traffic problem in the area.

"There's no place to go but Farmington Road when you get off the ramp," Deadman explained.

The exit ramp is slated to be built

west of Cloverdale School.

"The ramp shouldn't have any effect on school operation," Deadman said.

The project is estimated to cost \$250,000, in 1978. The state highway department is expected to pay all costs.

The list includes some items that are being considered for a second or third time.

The continued redevelopment of the business district ranks after street repair on the list.

THE CONTINUATION of the re-vamping of the business district will include additional parking space for shoppers. The city could buy additional property for the parking lots.

The plans will use the ideas presented by the first architect for the project, Christopher Wzany and by the Oakland County Planning Commission.

The study of the downtown area,

conducted by Howard L. Green and Associates will be continued.

"Methods used for the implementation of the project could include a federal grants and loan program, commercial district rehabilitation tax abatement law or establishing a commercial district special assessment," suggested Deadman.

The downtown redevelopment project will be conducted through 1982 and will cost an estimated \$125,000, according to Deadman.

Another familiar project on the list is the sewer separation program.

The first phase of the construction of separate sanitary and storm sewers is scheduled for completion in the spring. That part of the project is a feasibility study.

THE ENGINEERING and design parts of the project, as well as the actual construction, should continue.

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### Making an effort

Harrison's Sue Pesamoka makes a real effort during volleyball team practice at her school. To see the story on girl's volleyball in the school system, turn to the sports section. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## It's an emotional issue

## Amnesty debated by residents

Although the Vietnam war ended for American troops in 1973, the controversy over amnesty for draft resisters and evaders continues four years later.

Recent proposals concerning various types of amnesty have been presented, and an informal survey indicates Farmington residents and workers have their own conflicting opinions on what, if any, procedures to follow.

"I can see both sides of the question, and I don't know what to think," said one Farmington woman. "If I lost my son over there, I wouldn't think it's right that others didn't do their share, but I thought the war was wrong."

Father and son plumbing and heating team, J. J. and John Wagner, share similar views on amnesty.

"I don't believe in it," said Wagner, Jr. "I have friends that were killed there, and I can't see letting others off completely. I think Ford had a good program to let them work, but I don't believe in unconditional amnesty. How about the people that didn't pay income tax because they were opposed to the war," he asked.

"Are you going to let them off too?"

His father agreed with Wagner's assessment. "I served in WWII, my son served in WWII, and my grandson served in Vietnam," explained the 65-

year-old Garden City resident, whose work takes him to various suburbs. "Why should I favor amnesty?" he asked.

"If they didn't want to serve their country, they should stay out of it."

RESIDENT DAVID Cornwall had another view. "If the argument for the pardon is that Nixon suffered enough, then people who've had to live out of the country for 10 years have suffered equally," he said.

"What's good for Nixon is good for them, and they won't make as much out of their memoirs as he will."

Residents Larry Cox and Eileen Polk, share a view of amnesty as a healing technique. "I believe the government should let them come home in a blanket amnesty proposal," said Cox. "You're never going to be able to differentiate between the guys who really felt the war was wrong and those who just

didn't feel like going in the army."

"They're the last vestiges of an unpopular era," Cox continued. "Let them come home so we can forget about it."

MS. POLK ALSO believes blanket amnesty should be granted. "People that didn't want to go in the first place shouldn't be condemned for their actions, and I think old wounds should be healed," she explained.

Two co-workers in a hair salon had opposing views on the question.

"I don't favor it," said Celeste Zuczek. "I feel in the long run that if amnesty is given, everybody will start running away from wars."

"I think amnesty should be granted because I thought the Vietnam war was futile anyway," said Dawn Meadows, who works with Ms. Zuczek.



"I had a lot of friends that were drafted and some that didn't go. The whole thing was scary, they put a lot of guys through a lot of hell," she stated.

Don Adams, manager of the Cozy Cafe, believes unconditional amnesty would be a wrong decision for the government to make.

"People that I've talked to that were in the service don't think it's right," he said. "My opinion is that I think every kid should serve one year in the service. It would help the unemployment besides. We've been in trouble ever since we dropped the draft."

