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nohue said.
Jody Soronen, chairwoman of church operations and building committee, told commissioners that the church's budget doesn't accommodate the existing church, the addition and the cost of maintaining and refurbishing the Kirby White house.

'If they (church officials) decide the time has come to move the house or demolish it, they have to come back to the commission.'

*John Donohue
city attorney*

"We wanted to be truthful and let you know that's what we may be faced with," said Soronen, referring to the house's possible fate.

Commissioners and church officials agreed to work together to somehow save the house known for its Federalist style featuring gables, arches and bays. "We don't have any intent to demolish the structure at this particular time," Oppertthauer said.

Fox told church officials that demolition would cost \$15,000-\$20,000. She asked Oppertthauer and Soronen if the church would "show good faith" and take the money they would use for demolition and use it to move the house to another site.

Oppertthauer said that was a good suggestion and would ask the congregation their position on the request.

Commissioners also won a delay from church officials who in a just-in-case political move planned to approach the city council tonight requesting deletion from the historic district, as allowed under state statute and city ordinance. If they won the council's approval, church officials could go ahead with their plans without having to go before the historic district commission.

Commission chairwoman Ruth Moehlman emphatically told church officials she would not approve expansion plans as long as the church planned to approach the council.

the council to be deleted from the historical district.

"I think this commission should be very much aware of political realities in this city at this time," he said. "There is no support of the commission if you deny this application."

With approval of the church expansion, Oppertthauer assured commissioners. "We can say to you we will ask that item (on the council agenda) be adjourned to a date uncertain," Oppertthauer said.

Prior to reaching a compromise, commissioners continued to express concern for the Kirby White house. Alternative expansion plans were suggested to church officials. Commissioner Bernie Ludwig also questioned the church's claim of financial hardship with the house.

"The church has options but chooses to remove a historic jewel in the community that is totally unnecessary," Ludwig said.

It was also suggested that the church sell the house to someone who will live on it as current site. "The backyard of a residence would be right on top of the church," Soronen responded. "We have looked at so many options."

Oppertthauer also assured the commission that the church continues to reserve the right to contest the validity of the historic district ordinance. Oppertthauer and Soronen were on the city council when the historic district ordinance was adopted in 1981.



SHARON LEMELUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Staying put: Thanks to a compromise last week, the historic Kirby White house in Farmington Hills will not be moved or demolished.

Historic house an 'architectural treasure'

By JOANNE MALINSEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Historic District commissioners don't see the Kirby White house on Farmington Road as just another old house.

A jewel in the community and an architectural treasure are a couple of descriptions used when the 63-year-old house is mentioned. The house, also known as

the John Knox house, sits on property owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, north of 11 Mile.

"It is an absolute gem. It is absolutely beautiful," said Ruth Moehlman, chairwoman of the historic district commission.

The significance of the house, according to commissioners, is

not so much the age, but the architect — Marcus Burrows — who designed it. It was built for Kirby White, a Ford Motor Co. vice president. When White died in the 1930s, his wife and four children moved to Birmingham.

The clapboard house sits on a hill, for many years known as Wirtly Hill, and is one of five homes in the Farmington area de-

signed by Burrows. The large house features a doorway with leaden glass panels and a fan arch above the entrance.

A Burrows characteristic, a wood-floor near the fireplace, is in the dining room. The space for wood would have been filled from a door on the porch outside.

"This house has all of Burrows' fine touches," Moehlman said.

Political realities

But city attorney Donohue made clear some political realities for the commission should the church ask

Youngsters team up to get library new encyclopedias

"Read, Rock, Rap," the Sumner Reading Club program offered by the Farmington Community Library, came to a close recently. A large number of children participated. As a result, based on a pledge by The Friends of the Library, a new set of encyclopedias was bought.

This year's summer program was completed by the following readers:

PRE-READERS — Ashley Kepson, Neill Kappron, Laura Keen, Ryan Paul Keeton, Christine Kerserson, Patrick King, Megan Kish, Susan Kish, Michael Konkel, Jessica Korjela, David Kotowski, Sarah Kralowicki, Andy Kravis, Stephanie Kwapiak, Emily Ladd, Jacob Lakritz, Danielle Lalli, Samantha LaFray, Danielle Lavigne, Marissa Lavigne, Amanda Lawrence, Ryan D. Leach, Stephanie Leel, Chyenne LeFerre, Amelia Lapping, Samantha Lewis, Erin Lips, Alex Lindemann, Andrew Lineberger, Justin Lipsky, Matthew Lipsky, Joe Lubinski, Brian McDonald, Sean McLennan, Megan McQuillen, Emily Meike, Ryan Meike, Christopher Maly, Erin Maly, Patrick Manion, Alyssa Marcus, Sara Beth Mayo, Rose Mehal, Bobby Mickle, Kevin Meil, Shanna Miles, Lindsay Millard, Zechariah Miller, Josiah Montgomery, Gregory Monizette, Rachael Morrison, Alyssa Moskala, Umar Muntadir, Whitney Neler, Murie Nelson, Danielle Nickels, Matthew Nickels, Jeffrey Nieman, Michael Nowinson, Stephen Olson, Emily Pakula, Ryan Pakula, Ashley Parison, Lauren Peterzen, Maria Petrides, Hilary Pietila, Kristen Pietila, Kara Piorokowski, Mark Piorokowski, Allison Place and Michael Place.

