

Six-year plan includes road, sewer fixes

By TIM SMITH
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Between now and 2006, major projects facing the city of Farmington include fixing roads and repairing the sewer connection to Detroit.

Those tasks — which alone would total more than \$6.1 million to complete — were detailed in the Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan adopted last Monday by the Farmington Planning Commission.

Repairing the aging sewer line, a projected \$3 million project, is a "very, very important issue for the city of Farmington right now," emphasized City Manager Frank Lauff. "We want to make sure we have a system that is able to serve our public for a long, long time."

City engineers are expected to give a report on such a project to the council in April. One potential way to repair the decaying concrete piping is by inserting a new lining, a method that would minimize the need to dig up easements between Farmington and Detroit (which are owned by Farmington, Lauff said).

There could be federal grant money to help Farmington pay for the project, and also help communities such as Farmington Hills upgrade the Farmington-Evergreen Interceptor.

A bill sponsored by U.S. Rep. James Barcia (D-Bay City) has gone through the U.S. House and Senate and is in a holding pattern while a budget appropriations committee considers it. The bill would provide \$1 billion in financial assistance to communities for sanitary sewer pro-

jects. "Washington is very much aware of the problems now," Lauff explained. "People can look at roadways, they can see those things. They can see bridges crumbling. But people don't see what's underground. They don't understand it."

Lauff said it is hoped that a federal grant from the Barcia-sponsored bill would pay for most of the connector repairs. He added that it is too early to speculate whether residents would be asked to help out with the costs.

Farmington owns the five-mile connector, which extends from the city limits along Eight Mile Road to an area just east of Telegraph. The line, about 50 years old and regulated by federal and state laws, then hooks up to the Detroit sanitary sewer system.

"This portion of the city sanitary system was constructed with concrete piping that over many years has shifted and allows for infiltration from ground water," stated the capital improvement document. "... It is critical that this piping system is maintained and does not suffer any catastrophic failure that would shut down the city's ability to maintain its sanitary sewer flow to the city of Detroit."

That project could begin in 2002 or 2003 and take up to eight years to complete.

A guide

The commission, in conjunction with Lauff and other administrators, produced the document as a guide for projects anticipated to be completed over a six-year period.

Other projects and programs deal with infrastructure, facilities, parks and capital equipment such as computers and roofs. The document is "to provide the community with a plan which aids in the future development of the city under the guidelines established by its Master Plan."

Although the council is not required to also adopt it, Lauff is recommending it be officially received as presented.

The plan also includes a program to repair and replace 25-to-40 city residential streets over six years, which would cost an estimated \$3,155,000 to complete. The road improvement program was approved by voters in 1994, thus providing a dedicated 1.5-mill levy to fund the work.

Areas that will be repaired are determined by city staff and engineer evaluations.

Several major roads, not the city's sole responsibility, also would be improved, with federal, state and county funds sharing the projected \$7.4 million financial load.

Projects include widening and rebuilding Farmington Road, from Eight Mile north to Grand River. Construction will begin this summer.

Also in the report are improvements to public buildings, parking lots, reconstruction of facilities as well as the replacement of a front-end loader, leaf-pickup machine, and city computer system.

The total cost of facilities or equipment during the next six years is estimated at \$13.5 million.

CAMPUS PIPELINE

University in Orchard Lake.

NOTRE DAME DEAN'S

Jonathan Jorissen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Jorissen of Farmington Hills, has been named to the dean's list at Notre Dame University after the fall semester.

ADRIAN DEAN'S

Laura Darold, daughter of Alfred and Susan Darold of Farmington Hills, was named to the dean's list at Adrian College after the fall semester.

EMERY GRAD

David Bregand recently graduated from Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. Second Lieutenant Bregand is the son of Jay and Carol Bregand of Farmington Hills.

USCS DEAN'S

Matthew Whitnack of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at the University of

South Carolina Spartanburg after the fall semester.

LEE DEAN'S

Sarah Gibson of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list with honors at Lee University after the fall semester. She is the daughter of Tom and Sharon Gibson.

CONNECTICUT DEAN'S

Ellen Whelan Hector of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Connecticut College after the fall semester.

PURDUE HONORS

Kristel Mathie of Farmington achieved semester honors for following the fall semester at Purdue University. She is studying biology to pursue a degree in forensic science.

OCC DEAN'S

Karen Mathie of Farmington was named to the dean's list at Oakland Community College after the fall semester. She is pursuing a career in nuclear engineering.