One Farmington woman expressed the opinion of many. "If I were more personally involved, I would have more of an opinion, but fortunately, it didn't affect my family."

## How residents can fight fires that hit during winter freeze

Winter may appear the most likely season for home fires, but the major cause, carelessness, isn't restricted to a time of year.

The recent rash of fires in Farmington Hills were almost all caused by carelessness, according to Hills Fire Marshall William Gearhart, and Farmington Fire Marshall Norman Maddison agrees with that assessment.

"Careless smoking, improper use of electrical appliances, accumulation of rubbish, improper use and storage of flammable liquids, and faulty heating and cooking equipment are the major causes of fires," said Maddison.

"It's the human element that's involved in most of these cases," he continued.

Both fire prevention authorities had numerous tips for residents trying to make their homes as fireproof as possible.

"Smoke detectors are a terrific investment," said Maddison. "And one for each floor, at least the bedroom areas, is important."

An obvious fire hazard is gasoline. "You should never store gasoline in a basement, and if you have to store your lawnmower or motorcycle in the

house, be sure to drain the tank," Maddison said.

Using gasoline improperly remains a major cause of home fires, said Gearhart.

"A lot of fires are just caused by carelessness, like storing things around a hot water tank or walking out and leaving the stove on."

Maddison asserted that even a neat homeowner can sometimes be irresponsible in the storage or placement of articles that can start fires.

"Don't pile your laundry around or near the hot water tank," said Maddison.

Trying to unfreeze pipes has been responsible for a number of recent fires during the cold spell.

"Call a plumber," recommends Gearhart, or use heat tapes, being careful to follow instructions. Heat tapes placed around pipes should never touch each other, he warned.

"You take a chance heating a pipe with a blowtorch," said Maddison, who also believes use of heating lamps to unfreeze pipes requires extreme care.

"IF YOU'VE GOT a pipe that continually freezes, crack the faucet a little to keep the water flowing," he suggests. "It may cost a little but it will save the annoyance of the pipes freezing."

Tips for smokers include large enough ashtrays to accommodate cigars and cigarettes so they won't fall out; taboo on smoking in bed and care when smoking around overstuffed furniture.

Smoldering ashes can start a fire hours after everyone has left the room or is asleep.

Gasoline should never be used as a cleaning agent, said Maddison. A recent fire was caused when a tile floor was cleaned with gasoline and care should accompany the use of any flammable substance. The vapors can easily make contact with faulty wiring or a pilot light and ignite a blaze, he said.

When fuses keep blowing, have an electrician look over your wiring and electrical system.

"Don't overfuse," warns Gearhart. "Check your breakers in the fuse panel by turning them off and on once a month to make sure they're working."

"Fuses are safety valves," said Maddison. "If you put a penny behind a fuse, you're blowing the integrity of that fuse," he said. Window air conditioners, he added, should be on a separate circuit.

Overloading plugs and careless use of extension cords are other fire starters.

"People run a wire under a rug, and then keep walking on it and it will fray," he said.

"Plan an escape route for your family," suggests Maddison. Getting out of the house and meeting at a specific point can relieve some of the panic that often accompanies fires.

When using electric blankets, be sure not to fold the blankets over. "If it's accidentally left on for a long period of time, you can create enough heat to start the bed on fire," Maddison explained.



DON ADAMS



DAWN MEADOWS



J.J. WAGNER



CELESTE ZUCZEK

### Learning Exchange seminars start

"The Learning Exchange Inc., in conjunction with Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, will conduct a 10-week, non-credit short course called 'The Learning Exchange.' The seminars will meet Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m., beginning Jan. 18. There is a \$25 course fee.

The Learning Exchange acts as a clearinghouse for the exchange of in-

formation. Topics to be discussed include: Dollars and Sense of Travel; Arts and Crafts; Antiques and Collectibles; Personal Aviation; Plant Design; The Diet Center; Evaluating a Work of Art; Transcendental Meditation; Problems of the Gifted, and Michigan Tourism.

Registrations will be taken the evening of the first session.

## inside

### JUST THE FACTS

It was an open and shut case when Mrs. Susan Odgen advertised her used car in our classified section. "I sold my car immediately," she told us, "the first day that the ad ran!"

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