Also completing the program were: Mary Podlaski, Natalie Polito, Stephanie Polito, Vincent Poli-

to, Vijay Prakash, Michelle Raucci, Nicole Raucci, Christopher Reznik, Matthew Reznik, Amanda Rickard, Ashley Rickard, Matt Rigoby, Michelle Rigoby, Heather Rischke, Brent Robbins, Kurtis Robbins, Colin Robinson, Paul Rockwell, Alex Romine, Natalie Roumayah, Nick Ruicci, Rachel Sadwal, Chris Safron, Denise Sakuta, Christopher Sarkisian, Colleen Scherer, Kyle Schauer, Sablin Shah, Mnjel Shah, Nishi Shah, Daniel Shea, Evelyn Shea, Christine Simpson, Zeynep Singh, Marie Smith, David Sonenbets, Victoria Stahl, David Steff, Jeffrey Stoner, Casey Strenski, Caryn Switaj, Rachel Swykert, Amy Taub, Jaclyn Thomson, Paul Valner, Anjani Vyas, Kristen Waksmunkzki, Bryan Walters, Emma Weaver, Darek Weach, Brad Willis, John Patrick Willoughby, Lara Wilson, Amy Witkowski, Daniel Wolf, Kevin Wolf and Molly Zachar.

KENBROOK ELEMENTARY — Danny Ackerman, Jason Albrecht, Audrey Bloomberg, Sara Bloomberg, Jon Bogorad, Teresa Burkart, Renee Bush, Daniel Carlson, Aaron Cole, Erika Cole, Lynday Howard, Eric Karz, Lauren Karz, Nikki Little, Brian List, Kevin Liu, John McGill, Jeffrey Mataya, Michelle Neff, Ben Nolan, Chris Pawlukiewicz, Elizabeth Schmahl, Adam Scruggs, Kathleen Stevens, Mary Styles, Lindsey Webberman, Jennifer Wecker, Joey Willyard and Johnny Willard.

LONGACRE ELEMENTARY — Brooklyn Bawulski, Benjamin Blackmer, Jason Blackmer, Nicole Boychuk, Abby Brown, Melanie Davis, Keara Donahue, Christina Ford, Ashwini Hardikar, Marc Hassell, Jonathan Iaquinto, Joseph Michael Iaquinto, Shannon Krist, Hi-

lary Michalak, Shous Mughalir, Andrew O'Connell, Molly O'Connell, Ben Parr, Ajay Prakash, Deepa Rengasadi, Mebul Shah, Naxpreet Singh, Janey Snyder and Jessica Stevenson.

FOREST ELEMENTARY — Arash Ansari, Mohamed Bachrouche, Erienne Cope, Sara Davison, Scott Jacobs, Jennifer Kramer, Stephanie Richmond, Jordan Sinclair, Michael Sinclair, Jessica Stameska, Tina Stameski, Adani Taub, Alyssa Torby, Jennifer Zeidman and Michael Zeidman.

WOODDALE ELEMENTARY — Carolyn Berpatom, John Callahan, Meg Callahan, Crystyn Chadwick, Adam Grimm, Amanda Grimm, Richard Hagstrom, Gene Mihalco, Aaron Newman, Sara Newman, Dana Nixon, Jessica Nixon, Timmy St. Pierre, Stephan Schaff, John Szymusiak and Jayme Vainer.

WOOD CREEK ELEMENTARY — Caitlin Boyle, Ayanna Carter, Valerie Cimato, Caroline Dean, Melissa Frase, Naash Gheyars, Sufna Gheyars, Steven Giamundi, Steven Harris, Yasha Honasage, Molly Jui, Joe Karl, Andrea Kesler, Veronica Kring, Jarret Kuo, Kelly Kuo, Nicholas Link, Andy Lin, Richard Lin, Ann Milke, Anna Muir, Adrienne Odmek, Eric Odmek, Gina Rozman, Amanda Link, Aisa Villarosa and Chad Zamer.

ALAMEDA ELEMENTARY — Robert Anderson, Christopher Britten, Joshua Cook, Amy Dunn, Hillary Maly, Poorvi Modi, Natalie Mokris, Laureen Pachuta, Julie Robinson, Joseph Roumayah, Kathryn Schalek, Kristin Scherer, Audella Wittbroot.



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Aging Commission invites public

The public is invited to attend a meeting of the Farmington-area Commission on Aging at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty. For more information on the

group, call chairwoman Kathy Potulsky at 477-0052.