

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents



## Sudden storms

Grand River lived up to its name last Monday after several rainstorms hit the area, flooding some streets and snarling rush-hour traffic. The autos pictured above are crawling along Grand River

just west of Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills. The rain provided temporary relief from this week's oppressive heat.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## City forms development group

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

Farmington has formed an Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and City Manager Bob Deadman, for one, couldn't be happier.

"They stimulate growth," Deadman told the city council during a public hearing on the matter last Monday, "and growth means jobs."

Under state law, cities like Farmington can form an EDC, which issues bonds to finance or refinance the costs

of commercial or industrial projects.

With an EDC, a developer can finance projects at a reduced cost because the purchaser of the bonds issued by the EDC does not have to pay state or federal taxes on the interest earned.

"Therefore, the interest rate (on money borrowed) should be lower than the going market rate," said Deadman after the hearing. "Historically, it has been."

Surrounding cities like Farmington Hills, Southfield and Livonia have used EDCs to finance economic growth.

Much of the industrial growth along 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills came about through that city's EDC.

"They (EDCs) came into being during Michigan's last recession in the early 1970s," Deadman said. "Back then, the state legislature adopted the act to allow Michigan communities to be competitive with out-of-state cities."

FARMINGTON PLANS to use its new economic clout to help finance a small shopping center on the southeast corner of Nine Mile and Farmington roads.

The new center, which may open as soon as this fall, will be anchored by a Farmer Jack supermarket to be relocated from its present location on Farmington Road in downtown Farmington.

In addition to the Farmer Jack market, which would occupy 41,000 square feet compared to the 18,000 square feet it fills in its present location, the new center will house 10 retail stores and a free-standing restaurant.

Deadman said he sees no problem finding a tenant for the soon-to-be abandoned Farmer Jack location on Farmington Road.

"It'll be redeveloped, we're nearly certain, into some retail use and be leased," he said. "It's a prime location in our downtown area."

Deadman said the EDC would be used to finance more than just the Nine Mile-Farmington center.

"There's the potential for other projects around the community," he said. "We're also going to be able to offer EDC bonds for relatively small existing buildings."

"The development authority's board of directors will review proposals for the EDC bonding machinery. If the proposals have been adopted and approved by the planning commission so that they meet all planning requirements, and if the developer can find a lender, then we'll use the EDC bonds."

THE DEVELOPER — not the local EDC — seeks the lender, Deadman emphasized, adding that the city would not be liable if the developer should default.

"Many people have indicated that they're worried about the city's obligation here," he said. "The city has no obligation for the principal or the interest on the bonds."

"We hope this will help us be more competitive with our neighbors. We now can offer the same financing mechanism as they can."

## Battle brews over hospital spending cap

By Diane Gale  
staff writer

A proposed bill to put a cap on hospital spending has angered health officials. The officials claim the bill would endanger needed expansion and actually increase the cost of medical services rather than control them, as the bill's sponsor claims.

Representatives from the health community have lobbied for more than a year to steer legislators away from supporting the bill, authored by state Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington. The bill would limit capital expenditures (equipment purchases and building expansion) to no more than 115 percent of the annual average for the past five years.

"THE OBJECTIVE of the bill is to contain health costs, which are triple the rate of general inflation," said Brotherton-side Dennis Schornack.

But Botsford General Hospital chief administrator Gerson Cooper sees little merit in the proposal.

If the legislation is passed, Cooper said, it will result in a "tremendous delay" that would be costly in terms of real dollars and needed services.

"I met with Brotherton many weeks ago and discussed this issue," he said. "It was his feeling that a bill be put in the hopper, and it's my perception that the skids are being greased to move that vehicle through very quickly."

AT PRESENT, the Farmington Hills hospital is engaged in a multi-million-dollar major expansion program which would be threatened if Brotherton's proposal becomes law, Cooper said.

But Brotherton sees problems with how hospitals around the state are expanding.

