

# Hills manager unveils 3-part wish list

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Expanding Farmington Hills senior adult facilities at Mercy Center, planting several hundred trees and starting a recycling drop-off center are three new programs city manager William Costick would like to do in fiscal year 1989-90.

"None of these programs are in the budget," Costick said.

If approved by the city council, Costick would dip into three of the city's special funds to pay for the programs, designed "to improve the quality of life in Farmington Hills," he said.

Costick is asking the council to appropriate \$40,000 from a \$140,000 reserve to rent more space at the Mercy Center, 28600 11

Mile. The additional space would accommodate moving the senior adult staff, now at city hall, into Mercy Center.

The move would allow the staff to be closer to the senior adults, for which they provide services and programming, and allow more efficient supervision of the programs, Costick said.

THE RESERVE fund that would help pay for the additional rent is one set up when city-owned property was sold to the Baptist Manor for senior adults four years ago. "I think we can make a substantial item in bid for relief for our seniors," Costick said.

A report is expected to be presented on more long-term solutions to space problems facing the senior adult programs at a joint

Farmington-Farmington Hills city council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10. The report is the result of a committee established by both councils last year to evaluate senior adult programs and facilities.

The proposed tree-planting program would be a one-time \$30,000 shot-in-the-arm to beautify the city and add trees in sparse areas. Money for the program would come from the franchise fee the city receives from its 15-year franchise with MetroVision of Oakland County, a cable television company.

Costick expects that perhaps 300 trees — at \$100 a piece — could be planted near intersections such as 10 Mile and Grand River and Nine Mile and Middlebelt, and along Orchard Lake Road.

"There's considerable citizen interest in the environment," Costick added.

THE THIRD program would serve as a beginning step toward reducing the volume of solid waste. Though there are no cost estimates yet, Costick suggested the program would be financed from the city's refuse fund. "It seems like it's uncontrollable anyway," Costick said, referring to the refuse fund.

Farmington also is expected to participate in the short-term recycling program. Preliminary plans call for recycling centers at the Farmington and Farmington Hills public works yards and possibly a third center in the Grand River and Middlebelt area. "The idea would be to get the citizenry involved in recycling," Costick said.

As a member of the Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium, the city is participating in a study of solid waste disposal needs and solutions. A major component of the consortium's study is a recycling facility, for which a \$5 million state grant has been sought to help defray the estimated \$20-\$30 million total cost.

But a major recycling facility is 2-3 years away. "This program allows us to do something in the summer of 1989 to start," Costick said.

The consortium's six member cities will meet to present a progress report of their studies at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, in the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen. Member cities are Farmington Hills, Farmington, Southfield, Novi, Walled Lake and South Lyon.

## Postmaster: Keep dogs away from letter carriers

With the arrival of warmer weather, Farmington postmaster Kenneth Harris has asked dog owners to help protect letter carriers, utility workers and other citizens from the dangers of dog bites.

The postmaster said that nationally 4,000 letter carriers were bitten by dogs last year.

"In recent years, the public has responded to our plea to keep their pets restrained, and we have seen a decline in bites nationally," Harris said. "Nevertheless, much is still to be done to eliminate the hazard to our employees and other citizens who might be bitten."

Harris said that all dogs are territorial by nature, and even the most gentle pet will bite if it feels its domain is threatened by the

presence of a carrier or other person.

"With a little care, a pet owner can not only protect our carriers, but his or her pet and pocketbook, too," he said.

Harris stressed that the postal service protects its carriers from dog bite hazards. Among remedies in situations when a pet owner fails to restrain a dog is interruption of home delivery to the residence or, in some cases, to entire neighborhoods.

The postal service will also seek to recover worker's compensation damages and provides counseling to carriers who have been bitten and who wish to seek legal action against the dog owners.

Harris said these policies under-

score the Postal Service's commitment to protect its employees and added that pet owners can easily meet their responsibilities to control their pets.

"We suggest that pets be kept away from the mailbox and areas the letter carrier uses for access to the property," he said. "If the pet cannot be kept behind a secure fence, the owner should restrain it with a secure leash or tether or at least keep the pet inside the house during the usual hours carriers are making their rounds."

Harris added, "We try to do our part by stressing awareness of dog bite dangers to our carriers, but we rely heavily on the support and cooperation of the community to help us end these painful and costly injuries."

## Hills medical worker honored

Farmington Hills resident Lynn Higelmire was honored by the board of trustees and her co-workers at Huron Valley Ambulance as a recipient of HVA's 1988 Professional Achievement Award.

Higelmire was selected based on her outstanding achievements in quality of care, compassion toward patients and their families, dedica-

tion to the HVA mission, contribution beyond job description, promotion of HVA's image, congeniality with staff and promotion of HVA as a team effort.

She began working for HVA as a part-time emergency medical technician specialist in 1988 and is now a full-time paramedic and field training officer.

Higelmire and 10 other winners

each received a plaque and a cash bonus from the HVA Board of Trustees on April 21.

HVA is the not-for-profit, community ambulance service that covers Washtenaw County, western Wayne County and eastern Jackson County. HVA provides emergency care, non-emergency transport and EMS training programs.

## Wooddale to combine fairs

The writing committee of the Woodale Elementary's parent/teacher organization is combining a "writing fair" with the school's second annual International Food Tasting Fair on Tuesday, May 9.

In what they call a "cultural experience," PTO members plan a display in the school's gym, which will include writing projects done throughout the school year. A video detailing what went on behind the

scenes will also be shown.

The food tasting portion of the event will show some of the different cultures represented in the school.

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