

Bearing down



Brownie tour: Brownie Troop No. 3467 stopped by the Farmington Public Safety Department last Wednesday to present the department with a new stock of Care Bears, which are stuffed animals given by police to children at accident scenes and other traumatic times. Public Safety Director Gary Goss took time to show Melissa Man (left), Lauren Shafer, Sarah Smith and Rachel Breneman around the station.

City plans to use grant for Olde Town improvements

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills plans to use federal grant money to continue improvements in the southeast part of the city.

The city will apply for the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant, which will total \$412,000 for 1993-94. That is a 12-percent increase from this year's grant.

In addition, the city expects to use \$60,000 it received in Housing Rehabilitation loan repayments for improving low- to moderate-income areas in the city.

"We can take on some significant improvements, especially with the Randall Street storm sewer project," said City Manager Bill Costick. "That will encourage a petition for paving and help us improve those properties."

The city council, with some reservations, unanimously approved the plan that divides the grant between housing rehabilitation (\$282,000), capital improvements (\$104,500), code enforcement (\$24,600) and administration (\$61,000).

The grant money will be used for sidewalk, sewer and water line construction, to pave roads and preserve historic sites.

"We have submitted petitions with 61 percent approval so far," said Ron Mayhew, a Randall Street homeowner. "The road is in poor condition. This (drain project) would reduce the road assessment to affordable costs to the residents."

Mayor Nancy Bates said although she preferred the code enforcement money to come from the city's general fund, she supported the plan.

"I don't like to treat this area of the city differently," she said. "The city has four zoning code inspectors in the field and one in the office to go over plans. The inspector for the southeast part of the city is responsible for about 2 1/4 square miles, while the other three each inspect a 10-square-mile area, Costick said.

Councilman Ben Marks said he has changed his mind about using the grant money to make improvements in the Olde Town area.

"This is the most mature part of the city," he said. "It's more vulnerable to decay. But in the last 2 1/2 years, it's really been improved."

Marks said Southfield neglected a similar area of its city in the Greenfield/Eight Mile area and is paying the price now.

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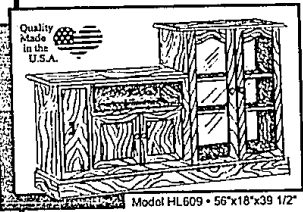
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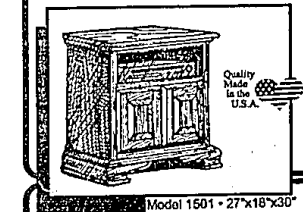
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