

Farmington eyes change in zoning

By Casey Hana
staff writer

Farmington city officials are paying extra attention this spring and summer to industrial businesses operating outside the guidelines of city ordinances.

"Some facilities have gotten overcrowded and are using outdoor trailers as storage facilities — not just for storage of materials waiting to be shipped. The city ordinance prohibits permanent outside storage."

"It's a bit of a housekeeping thing," explained city manager Robert Deadman. "There's been some

change since the 1960s. A lot of materials come floating into the plants partially completed on pallets. We want either a policy decision or a change in the ordinance."

City officials are talking individually with the owners of businesses along Eight and Nine mile roads to see if they can bring businesses into compliance with the city's industrial zoning ordinance — or whether the ordinance needs to be changed.

The city council discussed the issue at a recent special meeting, deciding to have the city administration talk with local businesses to determine their needs before formulating any policy. The issue came to

light when one local business parked too close to the street and it was reported.

DEADMAN SAID he is also concerned with the businesses' problems and the impact a change could have.

"The issues here are more than just the business itself," he said. "It's the jobs they bring to this city."

"Each one of these (businesses) have made the choice to stay in Farmington. Most have plants outside the state. If we simply tell them they can't do something here, they may look elsewhere."

Some council members felt the ordinance would have to be rewritten,

but they want input from the businesses before doing so.

"I think we've got to diffuse this as best we can. I think we're going to have to rewrite it (the ordinance)," Mayor Richard Tupper added. "We have to have something that's enforceable and interpretable."

"I don't want to interfere with their business operations," added councilman Arnold Campbell. "It's hard for me to think about rewriting an ordinance if we don't know what their needs are."

In dealing with the various companies, Deadman said "we're talking about working with each one. Maybe there are some that have outgrown their facilities." Deadman said he would bring a report back to council with information and a recommendation.

Councilwoman Shirley Richardson suggested the city manager also review other city ordinances as part of the process.



Best of the class

More than 160 award-winning high school graduates have been honored by WXYZ/Channel 7, Elias Brothers and First of America in the ninth annual "Best of the Class" public service campaign. These top graduating seniors will be featured in a number of 60-second public service announcements running on WXYZ throughout the summer. Above are Roberto Devoto (left) of Farmington High, Deborah Waller of North Farmington High, Darcy Pinzel of Farmington Hills Harrison High and Farmington Hills resident Scott Mikkel of Rochester Hills Christian.

Cities open recycling centers

Continued from Page 1

ington assistant public services director Kevin Gushman said.

THE CENTERS will accept:

- Glass: clear, brown and green. Return-for-deposit bottles will not be accepted.
- High-density plastics, such as milk and orange juice jugs. All caps must be discarded. Plastics such as cottage cheese and yogurt containers, will not be accepted.

- Newspapers. In Farmington Hills, bundled newspapers will be accepted. In Farmington, newspapers should be bundled with string or twine or put into paper bags. No nylon string or wire should be used. Neither recycling center will accept magazines, telephone books, plastic bags or catalogs.

- "Tin" cans. Only Farmington Hills is taking them but they must be clean and flattened. "You can flatten them by cutting off the ends and stepping on them," Farmington Hills DPW director Dan Rooney said.

- Car batteries, household batteries.

- Oil, car and crankcase. A funnel will be available to pour oil into the centers' special containers. Specially designated containers will be available for the acceptable items at both centers. Residents may drive into the centers and put their items in the containers. No fees will be charged.

"We've tried to make it as accommodating as possible," Rooney said.

Items disposed by residents will be bought by firms that reuse items, such as glass. "There is a current market for glass. It's possible to turn them over. We have several firms that are professional recyclers."

Rooney said. Farmington also is contracting with the same recycling firms, Gushman said.

THE CENTERS are an attempt to begin reducing the waste stream for environmental necessity and to reduce landfill and incineration costs.

The centers also are designed to acustom residents to the idea of recycling their garbage. In the future, Gushman said he hopes recycling will be done at the curb.

The centers also are designed as interim measures, pending construction of a large materials recovery and transfer facility in Southwest Oakland County for disposal.

The \$25-\$30 million facility, would be built and managed by the six-community Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium. In addition to Farmington and Farmington Hills, other members are Southfield, Novi, South Lyon and Walled Lake.

The consortium is awaiting word of approval on its application for a \$5 million grant from the state Department of Natural Resources to help build the facility. The consortium also is working to create a solid waste authority by Aug. 28. Legislative bodies of each member community must approve and adopt articles of incorporation.

AN AUTHORITY would operate like an utility. It would recover its costs through user fees charged to municipal solid waste generators within the authority's boundaries.

The solid waste problem is one of rising costs and dwindling available space for landfill facilities in Southwest Oakland County, said Farmington

city manager Robert Deadman, consortium chairman.

The costs of disposing solid waste have increased dramatically since 1978, Deadman said in May. Costs have increased from \$1.50 per ton in 1978 to \$17.40 per ton in 1989.

Oakland County alone produces 3,650 tons of solid waste per day and could generate as much as 4,750 tons in 2010, according to the consortium.

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