"The medical field needs to set more priorities," Brotherton said. "The total value of capital approved needs to stay within a socially determined budget that judges what the state can afford."

Brotherton admits a problem exists in garnering public attention to his cause because most health care consumers' bills are covered by third-party insurance companies which actually pay medical bills.

*'I met with Brotherton many weeks ago and discussed this issue. It was his feeling that such a bill be put in the hopper, and it's my perception that the skids are being greased to move that vehicle through very quickly.'*

— Gerson Cooper  
Botsford General Hospital  
administrator

OPPOSITION ALSO arises because hospital administrators feel the certificate-of-need system, already in effect, is sufficient to control costs.

"If you look at the number of hospital certificates of need in the last four years, they are on a downward trend," said Chuck Manninen, Michigan Hospital Association manager of health planning.

"But hospital care has been rising, and there is a concern why they (legislators) would be focusing on capital investment," he added.

Brotherton said his legislation is meant to strengthen the certificate of need requirement, which hospitals and health facilities must obtain before spending more than \$150,000 on expansion.

BEFORE A certificate of need is approved, it must go through a local body, such as the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan. The council covers the seven-county metro-Detroit area.

Then the request is brought before the Michigan Department of Health to get state approval. This process takes a minimum of six months and usually takes much longer.

"My experience so far would indicate certificates of need have deterred the over-zealous hospitals from expanding," said Michigan Osteopathic Association President Dr. Raymond Gadowski.

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## Program aids search for missing children

On May 25, 1979 Etan Patz walked alone for the first time to his Manhattan schoolbus stop and never returned home.

The highly publicized disappearance represents thousands of similar disappearances, and a Farmington business has started a program to fight the problem.

"The best estimates are that about a million American youngsters leave home each year, with 90 percent returning in two weeks. Approximately 100,000 children are thus unaccounted for. Add another 25,000 to 100,000 stolen by divorced or separated parents and the total becomes significant," wrote Gary Turbak in the July 1982 Reader's Digest.

These numbers represent children who are either kidnapped, killed, used for prostitution or who become runaways.

The shattering numbers and the

emotional trauma experienced by parents is what the Pediatrics Associates in Farmington, the Farmington Hills police department and the Livonia Youth Commission hope to address with recently organized Child Identification programs.

The program's main thrust is to provide fingerprints of children up to age 18 for parents to keep and maintain. The department first obtains permission waivers from each child's parent.

The program's goal is to fingerprint all children in Farmington Hills, said Sgt. Richard Murphy.

"Those prints will be returned to the parent. We will not maintain any of those prints," he said.

The program also includes an information guide, which outlines steps to take if a child is found missing. Also provided in the kit is a card which asks parents to write down their children's characteristics, such as visible marks

or scars, special speech patterns, special medical conditions and other distinguishing traits.

This information is often difficult for parents to recall when they are under the emotional strain of a missing child. The card is kept and maintained by the parent. It is given to the police department only if necessary.

The program was initiated when Pediatrics Associates wanted to begin an advertising campaign with the aid of Thompson Advertising Productions in Farmington Hills.

The company decided to use the money to promote their name by supporting a program that would benefit the children in the community, said Pediatrics Associates administrator Robert Crumb.

"I feel it (the program) will help make the children and the parents

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## oral quarrel

## Should our teachers be getting merit pay?

The recent report by the National Commission on Excellence in Education criticized education in America and called for major reforms.

The 18-member panel which prepared the report said the U.S. is threatened by "a rising tide of mediocrity" that can be stopped by tougher standards and a longer school day or year.

Reacting to the report, President Reagan suggested that competent teachers be given so-called merit pay,

which would be based on their performance in the classroom.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: WHY DO YOU THINK THAT TEACHERS DO OR DO NOT DESERVE MERIT PAY?

To answer this question, please call us at 477-5450. You will have 30 seconds to respond. Look in Monday's Farmington Observer to see how your neighbors feel about this issue.

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