

# Farmington Observer

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## Council sees light on purchase of park land

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council voted 6-0 Monday night to appoint a study group to consider the city purchase of the 210-acre Spicer property for park development.

The parcel is west of Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads.

Comprised of members of the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Services and Assessing, planning commissioners and City Council

members, the group will recommend to the council whether the property should be purchased.

The vote was taken during a study session on spending the city's \$1 million-plus surplus.

Much debate among council members and heavy audience participation preceded the vote, as did a presentation of a six-year capital improvement plan by City Manager Lawrence Savage.

Councilman Fred Hughes met opposition to his proposal that the study

committee review both Savage's capital improvement plan and the purchase of the Spicer land.

"I think the whole council is interested in looking at the six-year plan," said Councilwoman Jan Dolan, who volunteered to serve on the study committee.

"The committee could get people out there to walk it (the Spicer property), study the topography and see what's possible," she said.

Countered Hughes: "We've identified the need to use the funds for capital improvements, and I don't feel you can

deal with the Spicer property in a vacuum." Hughes referred to such things as street paving, sewers, drains, sidewalk construction and expansion of the police station.

"It should be dealt with as a combined project with all the other problems the city faces," he added.

Council member Charile Williams—first to propose the surplus be spent rather than placed into reserves as suggested by the Finance Department—agreed with Dolan.

"I think the first step is to obtain a

report on the Spicer thing. I'd hate to see the \$1 million and a worthy project delayed for a long period of time. If we don't take action within a year, it's the same as sitting on the surplus for a year," Williams said.

"Beyond that, there's no reason the long-term needs can't be looked at."

The development of a six-year plan should be the city staff's responsibility, he added.

Councilwoman Jody Soronen suggested the study group be limited to reporting on the value of the property. A

recommendation on purchasing the land is the city manager's—not the committee's—to make, Soronen said.

Urging the Council to move forward with the purchase of the Spicer property were former Mayor Joan Dudley; former Councilwoman Joanne Smith; Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Dennis Fitzgerald and naturalist Betty Frankel. Because the surplus is tax money that was collected from the entire city, any capital im-

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Greg Beauchemin (left), and Les Kowalek (right), are Community Emergency Medical Service director of operations and road supervisor, respectively. Both worked for Amcare before it filed for bankruptcy.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Starts own service

# 'Shoddy' EMS service bugs Botsford

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

In an effort to upgrade emergency medical care, Botsford General Hospital has established its own ambulance company.

Called Community Emergency Medical Service, or CEMS, the non-profit Botsford subsidiary has a fleet of seven ambulances, worth up to \$35,000 apiece, and a staff of 30 including 13 advanced paramedics (with two-year degrees in advanced emergency medical technology) and seven EMTs or emergency medical technicians.

CEMS is utilizing some personnel and equipment of Amcare, a local ambulance service which recently filed for bankruptcy.

A SERIES of ambulance companies have tried unsuccessfully to provide reliable ambulance service to the Farmington area.

The hospital subsidiary will succeed where others failed because, unlike its

predecessors, CEMS is financially and medically sound, said CEMS president Edward Barter.

Survival rates for patients requiring emergency medical treatment should be enhanced due to the "advanced life support" services, or ALS, offered by the new system, Barter said.

With ALS, paramedics are able to initiate life-saving procedures for patients under the direction of emergency room personnel via radio.

MOST HOSPITALS in metropolitan Detroit use private ambulance companies, many of which do not have advanced life support services. "Advanced life support makes us an extension of the hospital," Barter said.

"Hospitals and ambulance companies are natural partners. We're part of the same whole," he said.

Among ALS capabilities are:

- establishing airways for patients who cannot breathe;
- providing blood and administering drugs;
- hooking up electrocardiograms,

readouts of which are visible via telemetric radiowaves in Botsford's emergency room, and

- stimulating the heart with shock waves produced by a defibrillator.

THE QUALITY of emergency medical care in Oakland County rates quite high nationally, added Barter.

"If there's an accident or illness anywhere in Oakland County, it's possible to call in to the central dispatch of a county-wide communications system," he said.

Dispatch then relays the call to the hospital in the area, and by the time the patient arrives, medical personnel already are aware of the patient's condition.

The communications network, called the Oakland County Council for Emergency Services, includes hospitals, physicians, ambulances, fire and police departments. Wayne County has no such system, Barter said.

INTENDED TO be a self-supporting operation, CEMS is incurring operating

costs of \$50,000 a month to respond to an average of 450 calls a month. This is an average of \$111 per patient.

The ambulance company's main office on Grand River near Power in Farmington is supplemented by stations at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake, at Botsford Hospital, in Redford Township on Five Mile near Telegraph Road and at Detroit General Hospital.

The formation of CEMS was largely the result of the meeting of officials from Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi, Northville and Northville Township.

ALL WERE interested in improving emergency medical care on a regional basis, Barter said.

