

Decision on bike path on hold until 1994

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Plans to build a bike path south from Heritage Park on the east side of Farmington Road are on hold until the new year, but many of those property owners most affected hardly feel relief.

Several residents on the east side of Farmington Road were angered when they found out, only from surveying crews, that an 8-foot-wide bike path was planned for their side of the street. But after meeting with city officials, including city manager Bill Costick, in October, a six-member committee of residents was selected to meet with city officials in January and explore other options.

"I think it was a really productive meeting," said Bob Craver, one of the six selected for the committee. "He (Costick) felt that we had legitimate concerns."

The bike path, which is divided into three phases, was financed mostly with federal money administered by the state under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

Farmington Hills accepted a \$340,000 ISTEA grant earlier this year that will require a city match of \$80,000. The city also successfully applied for a \$50,000 grant for the phase running from the park's entrance south on Farmington Road to 10 Mile. The city would match that grant with \$50,000. The third phase involves building a bike path over the I-695 bridge.

But after meeting with the city and discussing alternatives, several residents were still not happy about the bike path, no matter how short or on which side of the street it would be.

Craver and Jeannie Allen, who will be on the six-member committee, said most of the 40 or so residents attending the meeting still did not see the need for the path.

One alternative discussed was putting the bike path on the west side of Farmington Road. But Allen said that is not popular with residents who live on that side of the road.

"Our general feeling was that we should not dump it on our neighbors (on the west side)," she said.

Another alternative is to make the path 1/5 mile, in front of the park, and have bicyclists and pedestrians cross Farmington and use Raphael Street to reach 10 Mile.

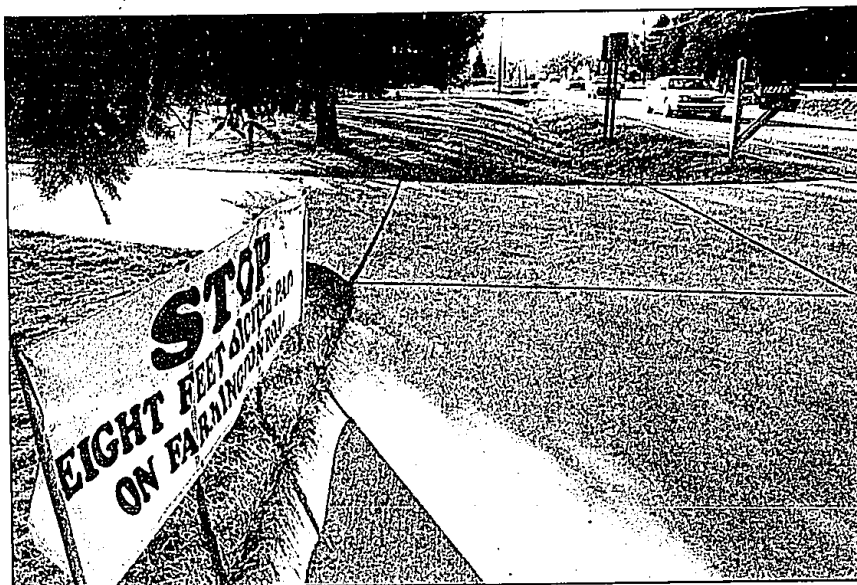
"That would help avoid the blind hill (on Farmington Road)," Craver said. "A lot of land owners have done a lot of landscaping that would be ruined by this. We want to keep it pristine. It doesn't seem like there is any demand (for the path)."

The lack of support, and the use of local and federal tax dollars to build something few residents closest to the path want, are good reasons not to build the path, Allen said.

Allen said she's not that encouraged by the city's willingness to meet with the committee in January.

"I'm still rather pessimistic," she said, "I just don't think they (city officials) know what they're doing."

Costick said the city has a lot of other projects to finish up and won't lose anything by delaying the bike path.



SHARON LEMELIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Give them a sign: Some Farmington Hills residents let city officials and everyone else know how they feel about the bicycle path planned for Farmington Road.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

THEFT

A \$1,100 IBM computer with monitor was taken from St. Paul's Lutheran School on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills Nov. 19-22.

VANDALISM

A smoked reflective picture window was shattered at Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills Nov. 21.

The passenger window of a semi tractor and trailer driving east on Oakland through the Orchard Ridge campus at Oakland Community College was struck with a small ball bearing at a high velocity Nov. 23 at 10:48 a.m. The window was cracked and the ball bearing made a hole, but the driver was not injured. OCC public safety officers suspect that a "wrist rocket" slingshot or other device was used.

A projectile caused \$500 in damage to the front end and passenger window of a 1993 Acura parked at Sunshine Acres on Grand River in Farmington Hills Nov. 19.

The driver's side rear view mirror of a white and gray 1990 Dodge van was smashed causing \$252 in damage.

A tenant at the Botsford Place Apartments on Independence in Farmington Hills reported water coming through his roof Nov. 23. The landlord checked the upstairs apartment and found it empty with the heat turned all the way up and the water turned on in the bath tub. The water had overflowed, causing \$2,000 in damage to the floor.

BREAK-IN

Two gold necklaces worth \$400 were stolen during a break-in at a residence on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills Nov. 20-22. The screen had been removed and the patio door pried open.

Video equipment worth \$30,000 including a Sony VHS recorder, three Sony video cameras, three Shure audio mixers, three JVC TV monitors and a \$6,000 Smart Writer stenography machine were stolen from Video Enterprises on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills Nov. 22-23 during a break-in in which the door lock was pried.

