

City leaders need push to purchase property

FARMINGTON HILLS has one of its biggest economic opportunities starting in the face — one which will determine whether this city becomes just another old municipality, fraying at the seams, or a community of the future.

Turning away from this new-found wealth would be a crime, the consequences of which would be visited on this area's children and grandchildren.

I'm talking about the Spicer property — those 200 acres of wilderness and open fields — located next to the Farmington Community Center on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

Recently, owner Nicholas Spicer has offered to talk to city officials about selling the property to the municipality for use as a public recreation area.

Frankly, city officials have been playing deaf on this one, pretending they never heard about this baby.

Admittedly, it's a political hot potato. A few years back Farmington Hills conducted an advisory referendum. The results were inconclusive. Officials were unable to tell whether residents wanted large or small parks, or a combination of both.

The issue was dropped. But times have changed. In those days, the valuable Spicer property was unavailable. Only second-rate locations were on the market.

BUT TAKE A LOOK at your city map. The Spicer property is smack dab in the middle of town — available to all who wish to take advantage of it. Take another look at your map. The Spicer property is the only open piece of property left.

If city officials bungle this deal, it will be this city's last chance. Look at it this way. Nobody wants to move to a



crackerbarrel debate
Steve Barnaby

city which is wall-to-wall houses, stores and light industrial facilities.

Corporations looking to place its executives are going to look elsewhere if Farmington Hills is unable to offer a well-rounded community.

In short, with the Spicer property, your property will be enhanced, worth more. Without it, your

house is going to be just another house among thousands in the suburban area, worth less.

Sure, buying the Spicer property will cost a bundle. But there are ways to do it without breaking the municipal bank.

Besides, residents should look upon the Spicer property purchase as a long-term investment which will pay ten-fold dividends.

TO GET THIS OFF the ground, you, the city residents, are going to have to give the city leaders a big dose of encouragement — a tablespoon or two full of courage so they can make this very progressive decision.

Think about it — either a wildlife and recreation area or just another subdivision or apartment development.

The decision is yours.

Controversial TV chief sets course for station

By Shirlee Iden
staff writer

Though he didn't carry his axe, someone must have told the only male general manager of an area television station that the best defense is an offense.

Bill Flynn, new vice president and general manager at Channel 2, WJBK, much-castigated recently for personnel and programming changes, lashed out at print media colleagues charging "print s---," in a talk Thursday evening.

Addressing the Detroit Chapter of Women in Communication Inc. at the Southfield Sheraton hotel, Flynn tendered brief remarks, then put himself on the firing line, answering questions that ranged from, "Could you show us your axe?" to "Are you a nice guy at heart?" and other more serious queries.

Flynn, for his part, shuffled,

shrugged shoulders, smirked and interspersed his remarks with crude language most people in media hear only when pressed hard by breaking news or deadlines.

CHANNEL 2 SPORTSCASTER Ann Doyle introduced her new boss, saying, "Since Bill Flynn came here, he's made an impact any anchorwoman would envy." Flynn retorted: "You're not fired — yet."

Flynn, who has managed Storer TV stations in Cleveland and Boston, said every city is unique.

"Detroit's different from the others. It's an incredible city and you should all be proud."

Swinging his verbal axe, Flynn said that what distinguishes Detroit is the great interest print media has in television.

"Print people 17 years ago decided to save young America from smoking and got cigarettes off TV and radio,"

he said. "So if you want to get something published, attack television and someone will publish it."

"I've never been described as a swashbuckler or an assassin till I came here and (newspaper columnist Mike) Duffy did it."

But the barbs that have stung most for Flynn have been the accusations of racism on his part. Asked why his news personnel are nearly all-white males, he replied: "That's what we're left with at this time."

"I've been maligned and accused of being a racist. That's disgusting. I hope I'm color blind and stay that way for the rest of my life."

"For Lee Thornton, it was tough here, so she left. Otis Buchanan left for a better job in Chicago and Charlie Neal asked out of his contract. The only thing that's upset me about Detroit is the whole racism thing."

"It's a cheap shot."