CEMS transports are not necessarily sent to Botsford, Barter said.

"In a life-threatening situation, they're taken to the closest hospital. Based on medical needs and family preferences, patients may be taken to Botsford or other hospitals."

## Hills launches massive study to spend bucks

By Steve Barnaby  
editor

A massive, multimillion-dollar shopping list was handed to Farmington Hills City Council this week by city administrators with the warning that it was only a partial list of needs.

The study was spawned after Councilman Charile Williams revealed at a council meeting last month the city had nearly \$2 million in excess budget funds. City administrative leaders said they would come back with an in-depth study showing how those funds could be spent.

"This report is not, nor should it be construed to be, a complete listing of the capital needs of the city," said the report.

"Rather it is a preliminary compilation put together to provide . . . an overall view of the wide range of projects which have been discussed in the past or are at some stage of analysis, study or review."

THE COUNCIL listened intently Monday evening as City Manager Larry Savage outlined one project after another, many of whose cost have yet to be determined. The projects that should be done first are the ones that have the most significant impact for the existing residents of the community."

TO SOLVE the short-term drain problems would cost approximately \$18 million, estimate city officials.

Dealing with sewage disposal also is a challenge to be met by city officials, said the report.

"The problems we see are the flooding and backup of basements during very heavy rainstorms in the Kendallwood/Westbrook areas," it says.

"There are areas in the city where sanitary sewage is pumped directly into the surface waters during times of heavy rainfall. In other areas, an over-

flow will discharge the water into the drainage course before a flooding situation occurs."

IF THE city receives a construction grant by October 1984, the federal government would pay for 75 percent of the project. If the city waits until after that time, the feds will reduce its funding to 55 percent.

Police Chief John Nichols put in his bid for an improvement in what he believes at present are cramped and inefficient department facilities.

"The department is functioning in an environment that is neither conducive to maximum output by administrative personnel who must function in cramped surroundings, nor to the citizen who comes in as a complainant, seeker of information or casual visitor," said the long-range report.

PRESENTLY, THE department is working out of 7,550 square feet of space, including 160 square feet in the first floor of city hall, 1,240 square feet in the basement and storage room of city hall, and an enclosed section of an outside carport of 525 square feet.

Nichols would like to see the police working areas expanded to 20,000 square feet in his bid for future consideration of what department heads believe are needed improvements.

Road maintenance also was cited as an area of needed attention by City Council. The report noted that the Public Services Department is preparing a study to assess needs. That study will be done by 1983, according to city officials.

BOTH LOCAL roads and major inter-sections have been eyed for improvement. But decreased funding is standing in the way.

"Funds . . . have been shrinking in relation to the reduced gasoline consumption. This has been aggravated by the industry's inflationary increase in labor, material and equipment," according to the report.

Road maintenance funds are garnered by local municipalities through the money collected by the state through gas and weight taxes.

Other areas the city is studying for improvement or expansion are:

- Expansion of the DPW maintenance garage.
- Land acquisition for park and recreation facilities.
- Installation of sidewalks.
- Reconstruction of a fire station and maintenance of fire vehicles.
- Water main replacement.

## oral quarrel

# What should be done to monitor PBB?

Health officials estimate that 95 percent of Michigan residents have traces of PBB in their bodies. Yet the laws regulating the sale of meat products contaminated with the fire retardant have expired. The state Legislature chose not to re-enact the laws which would have kept contaminated meat off the shelves.

was increased from 20 parts per billion to 100 parts.

Today's Oral Quarrel Question is:

What should be done to protect the consumer against PBB-contaminated products? What should be done to help those already contaminated?

You have until noon Friday to call 477-5498 and answer the Oral Quarrel. Look in Monday's issue for how your neighbors feel about this issue.

## Austin throws support behind Vagnozzi drive

Michigan Secretary of State Richard Austin came to the Farmington area Sunday to support the candidacy of Aldo Vagnozzi, who is running for state representative in the 69th district — Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield Township.

Speaking to 100 supporters of Vagnozzi who were attending a picnic at the candidate's home, Austin called for an all-out effort leading to election day to elect candidate's who will turn this state's and nation's economies around.

He had high praise for Vagnozzi for his volunteer work in the community and in government.

"We need Aldo in Lansing to give us a sense of direction and to put his talents to work in improving the state's services, especially in the field of education."

IN HIS remarks Vagnozzi called for support for the nuclear-freeze issue which will appear on the ballot as Proposal E. The proposal calls on the United States and the Soviet Union to agree to halt the testing, production and further deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles, and delivery systems in a way that can be checked and verified by both.

"If we don't check the spread of these weapons, we face the threat of a nuclear war that will wipe out the human race," Vagnozzi said. "If we can achieve a freeze and then begin to roll back the arsenals that both countries now have, we can use the savings in funds to restore the drastic budget cuts we have made in education, mental and

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