

City buys school property for course expansion

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An 18-acre parcel once held for a middle school will be included in what Farmington Hills city officials believe is going to be a class golf course expansion. City and school officials worked out an agreement to buy

the land next to San Marino Golf Course, which is going to be expanded from 9 to 18 holes as part of an extensive development on Halsted and 11 Mile. City Council unanimously approved the purchase Monday. The price: \$1.015 million. Without the rectangular parcel, the golf course expansion

would have gone ahead, city officials said. The proximity to San Marino as well as to the 92-acre Eleven Pines property only enhances the potential for a first-rate development. "It just makes it a lot easier to look at and it gives us more to work with," City Manager Steve Brock said.

School and city officials negotiated five months. Farmington Board of Education approved the sale at its Jan. 5 meeting. The city put down a deposit and an offer to purchase.

The city has wanted to buy the land for a long time but has been told in the past it's not for sale. The school district's sale of land near Schroeder near 12 Mile and Drake roads caught city officials' attention. "We got on the phone and said if you're looking to sell any more property, let us know," Brock said.

Farmington Schools officials acquired the site in the 1960s with the idea of building a fifth middle school.

In the past couple of years, the district has sold off small lots

FARMINGTON HILLS

left over from other school development. The school board had an inventory done of district-owned land and asked, where necessary, to put parcels on the market.

The 18 acres is one of two larger parcels - the other on Nine Mile near Drake - the district owned. The district, as part of its bond campaign two years ago, also did a demographic study.

"We're just not ever going to have enough students to justify a fifth middle school," Superintendent Bob Maxfield said.

Some proposals submitted by nine developers included the school district's 18 acres. Others didn't. Farmington Hills City Council has a study session planned Monday, Feb. 1, to review those plans.

Council members and city staff intend to come up with an idea of what they like for the site. Then developers can "amend" their original proposals.

City officials asked developers to bid on developing the 92-acre, including the golf course extension. Proposals submitted include condominiums, single family housing, offices to apartments.



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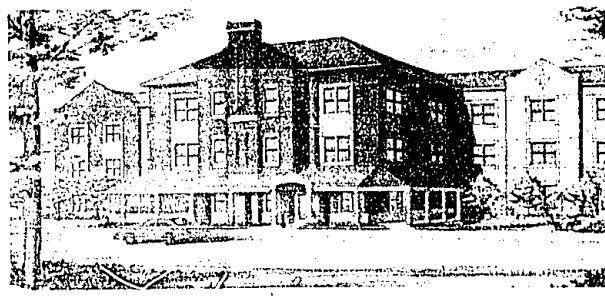


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