MUST THE SOUTHFIELD station

hire a black anchorperson to succeed? "No," Flynn said.

A graduate of the University of Iowa, Flynn and his family, which includes five children, reside in Birmingham where, he said, he has to put on his Topsisider boating shoes to go shopping Saturdays.

"Have I made mistakes?" he asked rhetorically. "You bet you a—I have. The worst was when I fired Sonny Eliot and said it was because he appealed to the over-50s."

He added that industry research now shows there is a viable market of those over age 50.

Flynn denied the station is looking for cheap talent to save money, but said, "We're changing. When you're third in a three-station market, you better do something."

On talent, he said "If you got it, you got it," denying race or sex play a part in his hirings or firings.

Asked how he liked being the only male general manager in the area, flanked by Channel 4's Amy McCombs and Channel 7's Jeanne Fendler, he said that two women for competition is fun.

QUESTIONED concerning Beverly Draper, Amelia Barretta and other minority personnel leaving the station, Flynn said Barretta "didn't fit into our programming" and that he's sorry Draper's leaving has been made a racist issue.

"We changed six department heads at TV3 and no one said anything," Flynn said.

"If you don't have the ratings, it

doesn't fly. I'd be totally stupid to fire people if our ratings were good."

Asked to comment on his own management style, Flynn said: "Total honesty. And I'm tough. I want 105 percent of your time."

Flynn predicted Channel 2 is going to appeal to Detroit. "It's our market and we're doing our research. Cathy Adams is joining our new news team

and she's a dynamite news person."

Asked why people shouldn't cry when they're fired, Flynn said there's no answer to that and also refrained from answering whether he's a nice guy at heart.

First question of the evening was: "Does Bill Flynn eat quiche?" That came out affirmative, but the WJCI members also learned he doesn't eat crow.

Artists look for Picture Ladies

Monica Leaning, chairwoman for this year's "Picture Lady" program, is looking for three or four parents from each elementary school to get the sessions of art enrichment under way for the season.

The program is administered by members of Farmington Art Foundation with the goal of helping youth learn to enjoy fine art.

"We help the kids understand that there is no right or wrong way to paint; that all artists interpret things in different ways," Leaning said.

"The important thing we stress during parent recruitment time is that volunteers don't have to be artists or even art oriented. They just have to like children. We will train them," she said.

Volunteers give one hour in a classroom each month through the school year.

Since the beginning of the Picture Lady sessions here about two portfolios of new art has come into program each year. They circle so that every student involved will never see the same set of art work twice throughout his or her entire elementary school years.

"These kids have got this coming to them. Their dues are already paid," Leaning said of the one-time fee each cooperating school has already paid.

"The kids know all about the program and they love it. Now it's up to the parents in each school to keep it going."

"We'll also be at any school that needs help at any time," she said. "Each school is on its own to get its own parent volunteers, but we take it from there."

Leaning will take calls at 478-6742.

Farmington Hills sets agenda

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
11555 11 MILE ROAD
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
REGULAR PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 20, 1982: 7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing:
• Consideration of introduction of zoning map amendment C62-285. Section 10 SW. Location, 3.34 acres on north side of 12 Mile Road, east of Kendallwood Drive. Proponent: Farmington Hills Planning Commission.

New Business:
• Consideration of designation of voting and alternate voting delegates, annual Congress of Cities, Nov. 27 to Dec. 1.

• Consideration of SEMCOG facilities plan for Evergreen-Farmington pollution control.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:
• Recommendations of resolution for award of contract for paving of

Greencastle Subdivision and adoption of resolution authorizing advancement of moneys from the General Fund.

• Recommendations of bid for construction of extension of sanitary sewer from Enterprise Court to DPW building.

• Recommendations adjustments to existing reserves and the establishment of a new reserve for fire vehicle replacement in the General Fund.

INSIDE ANGLES

FARMINGTON CITY Council meets tonight at 8 p.m. in City Hall. One agenda item is a proposed amendment to wholesale water and sewer rates. One of the two resolutions would raise the wholesale water rate while the other would raise the wholesale sewer treatment rate the city charges Oakland County.

