

# State says neighborhood image is Hills problem, rejects grant

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The Michigan State Housing Authority believes the city, not a state grant, should be financing neighborhood signs for the southeast portion of Farmington Hills.

Mayor Jody Soronen announced last week that an application for the new Neighborhood Builders Alliance grant has been denied. The grant was expected to help purchase entrance signs to provide a long-desired identity for what's been commonly called Section 35.

"Obviously, we had some tough competition. They felt in terms of the project itself, they viewed it as

a city capital project and thought it more appropriate to be funded locally," Soronen said.

The grant's denial doesn't necessarily mean the end of the project. "We haven't given up. We'll look for another way to do it," Soronen said.

Councilmember Aldo Vagonzi asked the project be considered for city financing. "Not to pursue it now in one way or another would be a let down," he said.

Resident Massie Kurzeja said she isn't giving up either, particularly in light of the overwhelming response to a vote at the Nov. 8 general election in which an estimated 500 residents cast ballots

for a new name for their area.

"THERE ARE so many people interested in changing the image. We are the only area known as a section," she said.

The new name will be announced at tonight's 7:30 council meeting. The targeted area is bordered by Grand River and Nine Mile, Inkster and Middlebelt. The project area would exclude Forest Park, a platted subdivision within the area.

Under the grant application, the project would have been a cooperative venture between the homeowners association and the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission. The Farmington-

Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce would have served as co-sponsors for the Neighborhood Builders Alliance Grant.

In addition to a new name, a new identity and entrance signs, work also is needed on Waldron Park, officials said. Efforts discussed include eliminating the parking, which is shared with the basketball court.

The homeowners association, Soronen said, also would like signs specifying the park as a neighborhood park.

The proposed project got off the ground with an association meeting in mid-September with the beautification commission and Soronen.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

**FELONY CHARGES**

Two Detroit men — one 37, the other 37 — face felony charges in connection with the discovery of burglary tools in a car cruising in the Cross Creek and Maple Ridge apartments, at Middlebelt and Grayfield, early Thursday.

On patrol, Farmington Hills officer Gray Brandemuhl stopped the car at 4:15 a.m. and found the tools inside, detective Jerry McKenzie said.

Arraigned Thursday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, the men stood mute to one count of possessing burglary

tools. Innocent pleas were entered. Cash/surety bond was set at \$5,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

Conviction of the felony could bring up to 10 years in prison.

**INDECENT EXPOSURE**

A man thought to be about 30 exposed himself to a clerk behind the counter while standing in front of a store at Mulwood Square, Grand River and Drake, Nov. 16.

He looked inside the window, then began to walk away when he turned back and exposed himself. The clerk recognized him as possibly a construction worker in the area, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

**Commuter service**

Detroit Metropolitan Airport's major ground transport carrier, Commuter Transportation, expanded its hotel service schedule to include the Botaford Inn in Farmington Hills, Grand River and Eight Mile.

Travelers using the national registered historic site are now assured first-class, round-trip transportation to Detroit's major airport hub.

Tickets and reservations can be arranged through the front desk of the Inn by calling 474-4800.

## THEFTS REPORTED

Computer equipment, a TV, two VCRs and a slide projector valued at \$7,550 were reported stolen from an office at 30500 Northwestern Highway Nov. 14-15.

A VCR valued at \$300 was reported stolen from American Group, 30800 Northwestern Highway, Nov. 14-15.

A purse and contents valued at \$170 were reported stolen from Kendallwood Apartments Nov. 15.

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## on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21

The council will hold five public hearings:

- Consider a cost hearing for a sanitary sewer for Robinson Avenue special assessment district, Tilman to Colfax.
- Consider revised open space plan for south side of Nine Mile, between Drake and Green Hill (cluster housing in RP-2 zoning).
- Consider zoning request at 24385 Halsted, west of Halsted, north of Grand River, OS-1 (office-use) to B-2 or B-3 (general business).
- Consider zoning request at 20830 Pearl, east of Pearl, between Grand River and Eight Mile, Lot 9 of Supervisors Plat No. 10 20809 Pearl, west of Pearl, between Grand River and Eight Mile, Lots 18-20 of Pearl subdivision, RA-3 (one-family residential) to B-3 (general business).

Consider zoning request on west side of Orchard Lake Road, south of 15 Mile, B-3 (general business) to B-1 (local business).

The council will consider a selection process for "Year 2000" project and consider electing a mayor and mayor pro tem.

**Farmington City Council**  
23600 Liberty  
8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21

The council will hear reports on a community development block grant for 1988-89 and on police vehicle purchases.

It will consider:

- A contract proposal for concrete street repair.
- A contractor payment for relocating the water main at Orchard and Farmington Road.
- A proclamation request for Michigan Winter Awareness Week Nov. 20-28.
- A resolution from the Birmingham City Commission regarding combined sewer overflows.

It will receive the public safety department quarterly report and Rena Swanson's letter of resignation from the beautification committee.

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See Santa arrive by helicopter Friday, November 25, 9:30 a.m. Six Mile entrance, Livonia

After his spectacular arrival, he and his elves will be in our Children's department for two days... November 25 and 26, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for visits. And don't forget to write Santa a letter and drop it in our mailbox...open 'til December 10.

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