

Downtown focus of 2 meetings

BY TIM SMITH
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The Farmington City Council is holding a special study session at 6:30 p.m. Monday with the Downtown Development Authority to talk about several key topics that could impact the future of the central business district.

Topping the agenda is a discussion about the relationship between the DDA and Downtown Farmington Business Association, an independent merchants group reformed in early 2000. The DDA-sponsored Christmas and Halloween events also will be discussed.

City Manager Frank Lauthoff and Councilman Arnold Campbell said the meeting is important because the DDA and DBFA need to make sure both groups are working together for the betterment of downtown.

"The city council is extremely concerned about the good health of downtown," Lauthoff said. "Part of (the council's) responsibility is to make sure downtown does well."

According to Campbell, the meeting will enable the council and DDA to talk about "how to supplement the merchants associa-

CITY OF FARMINGTON

tion, nurture it and make sure they are not going in two different directions."

Another point of interest that could be brought up at Monday evening's meeting, to take place at Farmington City Hall prior to the regular council meeting, is whether to follow through on a grant application for the Main Street Oakland program.

Down on Main Street

The DDA board will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday, also at city hall, to decide on applying for the Main Street Oakland program, designed to promote economic development. Supportive of the application are the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Chamber President Carleigh Flaharty in early January approached city officials and said she (on behalf of the chamber) would be willing to spearhead the comprehensive application process - which would likely take two months to complete. The deadline

to apply is in May.

"We're excited about the opportunity," Flaharty said. "It's an opportunity we can't pass up. ... My sense is the DDA will be supportive of moving forward with the grant application."

Last year, the cities of Royal Oak, Rochester and Walled Lake qualified for the grants, which amount to about \$60,000 (over a three-year period) in consulting and technical assistance services.

Main Street Oakland is modeled after the National Main Street grant program.

Asked about why the chamber is so committed to the grant application, Flaharty said "We all play a role in enhancing downtown Farmington and making sure it is vibrant."

The grant would touch on four major points: administration/finances; marketing/promotions; design, such as for parking and infrastructure; economic restructuring, including how to improve existing businesses and recruit new ones, Flaharty explained.

"That was a very nice offer from the chamber to help" with the application, Lauthoff said.

FARMINGTON OBITUARIES

STEWART A. GREER

Services for Stewart Arnold Greer, 83, of Detroit, were held Feb. 2 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Robert Garwig officiating.

Mr. Greer was born Oct. 11, 1917 in Detroit and died Jan. 29, 2001 in Detroit. He worked as a road design engineer for the Wayne County Road Commission for more than 30 years and was a U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by wife, Mae; sons, Douglas and Jeffrey; daughters, Karen, Patricia and Nancy (Kenneth) Boelter; brother, Stanley; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

EGIDIO DIMAIO

Services for Egidio DiMaio, 82, of Canton, were held Feb. 2 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington with the Monsignor Walter Hurley officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. DiMaio was born March 11, 1908 in Elyria, Ohio and died Jan. 29, 2001 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

He is survived by sons, Paul (Nancy) and John (Pat); daughter, Christine (Dick) Reichow; sisters, Marie DeCamp and Ann DeCamp; and seven grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife Vivian.

Arrangements made by Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

NANCY T. REYNOLDS

Services for Nancy T. Reynolds, 67, of Plymouth, will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Reynolds was born June 7, 1933 in Cleveland, Ohio and died Jan. 27, 2001 in Plymouth.

She taught physical education and health science for Farmington Public Schools from 1959 to 1986. She belonged to the Michigan Educational Association, the Farmington Education Association and the National Education Association. She also belonged to the Knitters Club of Plymouth and she loved traveling

and playing golf.

She is survived by sister, Harriet (Fred) Clark; nephews, Donald (Elinor) Clark and Rick (Michelle) Clark; niece Amy (Greg) Clark Frederick; great-nieces and nephews, Jeffrey, Reed, Jennifer and Kyle; and good friend Beverly Bain.

Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan Breast Cancer Center, Simpson Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0752.

Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.

MARGARET SIMPSON

Services for Margaret Simpson, 95, of Farmington Hills, were held Feb. 3 at Farmington Hills Baptist Church.

Mrs. Simpson was born in Buckhaven, Scotland and died Jan. 30, 2001 in Royal Oak.

She is survived by nieces and nephews, Sheila Wade, Margaret Neidek and Daniel Simpson. She is preceded in death by her husband, Richard.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Farmington Hills Baptist Church.

Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

ELIZABETH A. MEREDITH

Services for Elizabeth Anne Meredith, 65, of Farmington, were held Feb. 3 at Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Wayne Large officiating. Burial took place at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.

Mrs. Meredith was born Oct. 7, 1935 in New York, N.Y., and died Jan. 31, 2001 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

She is survived by husband Stewart; sons, Mark Meredith (Brenda), Michael Meredith, Jim Meredith, Gary Watson and David (Tina) Watson; daughters, Merel Meredith, Kathie McCarthy, Debra (Doug) Merriman and Gail (Tom) Stanton; brother-in-law, Don (Sharon) Meredith; sister-in-law, Linda (Tom) Hillsbold; 24 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Man survives Hills trench collapse

Farmington Hills police and firefighters responded to the following calls during the past week:

TRENCH COLLAPSE

A construction worker escaped serious injury Wednesday, after he became trapped in a collapsed trench. Crews were installing a sewer line on Westmoreland south of 11 Mile when the incident occurred. The man was buried up to his waist. Co-workers freed him, using a backhoe. He was treated by Farmington Hills Fire Department paramedics at the scene then transported to Providence Hospital in Southfield.

INJURY ACCIDENT

A 43-year-old Bloomfield Hills woman was injured and ticketed for failing to stop in an assured, clear distance following a two-car accident at Orchard Lake and 11 Mile Road Wednesday morning. Her 1981 Ford collided with a 1994 GMC, driven by a 30-year-old Farmington Hills woman, who had stopped while fire trucks pulled out of Fire Sta-

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

tion No. 5. The injured woman, who complained of back and chest pain, was taken to Botsford Hospital by Hills Fire Department medics. The two-year-old daughter of the GMC driver complained of neck pain, but wasn't transported after paramedics examined her.

RETAIL FRAUD

A 17-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for retail fraud Wednesday, after allegedly shoplifting a long-sleeved dress shirt from Kohl's on Grand River. A store security guard saw the man conceal the shirt in his pants and walk out without paying for it.

A 60-year-old Fenton man told police he was notified by Bank One at Long Lake and Tele-

graph in Bloomfield Township that someone had tried to withdraw \$1,700 from his account. A teller checked the account and realized \$1,500 had just been withdrawn from a Bank One in Farmington Hills. She found differences in identification presented at both the Bloomfield and Hills branches, including discrepancies in height, weight and race. The suspect is a black male, the victim, a white male.

VANDALISM

An employee of Botsford Hospital told police someone had smashed out a window in her car Wednesday, after allegedly between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday while she was at work. Nothing was missing.

BREAKING & ENTERING

A 35-year-old resident of Citation Club Apartments reported someone had taken \$525 in cash and \$90 worth of video tapes from his apartment. Police found no evidence of forced entry.

MARIJUANA POSSESSION

While on routine patrol near Eight Mile Road and I-275, an

officer stopped a 1988 Lincoln because the front windshield was cracked and the license plate was partly obscured. The officer smelled burnt marijuana and the driver, a 35-year-old Inkster man, was shaking and crying. A pat down search uncovered two rolls of cash in his pocket, and officers found 14 grams of marijuana, 10 baggies with marijuana residue, tweezers and rolling papers in the car.

AUTO THEFT

A 38-year-old Farmington Hills woman reported her 1990 Ford Aerostar had been stolen from her residence on Pulane, while it was parked and running. While a Hills officer was responding to the call, Farmington Police apprehended the driver on Grand River, west of Orchard Lake Road. After being stopped by police, the 35-year-old driver fled on foot and was taken into custody a short distance from the van.

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FREE SEMINARS

West Bloomfield Tues., Feb. 6 - 6 pm 4640 Walnut Lake Rd Civic Center, Rm 102 (between Orchard Lk & Farmington)	Rochester Thurs., Feb. 8 - 6 pm Rochester Community House 816 S. Lodi (off of University)	Birmingham Tues., Feb. 13 - 6 pm Baldwin Public Library 300 W. Merrill Street (off of Maple-downtown B'ham)	Farmington Sat., Feb. 17 - 11 am - 1 pm Farmington Public Library 23500 Liberty Street (next to police station-park across street)
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Thursday, February 8, 2001, 9 am-12 noon
Saturday, February 10, 2001, 9 am-12 noon

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