FARMINGTON HILLS Council also meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. The agenda for Hills is published in this edition.

HERE'S A CHANCE to learn about protecting your home from fire while, at the same time, help a young Boy Scout get one step closer to earning his Eagle Scout award. North Farmington High School student Jeff Trager, 17, is presenting a fire prevention talk at the Farmington Hills Library on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday. Young Trager has spent about three months preparing for this presentation by talking to fire officials and studying the subject thoroughly. If nobody shows up for the talk, it won't be Jeff who'll be burned up, but it might be you.

THE GARMS family would like the world at large to know in no uncertain terms that their Karen, age 18, is becoming one heck of a cook. She won two ribbons recently in Michigan State Fair competition. A second-place ribbon went to her in the plain yeast roll competition, and a first-place ribbon was placed on her potato bread. She's a freshman at Michigan State University, majoring in hotel and restaurant management.

FARMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY has arranged a field trip for members to Livonia's Greenmead historic home and village. Members should call Nancy Leonard if they plan to attend.

HISTORIC HOME tours seem to be the rage this fall with the Oct. 2-3 tour of 16 historic homes in Farmington and Farmington Hills. But if that's not enough, there is the Clio area tour conducted from 12-5 p.m. Sept. 26. Tickets for the Farmington tour are \$7 in advance and \$9 on the two days of the event. Tickets can be purchased at either the Farmington or Farmington Hills City Hall, the Farmington Community Center and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. The day of the tour tickets can be purchased for \$8 at the Masonic Temple. Proceeds go to the Farmington Community Center and the Farmington Historical Museum.

INFANT CPR requires different techniques than those used on adults and older children. Parents, grandparents, babysitters or anyone who cares for babies and very young children are invited to a free infant CPR class Oct. 13 from 7-10 p.m.

in Providence Hospital's Fisher Center auditorium, 22500 Providence Drive, Southfield. To enroll, call the hospital community education department at 552-5941.

JACK SHENKMAN of Farmington Hills will be honored at a State of Israel Bond Dinner beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Tam-O-Shanter Country Club, 5051 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard Lake. Cocktails are served at 7 p.m., dinner is served at 8 p.m. Shenkman is slated to receive the State of Israel's Jerusalem City of Peace Award in appreciation of his efforts in behalf of Israel. Entertainment will be provided by Judith Steel, a singer born in Berlin who was hidden during World War II by a French Catholic family after her parents perished in the Holocaust. She sings folk songs in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Spanish and French. For dinner reservations, call the country club at 855-1500.

PUTTING READING into action is the topic of discussion Thursday when guest speaker Dr. Linda Clineard visits from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Admission is free, and parents of preschool, kindergarten and early elementary age children are urged to attend. Call the library at 476-3840 for more information.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR Ralph E. McCubbin of Farmington Hills received a 40-year certificate of recognition at the Michigan Funeral Directors Conference on Mackinaw Island this summer. Except for a 3 1/2 year stint with the 36th General Hospital Unit in Europe during World War II, McCubbin has devoted his entire life to funeral service. He's affiliated with the A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Homes of Highland Park and Troy.

BLOOD PRESSURE control classes are being offered for four weeks in October and November by the Oakland County Health Division. There's no charge for the classes, but the public is urged to register early because the classes will be small to insure proper instruction. To register in advance for the classes to be held 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 2 and 9 call the health department at 424-7123.

STILL FEEL PRESSURED? The YMCA of Western Wayne County is presenting a program called "Stress under Control" which begins Oct. 5 and runs through Nov. 9. All classes begin at 7 p.m. and are taught at the YMCA of Western Wayne County office at 26729 Michigan Ave., one mile west of Telegraph. The fee is \$25 for YM members and \$30 for non-members. To attend only one class the charge is \$8. To register in advance by Sept. 30 call Susan Cadwell at 561-4110.



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Full, flat/fitted	31.50	24.99	Standard case, pr.	25.00	19.99
Queen, flat/fitted	37.50	29.99	King cases, pr.	26.00	21.99

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*Total units available at all Hudson's stores.

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