



STAFF PHOTO BY ANN HEALEY

A lot in commons: Shari Schwartz (left) talks neighborhood politics with Jerry and Arlene Baronick, who have lived in Heritage Hills for 20 years. The Baronicks often take granddaughter Hannah Peters to the commons area to play.



Close trim: David Ceifetz, who has lived in Heritage Hills 8 1/2 years, takes advantage of a beautiful Sunday afternoon to do some yard work.

Subdivision from page 1A

Sub lover:
Suzi Musko-
vitz carries
her dog
Samantha
back to her
Spring Hills
home.



Marcia VanCreveld, former Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners president, is opposed as are many of the sub's residents.

"We see it as a health issue and one affecting property values," she said.

Jean Goldfarb, who with her husband and children lives in the subdivision, said having the Farmington schools nearby was a reason for locating in Heritage Hills.

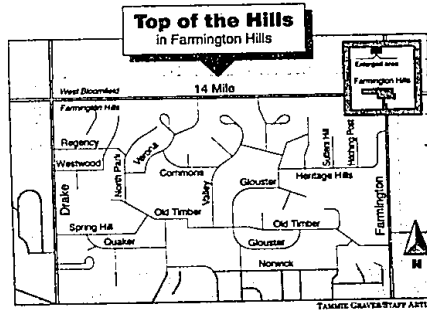
"We love our house and this neighborhood," she said. "We're

close to everything."

Many residents, like Gary Heberlein, find the commute to work easy enough considering how close the subdivision is to I-696.

"This is really a beautiful location," said the Wayne State University vice president. "People really take care of their neighborhood."

And take care means just that. The lawns are immaculate and the landscaping varied. It's hard to find anyone complaining. After all, it's a nice place to come home to.



FARMINGTON GRANT STAFF ARTIST

Groups offering child care urged to rise to Challenge

Companies and organizations offering child care as a benefit are being encouraged by state lawmakers to enter the sixth annual Michigan Child Care Challenge. The competition is sponsored by the state.

State Reps. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, and Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, said the awards recognize the positive child care provided by Michigan employers. More than 275 organizations have been honored since the program began. The deadline for this year's competition is Friday, Aug. 26.

There is no cost to enter, and nomination forms can be picked up at the Farmington and Farmington Hills libraries.

"It's important to highlight the employer-sponsored child-care

programs already operating in Oakland County," said Dolan. "By doing so, we encourage other companies to provide child-care benefits to their employees."

"Our goal is to promote the co-operation of business, labor and government in addressing child care and other family-related issues in Michigan," Bankes added.

Nominations will be accepted in five categories:

■ "New Kid on the Block" — for companies most recently offering child-care benefits.

■ "Best on the Block" — for companies that have made special efforts to design child-care programs that are unique.

■ "Grandparent Award" — for companies that have been pioneers in offering employee child-care benefits.

■ "Helping Hands" — for businesses that provide direct financial assistance to their employees or subsidies for on-site centers.

■ "Innovator" — for community organizations and individuals who have demonstrated extra effort in providing solutions to the child-care dilemma.

Dolan said all participants will be honored at a public awards ceremony this fall. She noted that Botsford Hospital received the "Grandparent Award" in 1991.

Bankes, who chairs the House Republican Task Force on Child Care, is coordinating the event. Anyone needing a nomination form or additional information about the Michigan Child Care Challenge should contact Bankes at 1-517-373-3920.

DDA talks go to the bathrooms

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority's state-of-the-art address was given to city council, and the talk afterward was "adlib" with the usual discussions.

Additional parking, the need for business recruitment and on-going streetscape improvements were all talked about during the joint session Aug. 18. A new idea came up, though.

"How about public restrooms?" asked councilman Richard Tupper, passing on a suggestion he'd heard from someone in the community.

No permanent facilities exist downtown. People can use restrooms at city hall or the public library.

Restaurants and businesses are

also encouraged to let people use their restrooms to "make them feel welcomed," DDA director Judy Downey said.

However, T.J. Marx was recently overwhelmed with such requests. Restroom traffic is frequent at the Grand Cafe, whose facilities are on the lower level.

"Yes, because it's easier (to use)," said Grand Cafe night manager Tom Corey. "You don't have to walk through the restaurant."

One inconvenience is the prospect of having to perform a massive clean-up, Corey said. Added Corey: "Bathrooms are money. You need supplies to maintain them. Supplies set up money quickly."

City officials winced at the suggestion to build public restrooms.

They have to be maintained 24 hours a day and are an expense to build, they say. Such facilities in larger cities have become targets for crime and vandalism.

"Here, you're talking about it being in a parking lot and taking up parking places, which are already at a premium," said Frank Laubhoff, city manager.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense for cities to build restrooms. We can't maintain them to the level that is acceptable."

Businesses hold the key, Laubhoff said. The more who let people use bathrooms, the better.

"If everyone offered those services, it would spread it out and wouldn't be a hardship on one individual business," Laubhoff said.

Study session on Timbercrest set

The Farmington Hills City Council will meet in a special study session with representatives of Jones Realty Ventures and Voters' Voice to discuss the

Timbercrest project at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, at City Hall, 11 Mills and Orchard Lakes roads. The proposed project would include single family houses and a

shopping center built on 92 acres north of I-696, east of Middlebelt, south of 12 Mile and west of the Greenacres subdivision. The public is invited.



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