



The historic Mark Arnold home is on Drake near Howard in Farmington Hills.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Historic house lures 3 buyers

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Three bidders — Michael von Steeg, Patrick and Marilyn Welch and Jerome and Rosa Flum — expressed interest in buying the historic Mark Arnold Home in Farmington Hills.

Von Steeg, who was awarded the home with a \$1,600 bid after a 5-2 city council vote, is the owner of Waldhelm Woodworks in Farmington Hills. He has experience in restoring registered historic homes in Farmington Hills and Dearborn as well as other homes in Oakland County.

"It is my intention to occupy the structure as soon as is possible and to use the Mark Arnold Home as my personal residence in the years to come," said von Steeg, who proposed a \$1,600 purchase price.

He pegged total cost of repairs at \$90,565; total city services, \$5,165; total materials, \$20,320; and total labor, \$45,050.

By December, Von Steeg plans to:

- Make the entire structure weathertight.
- Regrade land for drainage.

- Restore the stone foundation, supporting timbers and front of the house.
- Connect water, sewer and utility lines.
- Obtain a certificate of occupancy.

By next winter, he hopes to have restoration of the exterior complete.

PATRICK AND Marilyn Welch proposed a purchase price of \$4,375 and voiced their intent to restore the home both inside and out to its Greek Revival style. They enclosed pictures of different types of windows and the front door for Farmington Hills' Historic District Commission.

The Welchs planned to have the Arnold house completed and ready to occupy in six months. They proposed to, in order, restore the foundation walls, replace damaged wood, install windows and doors, paint the exterior and regrade the land.

"I have had 30 years of experience in home building, house moving and refurbishing homes after moved to a new site. Three of these homes are located in Farmington Hills. I am a licensed mechanical contractor and have lived in Farmington Hills for 25 years," Patrick Welch said.

JEROME FLUM'S credentials include a bachelor of arts degree in architecture from the University of Detroit. The Farmington Hills resident served an apprenticeship under Karl Grunel, dean of architecture at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield.

He has been a supervisor for a modernization company and was a project manager and licensed builder for several restorations, including projects at Orchestra Hall, the Broadway-Randolph commercial district in downtown Detroit, Woodward East, the Wisner Home in Pontiac and several buildings in Detroit's Cass Corridor.

Rosa Flum has been a display manager for 12 years and has been a construction supervisor for a home improvement company.

The Flums, who proposed a \$6,000 purchase price, targeted completion for this Christmas. They proposed to preserve the original siding, remove the picture window, demolish the one-story addition, restore the front porch, and install new handrail shakes to the roof, among other improvements.

Home goes to low bidder

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nold home) will go on the tax rolls in 1990," said Dean Babb, city assessor.

The council on May 8 approved a \$31,000 bid by Harry and Cheryl Welch of Farmington Hills to restore the miller's house.

'I don't think that we can even think about the money but getting the house restored the way it should be.'

— Ruth Moehlman
historic district commissioner

ACCORDING TO Paul Bilzman, historic district commission chairman, the Arnold home, which sits on its original site, is a greater state of disrepair than the miller's house.

The commission said it considered with equal weight the appropriateness of the restoration plan; interest, experience and competence of the bidder; his or her motivation; and the actual bid price.

for storm damage repair but not for a historical home.

Commission members cited von Steeg's craftsmanship as evidenced by cabinetry work completed on the Eber Durham house, 33835 15 Mile, owned by Jeff and Sherrie Stewart. That home has been on the local historic home tour.

Consideration was also given to the bidder's willingness to occupy the house as a single-family dwelling.

However, Rosa Flum, a vocal council watcher, questioned the legality of that consideration.

The Welchs expressed an interest in living in it; Rosa Flum said she would consider it conditionally if she could be assured she would be able to sell her present house on Stockton for a fair price, said Bilzman.

The commission also felt removal of a fireplace, which was added later, would increase chances of getting the home listed on the state registry.

"Greek Revival homes did not have fireplaces. They had wood-burning stoves," said Bilzman.

Von Steeg plans to do the work himself at a total cost of \$90,565; total city services, \$5,165; total materials, \$20,320; and total labor, \$45,050. He has also applied for an \$8,500 housing rehabilitation loan to hook up to water and sewer lines.

"The city wanted \$8,000 (to hook up utilities)," said von Steeg. "I have enough for the restoration."

Von Steeg was a sole bidder in an earlier bid process March 27, offering the city \$160, which it turned down. "If it was \$1,000, I think they would have given it to me," he said.

The Welchs proposed to remove it; the Flums would have kept it and von Steeg is willing to remove it.

"I've been interested in this house for a long time," said von Steeg. "In regards to your concern about cost estimates, I have done rooms in excess of \$30,000 if anybody is interested," he told the council. In figuring cost estimates, von Steeg said he charges \$20 an hour.

THE OTHER parties planned to use subcontractors — an aspect also considered important by the Historic District Commission.

The commission took issue with statements made by Jerome Flum during a June 27 meeting that he rebuilt a home in 21 days from top to bottom, including gutting it. Speed is of the essence in his business, he said, because people are living out of the home while repairs are being made.

The commission said that was OK

VON STEEG said he is self-taught and has been in the business about five years. He has worked on homes in Traverse City and Dearborn.

In a letter to the council, dated July 4, the Flums maintain that the commission recommended "the least experienced bidder, the lowest bidder and the least financially competent bidder (because he has to go for a low-interest rehabilitation loan)."

