

Program may help mobile home residents

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with federal, state and local grant money. It is monitored by the Michigan Department of Labor, which issues its grants.

Costick said he verified through the Michigan Manufactured Housing Institute that mobile homes can, indeed, be rehabilitated and weatherized.

COUNCILWOMAN JAN Dolan urged a high level of city involvement between the agency, park management/landlords and owners' renters.

"My concern is that the weather is changing rapidly," she said. "Staff should make arrangements with times and dates and be able to arrange . . . to help them fill out the forms."

"We need to really encourage them (residents) to get out — some

are going to be apprehensive. I'd like to really move on it."

Costick assured the council that staff members from the Division of Community Development would attempt to set up meetings for early September, where OLHSA staff members would discuss the specific weatherization program.

Dolan stressed she wanted to approach the weatherization project with the owners' permission.

"I can't imagine them being against that," she added. "We still want the full cooperation of the owners."

Sedick said the city had not yet contacted his agency to discuss the mobile home situation in Farmington Hills, but said "we would be willing to work with them on designing something."

ELIGIBILITY FOR the program

is based on income, which in turn is based on the current federal poverty guideline. Any person who has received Aid to Dependent Children or SSI payments from the Social Security Administration during the past 12 months is automatically eligible, Sedick said.

Financial guidelines are normally used throughout a calendar year, until they are revised in the spring. Residents must fall below the following income guidelines to be eligible:

- one person per household \$6,700.
- two people per household \$9,050.
- three people per household \$11,400.
- four people per household \$13,750.
- five people per household \$16,100.

- six people per household \$18,450.
- seven people per household \$20,800.
- eight people per household \$23,150.

• add \$2,350 for each additional person in the household.

If the mobile home is rented, a tri-party agreement between landlords, renters and OLHSA must be signed while those owning their homes would contract individually with OLHSA, Costick said.

In the three-way agreement, "the landlord agrees not to raise the rent significantly . . . during two years" because of the improvement work done to the house, Sedick said. "It does not prohibit the landlord from any cost of living increases."

PROJECT WARMTH weatherized 900 units in Oakland County in 1983 — its peak year — but normally

works on 500-700 in an average year. Work is done primarily through private contractors, but OLHSA has a small in-house crew to help with the projects.

Priorities are viewed in this order: infiltration programs including door repair and weatherstripping, attic insulation, floor and perimeter insulation, storm windows and mobile home skirting. Work is done based on the actual needs of the house, not for aesthetics, Sedick said.

"We are pretty much it, as far as a free program," Sedick added, although other partial grant programs are available.

The program is structured based on the money received from various sources, which usually determine the types of people the program will serve. "Whoever gives you the money, you play their tune," he added.

Because of this, and the problems of doing exterior work during the winter, some applicants must wait from six months to a year to have the work completed.

Councilman Don Wolf, a member of a similar agency in Washtenaw County, said "they (the agency) won't

want to enter into a controversy. If they (OLHSA) send somebody out, I think the city should be with them." He suggested a full meeting of all mobile home residents, city officials and agency staff.

The controversy refers to recent problems mobile home residents say they are having with some park owners and managers with regard to rent, eviction and other matters, according to local mobile home activist Masha Silver.

SILVER PRAISED the efforts of the council. "Thank you for considering mobile home residents . . . and making them livable and a part of the community."

She echoed Dolan's sentiments about getting the residents interested enough to come to an informational meeting.

"It won't be easy to get people out — they're afraid. Senior citizens have the most to lose."

Those interested in the program can call Project Warmth at 373-7767 or write to Project Warmth, 1739 North Perry Street, Pontiac, MI 48057.

She's writer, editor and carrier

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hall departments. It also contained a poll in which kids told what music they liked and what they thought of Cabbage Patch dolls.

The second issue had some light reading including Davis's trip to Cedar Point and suggested places where kids could buy new school clothes and supplies.

But the issue also addressed some controversial topics. In a piece on violence on television, Davis wrote, "The damaging thing about these shows is that even though the heroes supposedly get the 'BAD GUYS' it's still violence that encourages young children to be violent with their playmates."

She then invited readers to call her should they have an opposing viewpoint or opinion.

License approved

Another beer and wine takeout liquor license was approved for Farmington Hills by the city council, Monday, Aug. 25.

Grate American Basket Co., 29594 Orchard Lake Road, applied recently for a Specially Designated Merchant license through the Michigan Control Commission, Michigan Department of Commerce. Although council approval is not required, action recommending or opposing is usually taken.

Applying for the license were Hills residents Jere Berkley and Margaret Samson.

Approval was given pending finalization of any requirements.

FOR DAVIS, the magazine is an experience in the business world as much as it is in the writing world.

"I always kind of wanted to do little business things," she said. She used to engrave plaques for a fee. A previous publishing venture never got off the ground.

"So I said, well, here's a new idea. I didn't really have anything set out, I just did it."

"Maybe I was influenced by my father to do magazines," she said, noting that dad, Mike, is co-publisher of "The Engraver's Journal" and "The Award Specialist."

But that doesn't mean Dad helps her out too much. "I do it strictly by myself."

Davis charges 15 cents a copy and after photocopies are made she makes five cents on each copy.

She has no plans — as yet — to make the publication pay through selling advertising.

"It's just something to do and I make a little money off it," she said. "I get respect from other people."

DAVIS SAID writing the magazine comes easily to her.

"I get ideas from television, maybe, and sometimes I get kids' opinions from around the neighborhood."

In fact, Davis said, "I've just been going too fast, now I have to say OK, hold it."

"I can write easily, but when it gets typed, it takes a lot more time. I'm not too good at typing." Sometimes her mother, Becky, assists with the typing. Millee also has a

brother, Andy, 8.

Each issue takes about one-and-a-half weeks to produce. "I get it done in plenty of time."

In school, her favorite subject is math, where she is in an advanced math class. She was on the gymnastics team last year and now tutors a cheerleading group. And, she has a Detroit News newspaper route.

Her career goal is to be a teacher.

"I don't want to have this as a job, no," she said. "But it's interesting and I would do it maybe as a part-time thing until I get into college."


Meanwhile, she is working on her next issue, which may detail her camping trip to Brighton over Labor Day weekend.

For more information about "Kids Magazine," call Millee Davis at 477-3956.

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