

# Farmington Observer

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## Forget fears over housing, says Manor

Fears that government-sponsored senior citizen housing in Farmington Hills would bring low-income family housing with it are unfounded, a helpful sponsor said.

Rod Smith, executive director of Detroit Baptist Manor, a 351-unit senior citizen housing complex at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, plans to file an application for funding with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 15.

The Farmington Hills City Council, whose chambers in the past were often a battleground on the subsidized housing issue, agreed last week to sell five acres of land at Freedom and Drake roads to Baptist Manor to be used for senior housing.

But it did so with some apprehension, adding a restrictive clause in the ordinance that only housing for senior citizens and physically handicapped persons be constructed.

"These are 202 Section 8 (HUD) projects," Smith said. "By the very project design, they are for senior citizens and handicapped only."

"The concerns are unfounded. We tried to explain that on two or three occasions."

Smith is familiar with 202 Section 8 HUD grants. One of the three senior units at Baptist Manor, the Episcopalian, which opened last July, was funded by such a grant.

ALL THREE of the apartment buildings which comprise the Baptist Manor are HUD projects. The Alpha building has one unit, the Gamma has 150 and the Episcopalian has 100 units.

"We've been here about 10 years," Smith said.

Baptist Manor was created from a

group of American Baptist Churches who formed a corporation to provide housing for the elderly.

Early tenants were primarily Baptist, but that has changed over the years.

"It's open to all. We have a waiting list of 600 names now from all faiths and creeds," Smith said.

HUD regulations are that tenants should be at least 62 years old and earn no more than \$14,000 annually to qualify.

If HUD is in agreement, half of the proposed 102 units to be built at Freedom and Drake roads will be reserved exclusively for Farmington Hills residents.

Smith is optimistic about Baptist Manor's chances for HUD funds. "We have a good track record," he said.

"We're a non-profit organization, community based and charitable — a category that would exclude many developers."

In past years, senior citizen projects have been proposed for Freedom and Drake roads.

A group of residents led by Julius Hovanessian opposed the other projects because they included low-income family housing with the senior citizen units. Mrs. Hovanessian has spoken in favor of the Baptist Manor project because it's just for senior citizens and the handicapped.

Several incumbent councilmen sympathetic to senior citizen housing attached to low-income family housing were ousted in the 1979 city election.

The low-income family housing requirement was made by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), not by HUD.

## Festival clears financial books

commerce executive board.

No criminal charges were filed against Huber, who gave the board a promissory note in February.

Also in February, Williams, a CPA, conducted the first audit in the festival's 16-year history.

It revealed that after expenses and Huber's repayment, the festival cleared \$5,584 last summer, wiping out all but \$201 from debt accrued from Festivals '78 and '79.

Williams said an award from the chamber board to the festival committee will be forthcoming for making up the deficit despite the pull cast by Huber, who admitted to pocketing the funds last January.

PLANS FOR FESTIVAL '81 are under way, according to chairwoman Betty Huff.

"I don't think it will affect us," Mrs. Huff said of the Huber incident.

"We've received positive feedback from the community. They're sympathetic. They know how hard the committee worked."

Williams in his audit suggested that controls be established on all incoming festival revenue and that an annual audit be made.

Mrs. Huff, who has worked with the festival committee since 1970, said Williams' financial record-keeping suggestions will be put into practice.

"It probably shouldn't've been done years ago," she said.

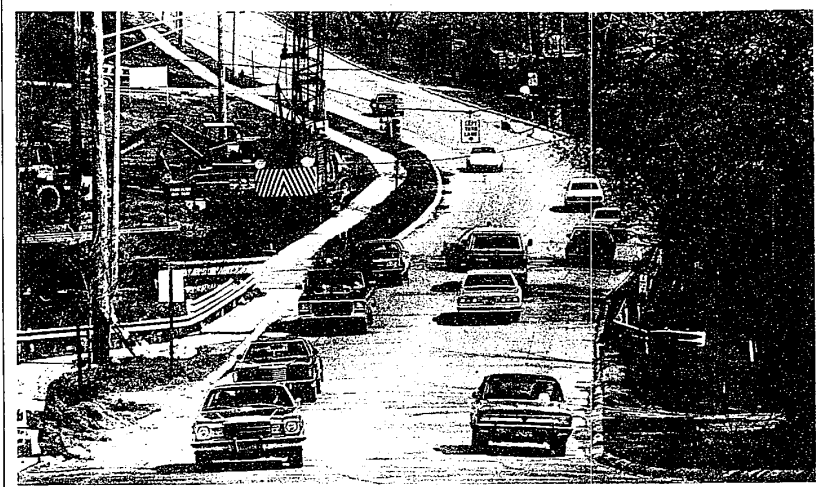
Festival '81, the 17th annual summer fair, will have an ethnic flavor with ethnic foods booths — a new addition this year.

There will be the usual parade, fireworks and arts and crafts displays. The festival runs July 21 to 26.

## OCC schedules registration

Registration for the spring semester at Oakland Community College will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 6 and 7 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 8 according to an alphabetical schedule. Classes officially will begin on May 9 at 8 a.m.

Applications for the spring semester are still being accepted. Interested individuals should contact the campus they wish to attend for information on



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## The final rush

This familiar scene at the corner of Shiawassee and Farmington roads came to a quick halt today as crews readied to widen the

intersection and to build a new bridge over the Rouge River. The road will be closed for approximately three months.

## A \$400,000 deal

# Church pays to break relations

By Margaret Miller  
staff writer

Ward Presbyterian Church will pay the Presbytery of Detroit some \$400,000 over the next five years and will keep full claim to its large Livonia holdings under provisions of an out-of-court settlement.