Fitness from page A4

class to put on a heart monitor and know how to use it.

Interest is up

High school classes now include opportunities for students to enjoy traditional physical education offerings such as team sports. But there also are classes in weight training, aerobics, lifeguard training, dance and even exercise physiology, among others.

With block scheduling now in place at all three high schools, the combined number of offerings has gone from 14 last year

to 26. The total participants at each building also have skyrocketed: Farmington High School, from 853 to 1,050; Harrison High School, from 705 to 1,056; North Farmington High School, from 923 to 1,109.

The new approach is being piloted in elementary schools, too. It might be a year or two before any changes to the middle school program can be implemented, Ambrose explained.

"If we start them young enough," Ambrose said, "these are (good health) habits that are

going to be ingrained."


School board Secretary Gary Sharp, who also is a youth coach, agreed that the general public must buy into the concept that physical education for the 21st century is about "making it a lifelong habit. We're trying to reverse an alarming trend of obesity, especially here in Michigan."

Ambrose said the progress report can be the necessary document to "keep them on course" in their quest to pursue a path of lifelong wellness.

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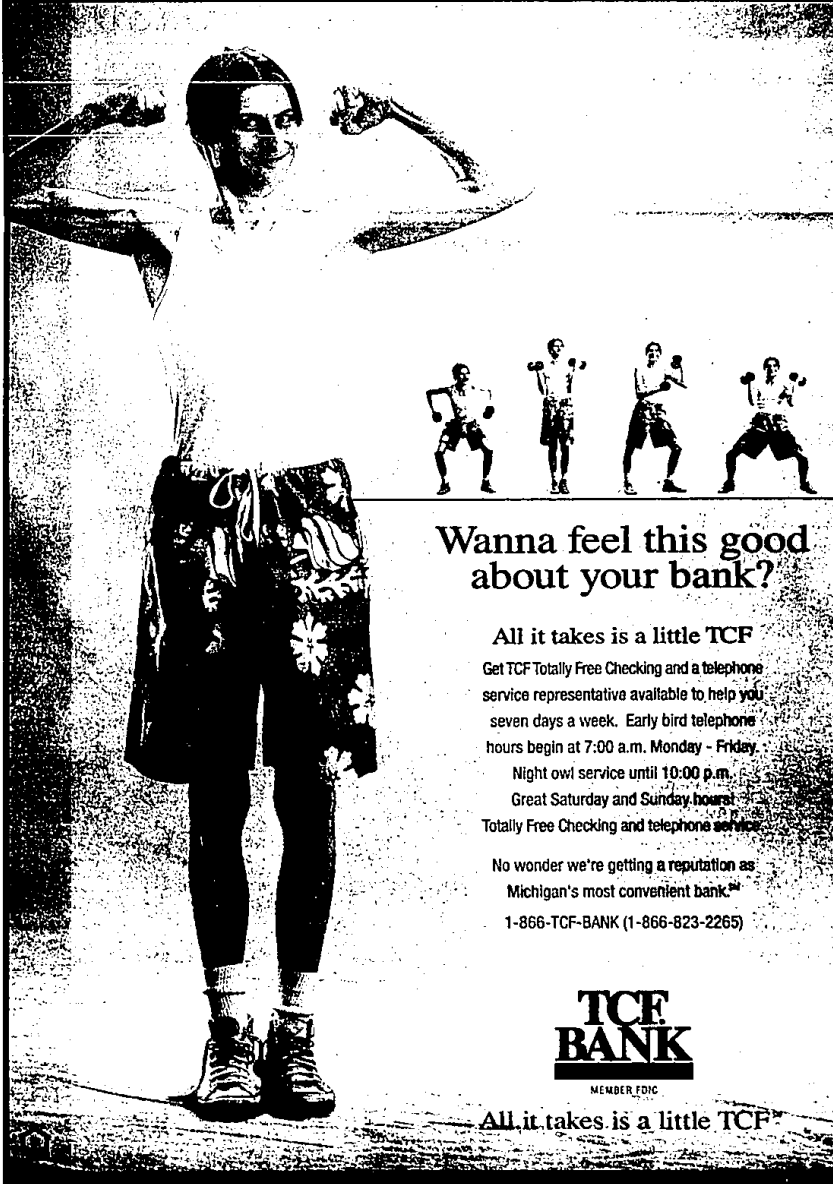
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