

# Hills readying its 2 newest parks

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff writer

The cold and snowy weather will be here before you know it. But Heritage Park will be waiting. And when the sun and warm weather returns, Pioneer Park should be ready for soccer and softball.

As promised, work has been moving on schedule on the city's two new parks. Of the work that was scheduled for 1987, about 95-98 percent has been completed at both parks, said Dan Potter, special services director.

When winter arrives, residents can cross country ski at the 212-acre Heritage Park and use the new sled hill. There's a good chance hayrides will be offered now that the city has bought a haywagon. "We are going to start some more programming," Potter said.

Six nature trails and picnic areas were available in the summer. "We're probably 95 percent completed with phase one," Potter said of the first phase improvements for the park, on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

Three-board wood fencing along

Farmington Road, a well, a windmill near the pond and a lavatory near one of the picnic areas will be completed this fall. "You will be able to see the windmill from the road," Potter said.

**THE NEW** paved entrance, about 500 feet north of the former dirt road entrance, has been completed with a road extending into a new parking lot, which will serve the picnic areas and sled hill.

The new road also leads to the historic Spicer estate house. The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission is still reviewing what to do with the estate house, Potter said.

The new entrance remains closed because of continuing work but the former entrance may be used by residents. In addition to planting grass, evergreens and maple trees will be planted at the entrance.

When spring arrives, phase-two improvements will be started in the primarily passive park. An outdoor classroom, parking lots and more picnic areas plus two miles of trails for handicapped residents is planned. A \$6-50 matching state grant has been requested to help pay

the more than \$300,000 phase-two costs, Potter said.

At Pioneer Park, on the west side of Farmington Road, just north of 13 Mile, work also is near completion. The 15-acre youth sports park will boast two baseball/softball fields and two soccer fields. In the fall, the ballfields can be used for soccer. Parking for about 180 cars is provided.

**"EVERYTHING IS** done except for fencing and backstops," Potter said.

Sidewalk and entrance drive will be paved. Because of winter's expected arrival, there's a good chance that grass won't be planted until spring. That could delay the park's opening until summer, Potter said.

The more than \$500,000 improvements will be paid with the help of a \$155,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant administered by the state Department of Natural Resources. The remaining costs will be paid with revenue generated from the 0.5-mill parks tax approved by voters last June.

Revenue from the five-year parks tax also is being used to pay for Heritage Park improvements.



Farmington Hills' newest municipal park, Pioneer Park, is under development on the west side of Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile.

# Extending Northwestern is still on agenda

By Carolyn DeMarco  
Staff writer

Is the Northwestern Highway extension being resurrected?

"Resurrected?" It never even existed," said Dennis Pajot, communications director for the Oakland County Road Commission. "It's been on the books since 1923."

As recently as two weeks ago, talks went on between the state and county, and it is agreed that something has to be done to alleviate traffic problems in the area, Pajot said.

The Northwestern issue resurfaced at the West Bloomfield Township Board meeting Monday night. There, representatives of Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield re-

quested the board reaffirm their opposition to an extension amidst rumors that plans for a Northwestern Highway extension are again being discussed.

The township has received no official communication from the state that the road extension is again being considered.

After lengthy discussion the trust-

tees voted 5-1 in favor of trustee Gordon Allard's proposal to go on record as opposing Northwestern Highway's route through Section 34. Township clerk Betty Sue Dupree dissented, preferring to confirm or deny the rumors before any letter to the state is sent out.

**TWO YEARS** ago at a meeting in Farmington Hills, trustees said, the township board voted no to any extension.

"This is a moot question," said trustee Ray Holland. "We've deleted it from the planning commission's maps. We don't have to bring it up every two years."

Trustees believed they had the word of state officials that no exten-

sion would go through Section 34 — the valuable property bounded by Orchard Lake, 14 Mile, Farmington and Maple roads.

Not so, said Pajot. "They were made a promise on the alignment," Pajot said. "Other alternatives are diverting it down 15 Mile. To extend Northwestern Highway it will have to be in West Bloomfield."

In 1957 a contract was written by the Michigan Department of Transportation to construct a freeway from Eight Mile to US-23. Oakland County contributed \$1.8 million to the project. The portion from Eight Mile to Telegraph was completed as a freeway, the remainder of the por-

tion to Orchard Lake Road as non-freeway.

"The state still wants a trunkline into northwest Oakland County," Pajot said. "The state has said repeatedly it will make good on the contract. No one really knows when it's hard to say anything with finality."

"Clearly we can't put a freeway out there," said Leo Lambert, division administrator of project development for the Michigan Department of Transportation, but we have to try to figure out some solution to the problem.

"We have a major trunkline that ends abruptly. With the north-south trunkline being improved, we're looking at the impact on local roads."

# Contractors to help needy

The Northwest Heating & Cooling Dealers Association, a local trade group will hold a Senior Citizens Service Day Saturday, Nov. 7. Hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Northwest Heating & Cooling Dealers Association is primarily made up of heating and cooling companies in Wayne, Oakland and Livingston counties. The companies are also members of the Michigan and National Air Conditioner Contractors of America. The idea for the Senior Citizens Service Day came from a similar program done by the Denver ACCA chapter the past three years.

Beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, the 20 participating contractors will provide free furnace maintenance service to senior citizens who cannot

afford it. They will make necessary repairs, at no charge, with a 30-day warranty. If necessary, a limited number of furnaces will be given free of charge.

The contractors will get the names of senior citizens in need from the local communities that have their own senior citizen programs. Needy seniors will be referred to the closest contractor.

Cliff McCourt, chairman of the program, said, "We are undertaking this project to provide a much-needed community service and to promote the good will of the heating and cooling industry in general and our association in particular. There has been some negative press recently about some members of our industry

and we hope to counteract it with this very positive program. Since the Denver program was so successful, we feel ours will be, too."

All participating contractors will meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at 27629 Haggerty, Farmington Hills, the location of one of the participating contractors.

All of the participants in the program are volunteering their time. This includes contractors, mechanics, drivers and suppliers.

For more information, call McCourt, 344-4955.

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## Farmington Education Association

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### Building for Your Future TO THE POINT

In mid-November all of the staffs of the Farmington Public Schools will be conducting parent-teacher conferences. Parents and teachers both share a responsibility for the education of children. The parent-teacher conferences offer a medium through which effective communication and understanding may be established.

The accepted objectives of a parent-teacher conference are:

1. Strengthen communications between the home and school;
2. Provide greater understanding of your child's development;
3. Provide for the future growth of your child;
4. Afford an opportunity for the teacher to interpret school programs and services to you, the parents.

In order to provide for an optimum experience, we make the following suggestions for your consideration:

1. Decide in advance what you want to discuss with the teacher and jot them down. This will allow you to discuss specific problems or concerns and eliminate generalities.
2. Talk to your child. Is there anything he or she does not understand regarding a subject area or teacher expectations?
3. Be willing to answer the teacher's questions regarding study habits, health, attitudes, etc. Knowing this information helps a teacher more effectively address your child's learning problems.
4. Take notes during the conference. This is particularly helpful if both parents are unable to attend the conference. These notes may also be shared with your child.
5. Be willing to support and implement plans of action that are suggested by the teacher(s) to meet the needs of your child.
6. Feel free to ask questions about programs and/or services offered by the school.

As parents and teachers, we both want the "school experience" to be positive. Your child's education is the foundation for life and future success. The parent-teacher conference can be an effective tool in that direction.

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