

Harger House

Hills leaders wants historic house saved

By Lisa Simon
staff writer

Saving the historic Harger House on Halsted must begin now, before it's too late.

That's the opinion of Farmington Hills Mayor Janette Dolan, who suggested a resolution to inform Standard Federal Savings — majority landowner of the Farmington Hills Hunt Club, which includes the Harger House — that the city has every intention of saving the stone Greek-revival home.

The resolution was unanimously passed at the city council meeting Monday. City officials now will draft an informative letter to the bank's board of trustees.

"The bank board doesn't know anything about it (the Harger House)," Dolan said. "I want it to go on record that, 'Yes, if possible, we want it (the house) saved.'"

"The lower echelon of the board knows, but the top board may not," Dolan said Tuesday. "I don't want the house reduced to a pile of rubble."

Thomas Ricketts, Standard Federal Savings' board chairman, was unaware of the Harger House or the Farmington Hills Hunt Club, according to his secretary in a telephone interview.

FRICITION WAS started by Standard Federal Savings' recently submitted revised open-space plan for the Farmington Hills Hunt Club subdivision.

The previous open-space plan revolved around the subdivision's non-defunct equestrian theme. Farm buildings and the Harger House were once owned by the Harger family, residents of Farmington Township since 1827.

The subdivision's equestrian theme utilized the house as living space for a horse and grounds caretaker. The barns and enclosed riding area were once a desirable addition to the horse-and-farm-type subdivision setting. The last horses were removed last year.

Although the Harger House was not excluded from the bank's revised open-space plan, the plan is not acceptable for a Planned Unit Development (PUD), according to Dolan and Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick.

"It's AN affront to the city," Dolan said. The open-space plan calls for the demolition of the Harger House. PUDs traditionally include well-planned, community grounds, according to Costick.

"It's just another subdivision," said Durwood Allen, Standard Federal Sav-



The historic Harger House is on Halsted Road.

ings senior officer. "The city has no reason to be unhappy about it (the plan)."

"An open-space plan gives something useful to the community," Costick said. "The plan (Standard Federal Savings') hasn't gone far enough."

"There's plant material on the open-

space scattered about," said Richard Lamp, Farmington Hills community development manager. "The green space area's future use is yet to be determined, according to the plan."

A park-like setting — including grass and some form of recreation, like walkways and bike paths — is more appropriate, according to Costick.

on the agenda

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL

City Hall

31555 11 Mile

7:30 p.m. Monday

Public hearings are scheduled to consider the introduction of zoning changes on the south side of 14 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road; the east side of Osiris, between Junction and Eight Mile, at 2854 Orchard Lake Road, between Burbank and Barlow; and the south side of Rexwood, east of Orchard Lake Road. Council will also consider waiving for three years a sidewalk requirement for the Grissim Building along 12 Mile Road. Transferring \$6,500 from the city's general fund to maintain the current level of service for the home chore program is also expected.

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

23600 LIBERTY

8 p.m. Monday

At the request of the state Department of Natural Resources, council is expected to schedule a special meeting at 2 p.m. Oct. 1 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus to consider strategy for cleaning up the Rouge River. Council is also expected to discuss Oakland County's progress on the installation of the Enhanced 911 emergency system. A sign variance for the Village Shoe Inn, 33224 Grand River, also is expected to be considered.

FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
32500 SHAWASSEE

8 p.m. Tuesday

A public hearing is scheduled to receive comments on a recommended increase in the compensation rate for school board members. The amended policy calls for compensating board members at \$30 for each public board and subcommittee meeting attended, not to exceed one meeting a day or \$2 a year. Board members have been receiving \$20 a meeting. Board members will also hear a presentation from a

group of parents who are proposing changes in the district's gifted and talented program. A \$3.2-million agreement with Little Caesar International pizza company for the purchase of almost 39 acres at Drake and 12 Mile roads (southwest) is expected to be approved. The board is also expected to authorize the hiring of an additional special education supervisor whose salary would be paid for by the Oakland County Special Education Department.



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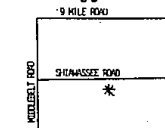
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