"I don't think that we can even think about the money but getting the house restored the way it should be," said historic district commissioner Ruth Moehlman. "What we're looking for is restoration."

Councilwoman Jean Fox said there are 58 homes in the Farmington Hills Historic District, 22 are in the listed in the state registry.

police/fire calls

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

- **COCAINE CHARGE**
A 30-year-old Union Lake man is charged with possessing more than 50 grams of cocaine in Farmington Hills Wednesday, police said.
- **Arraigned Thursday** before District Judge Fred Harris of Farmington, Robert Larry Shannon pleaded innocent. Bond was set at \$50,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court. Shannon faces 5-20 years in prison if convicted.
- **Shannon was arrested** at a pay phone along 12 Mile after an undercover officer noticed him acting suspiciously in a nearby convenience store at 4:50 p.m. Wednesday. Three baggies of a white powdery substance were found in his possession. The substance field-tested positive as cocaine, according to a Farmington Hills police report.
- **NURSING HOME FIRE**
About 25 residents were moved as a precaution, but no one was hurt when a plastic trash can caught fire in the basement cafeteria at the Farmington Nursing Home, 30405 Folsom, July 8.
- **Light smoke** filled the basement shortly after 9 p.m. Damage was estimated at \$25. Smoking materials

- that were disposed of improperly may have started the fire, according to a Farmington Hills police report.
- **THEFTS REPORTED**
Patio furniture valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a yard on Fox Chase, Farmington Hills, between May 15 and July 8.
- **Tools, fishing equipment, two mowers, a 10-speed bicycle and a CB radio** valued at \$16,475 were reported stolen from a garage on Newell Circle West, Farmington Hills, July 5-6.
- **Computer equipment and a copier** valued at \$900 were reported stolen from a house on the 20900 block of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, July 5-9.
- **A lawnmower and a chainsaw** valued at \$700 were reported stolen from a shed on the 25200 block of Inkster, Farmington Hills, July 7.
- **An AM/FM/cassette radio and a color TV** valued at \$875 were reported stolen from a house on the 30800 block of 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, July 7.
- **Two color TVs and two VCRs** valued at \$1,050 were reported stolen from a house on the 33200 block of 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, July 7.
- **A miniature flag collection** valued at \$2,000 was reported stolen from a house on Bridgeman, Farmington Hills, July 7.

- **A 1989 Jeep Cherokee** valued at \$26,000 was reported stolen from outside McFrook's, 27820 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, July 7. It was recovered in Detroit; the tires, and radio were missing.
- **A 1988 Jeep Cherokee** valued at \$14,000 was reported stolen from Diamond Forest Apartments, Farmington Hills, July 7-8. It was recovered in Detroit; the tires and battery were missing.
- **A 1988 Ford Mustang** valued at \$17,325 was reported stolen from Greenhill Apartments, Farmington Hills, July 8. It was recovered missing in Detroit; the tires and battery were missing.
- **A color TV, two VCRs and a movie camera** valued at \$1,250 were reported stolen from a house on the 10700 block of Cass, Farmington Hills, July 9-10.
- **An electric guitar** valued at \$260 was reported stolen from a garage on Castlereagh, Farmington Hills, July 10-11.
- **Two chandeliers** valued at \$475 were reported stolen from a house under construction Copper Creek Lane, Farmington Hills, July 12.
- **Two thermopane windows** were smashed in the break-in.
- **Jewelry and two briefcases** valued at \$2,900 were reported stolen from an apartment on Partridge Lane at Hunters Ridge Apartments, Farmington Hills, July 13.

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Pet show winners named

- There were 57 entries in the 1989 Pet Show at Kids Day in Farmington's Shilawassee Park July 11. The show was sponsored by Pets 'N' Particulars and Plaza Veterinary Hospital, Farmington.
- Trophies were awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners in each category.
- Oldest Pet —**
- Matthew Mikel and mutt Brownie
 - Juliet Petrus and siamese Confusious
 - Elizabeth McConagbie and cockapoo Buttons.
- Most Articulate —**
- Michael Kharsa and beagle Kasey
 - Emily Zanotti and pomeranian Lisha

- Midrelle Lambdin and shitzu Nicki.
- **Largest Pet With Smallest Owner —**
- Mary Brenet and great dane Cuddles
- Susan Giavannini and golden retriever Sam.
- **Best Presentation of a Caged Pet —**
- Robert Crisp and ringed neck doves King Tut, Francis and family
- Denise Lauboff and guinea pig Charley
- Marisa Koczara and gerbil Midnight.
- **Best Dressed Pet and Owner —**
- Natalie Rock and standard poodle Jake
- Lisa Linna and boxer Roxy
- T.J. Bohnke and soft coated wheaten terrier Bo and Mellissas

- Sever and cockapoo Tuffy.
- **Best Trained Pet —**
- Melanie Rock and standard poodle Jake
- Marianne Herak and toy poodle Dolly
- Derek Hodgins and golden retriever Runway.
- **Pet With Waggiest Tail —**
- Lani Beth Koczara and cockapoo Ralsin
- Lauren Turner and wire fox terrier Scruffies
- Sarah Rauch and black lab mix Pepper
- **Most Unusual Pet —**
- Courtney Blachford and chameleon Bob
- Timothy Latimer and frog Kermit
- Rebecca Mau and brown house spider Quick.

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