The break-in of a blue 1993 Ford parked at the Clarion Inn on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Nov. 22-23 resulted in the theft of two men's suits (\$400) and \$150 in damage to the driver's side window.

FORGERY

Farmington Hills police arrested a man who used a stolen check to buy \$409 in items from the Kmart on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills Nov. 23. The man used an Indiana driver's license as ID.

FRAUD

A 37-year-old Detroit man was arrested for trying to shoplift 14 pairs of gloves from the Kohl's store on Grand River in Farmington Hills Nov. 23.

ARMED ROBBERY

Two armed men held up the Mobile gas station on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills and got away with \$598.51 in cash Nov. 23. A black man in his 20s, 5-foot-6, 145 pounds, wearing a three-quarter length black leather coat with a "Pace" logo on the front and black jeans, and a black man in his 20s, 6-foot, 160, wearing a red baseball cap and red waist jacket, were in the station for about 20 minutes and then left without buying anything. There was no vehicle in sight. They returned at about 9:45 p.m. as the two cashiers were counting the proceeds from the evening shift. The men then began to buy a carton of milk. When one of the cashiers opened the cash drawer, the man in the leather coat pulled out a semiautomatic pistol and demanded the money in the register and the money for the evening drop saying, "Sir, this is a robbery. Give me your money and you won't get hurt." A female customer in her 20s came in during the robbery, but the two cashiers gestured for her to leave telling her that the station was closed during the shift change.

FIRE

The heater/air conditioner at Best Cleaners on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills malfunctioned and caused smoke in the building at about 2 p.m. Nov. 22. Farmington Hills firefighters from station 2 investigated the explosion ignited by gas from the unit. Damage to the property is estimated at \$5,000.

OBITUARIES

GERALDINE J. SPRYS

Mrs. Sprys, 74, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 23, 1993 in Dorvin Convalescent Center.

Born in Bay City, Mrs. Sprys was a homemaker. Survivors include her sons, John, James and Joseph; daughters, Judith Bastille and Joanne Bur; brother, Ronald Andrzejewski; and 13 grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Nov. 27 at Our Lady of Loretto Church, Redford. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Arrangements were made by the Charles R. Steep Funeral Home, Redford Township.

JAMES R. FRASURE

Mr. Frasure, 93, of Farmington

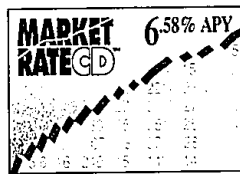
died of pneumonia Nov. 21 in Whitehall Nursing Home, Pittsfield Township. Born in Kentucky, he lived in the Farmington area for 40 years. Mr. Frasure was an auto mechanic. He was a very active participant and promoter of square and round dancing. He was chairman of the first Michigan State Square and Round Dance Convention in

1960.

Survivors include five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home. Burial was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Pastor Alfred Gould of Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia officiated.

CDs for people who aren't afraid of heights.



Introducing The Market Rate CD.
Wall Street Thrills Without Wall Street Chills.

This year we're offering you a blue chip opportunity to invest in a new kind of two-year CD. One that allows you to go after Wall Street's potentially higher rates without risking your principal. Your Market Rate CD can be opened with a low \$2,000 minimum deposit. At the end of each 52-week period, your interest is calculated based on the average change in the S & P 500® Index™ as reported in *The Wall Street Journal*. And at maturity, you're guaranteed a 100% return of your FDIC-insured initial deposit. The new Market Rate CD. Now the best way to lock in the market's high earnings potential is with a CD that has no risk to principal.

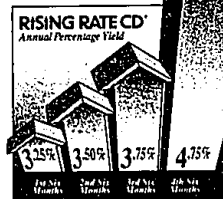
For more information, call or visit your nearest First of America bank office today.

FIRST OF AMERICA

A bank for life.™

Lock Up A Rising Rate With A CD
That Won't Lock You In.

Every six months of its initial two-year term, our Rising Rate CD gives you a guaranteed increase in your interest rate without locking you in. The rate earned for each six-month period rises as the chart above indicates, giving you 4.75% APY during the final six-month period.* You can withdraw all of your investment within the first 10 days of any six-month interval during the initial two-year term without penalty. Or you can make a partial withdrawal without penalty as long as you maintain a \$1,000 balance. And the minimum deposit amount is only \$1,000. The Rising Rate CD. The liquidity you want, with the guaranteed interest growth you need.



A substantial penalty will be imposed for early withdrawals made other than in periods stated above. Deposit limits apply. Deposits insured by the FDIC up to \$100,000 per depositor. *Rising Rate CD rates good as of 10/31/93, subject to change without notice. Individuals and sole proprietors only. Limited time offer available at participating banks only. Annual percentage yields shown above reflect the yield for each six-month period separately, and are not cumulative yields. At the fourth maturity, your CD will automatically renew as a standard two-year CD. **S & P 500®: Standard & Poor's 500®. Standard & Poor's 500® and "500" are trademarks of McGraw-Hill, Inc. and have been licensed for use by First of America. The product is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Standard & Poor's. First of America makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in the product. Not available for IRAs. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. ® If hearing impaired, TDD available from 9-5 EST at 1-800-289-4614. ® For more information, call Plymouth 439-9000, Wayne 1-800-735-0034 or 1-800-659-4484.

It took just one ad

Todd Schou sold his "pop-up" trailer with just one Observer & Eclectic Classified ad. In fact the first call turned out to be his buyer. Join Todd Schou and

Reach Michigan's Finest Suburban Market