

Farmington forms brownfield authority

By JONI HUBRED
STAFF WRITER
jhubred@oe.homecomm.net

The Farmington City Council has approved an action that will make troubled properties a little easier to develop.

At their regular meeting Monday, officials approved a "brownfield authority," which will allow them to designate contaminated sites as eligible for financial assistance and tax credits.

A public hearing is expected Feb. 4.

Farmington City Manager

Frank Lauhoff said there are two areas that "may need help." They suspect an abandoned gas station behind Benchmark in downtown Farmington and a location behind Farmer Jack at Nine Mile and Farmington Roads will be eligible.

"The City of Farmington is an older community that is continuing to review opportunities to assist in redevelopment of commercial and industrial areas of the city," Lauhoff said.

"It is important that the city take advantage of any opportunity that could assist financially or

otherwise to encourage redevelopment."

The Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act allows municipalities to collect tax revenues at brownfield sites. Brownfields are defined as abandoned, idle or underused industrial or commercial property where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination.

The advantages to a municipality lies in the ability to capture a portion of taxes as sites can be marketed and negative physical elements are removed

from the environment.

Developers benefit because it places liability on those who caused the contamination and helps them recoup cleanup costs.

"My question is why wouldn't we do this?" asked councilman Bill Hartsock. "What's the downside?"

Attorney John Donohue said he couldn't come up with one. "It's worked out well in other communities."

--staff writer Sue Buck contributed to this story

Sign up now for winter cable workshops

It's the New Year, which means new great things at SWOCC Studios beginning with new workshops.

If your new year's resolution is to get involved, learn a new skill, meet new people, or keep up with technology, here is your chance. SWOCC plans to make this year the best yet here with a new building, a new studio, increased staff, state of the art equipment, more production and of course TV production workshops that are exciting and fun for all of us!

So while the snow comes down outside this winter, you should come inside and start learning how television works.

The first step to becoming certified is to attend our two-hour orientation, which introduces you to

SWOCC, it's staff, reviews our policies, procedures, explains the workshops in detail, and from there you are eligible to sign up for more. Our next orientation is 7-9 p.m. March 6. You can call Melissa Cohn at (248)-473-7266 ext. 14 to sign up.

We offer a variety of workshops, beginning with the basic and most popular, the Camera Basics class. This year one of the major changes taking place is the breakdown of the six-week studio workshop, we are now taking each section and teaching them separately. Our camera basics classes are:

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14
7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22
7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20
Another workshop we are offer-

ing is the Audio Board training. This two-hour class meets one night to learn the basics of running the audio board for studio productions. It will also highlight the proper way to mic talent and learn the basic audio equipment to run an in studio production. The dates for the Audio Board training are:

7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24
7 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 5

New for the first time at SWOCC we are offering a Producers workshop! This new workshop will be covering the steps into becoming a producer. It will cover topics such as pre-production meeting, set design, finding talent, copyright laws, rules and regulations, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Producers

CABLE CONNECTION

workshops are:

7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16
7-10 p.m. Thursday, March 14
Call the SWOCC office today and sign up and experience the excitement of learning how television production works.

Melissa Cohn is the Public Access coordinator of SWOCC Studios (Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission). The next Cable Access Committee meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at SWOCC. The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m. Feb. 7, at Novi City Hall.

Got an idea for a story? E-mail us at
jhubred@oe.homecomm.net

Come One... Come All...

UP TO 1/2 OFF FUR FANTASY

Only 2 More Days In Bloomfield Hills!

No Finance Charges Until 9/30/02

Phenomenal Selection Fantastic Savings Up To 50%

Spectacular Clearance

Female Ranch & Mahogany Mink Coats NOW \$2,397 Plus Sizes To 46

Female Ranch & Mahogany Mink 7/8 Coats NOW \$2,197 Plus Sizes To 46

Bloomfield Hills Only! (248) 642-3000 • 39515 Woodward Ave. Thurs. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Special Sunday Clearance: Noon - 5 p.m. Monday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Both locations Closed 1/15/02 Bloomfield Hills Closed 1/15 to 1/21

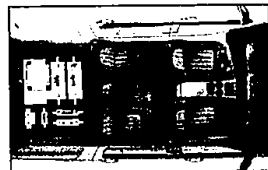
Dittrich Since 1898 Home Textiles Limited Quantities Final Sale

www.dittrichfurs.com



2002 Mercury Mountaineer

NOW
YOU
SEE IT.



NOW
YOU
DON'T.

DISAPPEARING THIRD-ROW SEAT STANDARD.
The Mountaineer's third-row seat folds down easily, virtually disappearing to create up to 81.3 cubic feet of cargo space.

MERCURY MOUNTAINEER WITH CONVENIENCE GROUP

\$399
per month/24-month lease
for returning lessees
\$3,399*
cash due at signing
after \$1,000 cash back
Security deposit waived.
Excludes tax, title and license fees.

OR

0.0% APR
limited-term financing**
on purchase.



MERCURY

For updated offers go to LMAplan.com

*Call 1-888-56-LEASE for details. For cash back, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/14/2002. **NOT ALL BUYERS WILL QUALIFY FOR THE LOWEST FORD CREDIT APR. SEE DEALER FOR QUALIFICATION DETAILS. Dealer participation may affect savings. For APR, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/14/2002.

Visit Your
Metro Detroit
Mercury Dealer.

ANN ARBOR
Sesi
2100 W. Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
(734) 668-6300
sesi.com

CLINTON TOWNSHIP
Stu Evans Lakeside
17500 Hall Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(810) 840-7000
stuevanslakeside.com

DEARBORN
Jack Demmer
21531 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, MI 48124
(313) 274-8800
demmer.com

DETROIT
Bob Maxey
36901 Mack Ave.
Livonia, MI 48150
(313) 855-4000
bobmaxey.com

DETROIT
Park Motor
18000 Woodward Ave.
Livonia, MI 48150
(313) 869-5000
parkmotor.com

GARFIELD CITY
Stu Evans Garden City
34000 Ford Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 475-4300
stuevansgarden.com

NOVI
Varsity
49251 Grand River
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 475-4300
varsity.com

PLYMOUTH
Hines Park
40601 Ann Arbor Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
(313) 855-4000
hinespark.com

ROCHESTER HILLS
Crisman
1185 South Rochester Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(734) 652-4200
crisman.com

ROSELAND
Bob Maxey
29000 Gratiot
Livonia, MI 48150
(810) 557-6000
bobmaxey.com

SOUTHFIELD
Star
24350 West 12 Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
(248) 354-4900
star.com

SOUTHGATE
Southgate
16800 Fort Street
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 285-8800
southgate.com

STERLING HEIGHTS
Crest
36200 Van Dyke
Sterling Heights, MI 48315
(810) 939-6000
crest.com

TROY
Bob Borst
1950 West Maple
Troy, MI 48064
(248) 643-6600
borst.com

WATERFORD
Mel Farr
4178 Highland Rd. (MI-59)
Waterford, MI 48326
(248) 683-9500
farr.com

YPSILANTI
Sesi
950 East Michigan
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 482-7133
sesi.com