

What's new at the Y?: This is a floor plan showing renovations and additions to the Farmington Area YMCA in Farming-ton Hills. Shaded areas show planned improvements.

YMCA

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"We feel that the Y is a better ternative for kids than walking "We feel that the Y is a better alternative for kids than walking in the malls," Bush said. "We want to work with the younger teens. Hopefully, they'll stay... and we'll be able to impart our

■ Parking lot expansion and site improvements for \$289,000.
■ A licensed child care and babysitting room, \$229,557. "With growth in the 12 Mile corridor, we feel there is a need for additional child care," Bush said.
■ A kids indoor play area, lancous items, \$62,000.

Started in a barn in the mid-1960s, the Farmington Y moved to its present location in 1978, using \$1 million collected in a similar effort. In 1985, \$400,000 was raised to acquire adjacent property and construct a Family property and con Wellness Center.

Many well-known people in the community are supporting the current fund drive, including Richard Headlee, recently retired chairman of Alexander Hamilton Life, and Fred Harris, judge of the 47th District Court in Farm-ington

Leading the compaign, which kicked off Nov. 28, as co-chair-men are Bob Densmore, execu-tive vice president of Source One Mortgage Services Corp., and Gary Jonna, executive vice presi-dent of Jonna Companies.

Hills council's all in family with approval of commission

BY BILL COUTANT

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STATE WATER
Farmington Hills City Council members enacted an ordinance creating and defining the mission of a Commission on Children and Families, and praised Mayor Nancy Bates for her leadership in bringing about its formation. Initially, council members Larry Lichtman and Joanne Smith wanted more time to clarify the ardinance, which they feared would be too vague, But after some amendments and the ringing endorsements of other council members, they joined in unanimous approval.

Lichtman said he supported the commission's goals, but was concerned that without more specific language there might be conflicts.
"I would not want to sum the

"I would not want to usurp the

"I would not want to usurp the role of parks and recfrention commission." he said. "We need to helter define this commission."

Smith, who is a professional social worker at the Sarah Fisher Home, said she had concerns that the commission might overstep its bounds and interfere with professional agencies within the city. "When I vote for something as important as a commission with

15 members, I have to feel confident that I know what it is,"
Smith said.

Bates said when she helped in the creation of a commission on aging, its composition and mission were less defined than this commission, and yet it has been a good commission.

"This is considerably more specific than what we enacted for the commission on aging," she said.

Terry Sever praised Bates for creating a commission that made Farmington Hills a "trendsetter."

"You have been my leader in this from day one," he said.

"From the beginning you have seen that families are the life-blood of our community. If we wait for the perfect thing to come along, it will never be approved."

Council members Cheryl Oliverio, a member of the committee that recommended forning the commission, and Jon Grant also gave their strong endorsements. Oliverio said Bates has highlighted the need for more volunteerism, something the commission would help fosterie or ganizations." Oliverio said. "What they need is volunteers. And we have many more prob-

lems with our youth, such as violence in the schools, that haven't
been addressed.

Grant said that at a recent National League of Cities conference
in Florida, every workshop he attended referred in some way to
family needs as important to the
country's future.

"We have a lot of professional
agencies that deal with these
problems," Grant said. "But there
are not a lot of people in the community who know that."

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi
said some changes to the proposed ordinance (that were adopted) would help clarify its mission
and bounds of authority.

In the final version of the ordinance, a reference to its own
budget, a change in composition
from 15 members to at least 12
and up to 19 members, and tightening up language covering the
commission's authority were added at the request of Vagnozzi and
Smith.

The commission will make rec-

Smith.
The commission will make rec-The commission will make recommendations to the city council concerning needs of children and families of the city and will promote volunteerism. The commission's composition will be diverse, with insofar as possible.

Post office delivers extended hours

The U.S. Postal Service is extending window service hours at most of its larger offices in the Detroit area this holiday season, including the local Farmington Farmington Hills Post Office.

"The holidays are our busies time of the year. It's a time when nearly every American visits a post office," said Mark Bate, postmaster for Farmington/Farmington Hills. "We're taking this action to better serve the needs of our customers."

our customers."
Each Saturday throughout December, the Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices will be open an additional hour. The adjusted service hours will be 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition, customers will find extended window hours on selected weekdays during this same holiday period. Monday through Friday the window service hours will be 7 am. to 5:30 p.m. at Farmington Hills only.

Extended window hours are just one of the customer convenience features the Postal Service is offering as a part of its "We Deliver for Yulo" program.

Also included is promotion of the Postal Service's "Stamps by Mail" and "Stamps by FAX" programs. The Postal Service offers gift ideas that promote stamp collecting and offer unusual, educations igft ideas for any occasion.

Again, this year, it is advised

that holiday mailers "Mail Earthat holiday matters "Mail Early," but for last-minute shoppers the Postal Service offers Priority Mail Two-Day Service and the guaranteed service of Overnight Express Mail Service which is delivered 365 days a year even on Christmas Eve and Christmas

"As part of making sure postal holiday plans will work for our customers, all postal employees have been asked to help assure that this will be a pleasant mailing season for all of our postal customers," said Bate. "Every effort will be made to reduce long lines in lobbies and to deliver holiday mail quickly and efficiently."

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