A statement from the metropolitan organization and Dr. Bartlett Hess, senior pastor of the 3,650-member church that in June pulled out of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., earmarked the payments for mission work.

It also provided that Ward will keep full responsibility for payments on the \$1.1-million mortgage on the church building, situated on 16 acres at Farmington Road and Six Mile and valued at \$5 million.

The agreement stipulated further that Ward and the Presbytery will consider in three years and again in five years the differences that led to the withdrawal move on the part of the largest Presbyterian congregation in Michigan.

"We have agreed to go our separate

ways, we have established a covenant to talk again in three years," said a statement issued by Ward and the Presbytery after the agreement was signed Wednesday by Dr. Hess and Dr. Donald G. Lester, executive of the Presbytery.

Dr. Hess added: "The Presbytery is satisfied that any claim they have on Ward's property has been fully satisfied by the payments to be made." These will amount to \$80,000 the first year and a slightly higher amount in the other four years, he said. "We are contributing to missions we have supported through the Presbytery and some other missions," he stated.

DR. HESS emphasized the agreement culminated a gracious and friendly relations between the church and the Presbytery during the nine months of seeking to settle their differences.

The joint statement noted that this settlement is "quite different from those (circumstances) in other parts of the country where extended court battles are taking place."

"None of us have wanted to go to court," said Dr. Hess.

He added that "while they have their differences on certain issues which make it impossible for the Ward congregation at this point to be part of the United Presbyterian Church, there is still a strong feeling of kinship and desire to work cooperatively."

At the time Ward and several smaller congregations decided to split for the United Presbyterian denomination, both doctrinal property differences were involved.

The doctrinal question involved the denomination's determination to accept a clergy candidate "who refused to affirm the deity of Christ," Dr. Hess said. Differences over property arose over the expected change in the Presbyterian Book of Order to provide that the denomination owns all property, real and personal, of each local church.

"WE STAND about where we did in these matters," said Dr. Hess following the agreement.

"The minister was approved in January by the Permanent Judicial Commission, the highest court in the denomination, and the General Assembly will make the property provision part

of the Book of Order when it meets in Houston next May."

Both these things would have to change for Ward to return to the denomination, the senior pastor indicated.

"But we are not discussing issues at this point," said Dr. Hess. "We want to be friendly."

Dr. Paul Sutton, chairman of the administrative commission that dealt with Ward and the Presbytery, said the denominational group "voted to support our recommended agreement."

"We are pleased that nine months of negotiation have resulted in a positive action rather than continuing disagreements," he added. "We hold out the hope that future conversations may lead to a reuniting of this congregation with the Presbytery of Detroit and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A."

WARD CHURCH has an operational budget of \$1,750,000 for the current year and averages more than 2,000

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## Hit-run driver sought

Farmington Hills police are looking for the driver of a blue vehicle, possibly with a broken headlight, in connection with a hit-and-run accident that killed a Northville woman early Thursday morning.

The victim, Colleen Burke, 19, was struck as she walked across Drake road near Nettoway, south of 13 Mile, about 3 a.m.

The victim's body was dragged about 40 feet. She was dead at the scene.

Glass fragments and chips of medium-blue metallic paint were found in her clothing.

"The car was probably from the area as that road isn't conducive to outside traffic at that hour," said Lt. Ernest Miller of the Farmington Hills police traffic division.

Miller said the woman was dropped off in that area following a dispute with a friend. Her body was discovered at 3:15 a.m.

It was the first traffic fatality of the year in Farmington Hills.

## Price of garbage pick up to increase

By Steve Barnaby  
editor

The city of Farmington will pay an additional 18 percent over the next three years for rubbish pickup.

The increase will be implemented in three stages, beginning on July 1 of this

year. At that time rubbish costs will increase \$5,000, from \$33,925 to \$38,925.

Another \$5,000 increase will be implemented in July 1982, raising garbage pickup costs to \$43,925.

The largest increase will come in the final year of the contract with the McCreehy Trucking Company, when an

additional \$5,500 is tacked on to garbage pickup costs.

That will bring the 1983 cost to \$49,425.

Although garbage disposal will cost the city an additional \$15,500 over the next three years, City Manager Bob Deadman said it's still a deal when compared to other communities.

"We find that our current rubbish removal costs are \$2.26 per month per customer as compared to an average of \$3.41 in 13 communities surveyed," Deadman said.

Although the costs are figured per

customer, residents aren't billed for rubbish collection. It is paid out of the general fund, Deadman said.

"To determine the weekly rate per customer, consideration was given to the dumping costs and an anticipated increase of 50 cents per gallon per year increase in the cost of fuel," he said.

CITY COUNCIL waived the bid process and negotiated the contract directly with McCreehy.

Next year the cost will be \$2.47 per customer; in 1982 it will increase to \$2.68; and in 1983 to \$2.80.

## District ponders tax proposal impact

By Carol Carpenter  
staff writer

Proposal A has raised the ire of school officials throughout the state. The possible passage of the tax-cut plan has sent school folks back to the budget drawing board and triggered a

long list of questions.

Clarencville school officials are wondering when the state will pay out the promised tax reimbursement if Proposal A is approved by voters on May 19.

The tax plan would reduce local property taxes by 50 percent. The state would reimburse local units of government for tax dollars lost through a 1½-percent increase in the state sales tax.

Despite state officials' assurances, there are still questions, according to Edward Salix, assistant superintendent in charge of business operations at Clarencville School District.

"When are we getting the money from the state and how will we operate until then?" questioned Salix.

He fears the state will hold onto the money until the end of the fiscal year.

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