

LOCAL NEWS

How much is that dog park in window?

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Wanting a place to let his dogs run free, Farmington Hills resident Jess Elson has joined West Bloomfield's dog park program.

For a \$30 nonresident fee, he can let his dogs run with other dogs, while Elson socializes with other dog owners in the program, which is called Parks for Urban Puppies.

A longtime advocate locally, he's still looking for Farmington Hills to yip up to the plate with a similar park.

He addressed the city council about the issue at Monday's meeting, during public comment.

Elson said West Bloomfield's program allows nonresidents to join residents in letting their dogs play with each other in a controlled setting at one of the township's parks.

"There's a waiting list of at least 62 more people," he said of its popularity.

Despite the bitter cold on a recent weekend, about 45 people showed up with their pets, he noted.

"All day long, people were socializing and having fun," Elson said.

"We need a place to have them play and exercise," he added, noting obesity affects not only humans in growing numbers, but also dogs.

Mayor Nancy Bates told Elson the problem that keeps coming up is finding a location for such a park.

Elson suggested Heritage Park off Farmington Road as the ideal location.

"There are 10-12 acres just sitting there empty," he said.

Bates said the park was designed for passive uses and since state funds went into the purchase, it must be open to all residents.

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said she is all for creating a dog park, but until an agreement is reached, there's not much that can be done.

She said working out a deal with neighboring communities may be an option.

"We're still looking," she said.

Elson hopes something materializes soon, because residents in West Bloomfield will get first dibs on using the dog park when the weather improves.

"We're going to get broader," he said of nonresidents.

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Officials to appoint DDA member

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington City Council expects to appoint a new Farmington Downtown Development Authority board member at its 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, regular meeting.

This appointment will replace President Ron Oglesby, Oglesby cited health and family concerns and said he wants to devote more time to his law practice.

Feb. 4 was Oglesby's last meeting, capping off a term of about 18 years.

Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell said several people were interviewed for Oglesby's position. They are: Greg Cowley, co-owner of Cowley's Old Village Inn on Grand River; Skip Rosenthal, owner of Books Abound on Grand River; Julie Grippo, owner of The Baby Studio in the Village Mall at Grand River and

Farmington roads; and Paul Beyers, an attorney in downtown Farmington.

Rosenthal and Grippo were interviewed prior to the Feb. 3 council meeting, Mitchell said. Cowley's interview was in early January and council members mentioned the DDA position to Beyers, who had an interest in a zoning board of appeals appointment.

Officials are also now taking applications for interviews for DDA board member Bob Heinrich's position. Heinrich, president and CEO of Metrobank on Grand River, resigned at the end of the Feb. 4 meeting.

"Call the city manager's office for an application," advises Mitchell to those interested. The number is (248) 474-5500.

Mitchell expects Heinrich's position to be filled next month.

Heinrich cited time constraints as the

reason for his resignation. He was appointed chairman of the Michigan Bankers Association last June.

A state trade association, MBA lobbies at the state and federal level for legislative change in the banking industry and provides other services to members.

Heinrich considered resignation last year, but former Farmington City Manager Frank Laubhoff urged him to continue through the appointment of a new DDA director and the application process for the Main Street Oakland County grant.

Laubhoff resigned Jan. 3, and his replacement, Vince Pastue, begins work Feb. 17, the same day the council appointment is expected.

"We'll roll out the red carpet," Mitchell said. "He will hit the ground running."

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OBITUARIES

William E. Henderson
Services for William Edward Henderson, 85, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at Berean Baptist Church in Livonia with the Rev. Dale Peterson and Rev. Dennis Henderson officiating. Burial will follow at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy. Visitation will be held 5-9 p.m. today, Feb. 13 and 2-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Mr. Henderson was born July 21, 1917, in Elvins, Mo., and died Feb. 8, 2003, in Hudson, Fla. He was a wood pattern maker and member of Berean Baptist Church for 49 years. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine; sons, Jerry (Cassie), Ed (Sharon), Dennis (Dianne) and Dave (Sharon); daughter, Karen (Ron) Falknor; brothers,

Loyd (Eileen), Victor (Elsie) and Paul (Mildred); sister, Beulah; 17 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Velda.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gideons International, 2900 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37214.

Sarah Newell
Services for Sarah Newell, 93, of Farmington Hills, were held Feb. 8 at Hecey-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Sand officiating. Burial followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in London, Ontario.

Mrs. Newell was born July 17, 1909, in Woodstock, Ontario, and died Feb. 7, 2003, at Botsford Continuing Care Center in Farmington Hills. She was a member of First United Methodist Church. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Carman (Margaret)

Newell; sister-in-law, Marion Dyer; niece, Dr. Ann Dyer; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Frank.

Laurence E. Grimes
Services for Laurence Edward Grimes, 88, of Farmington, were held Feb. 12 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington with the Monsignor Walter Hurley officiating.

Mr. Grimes was born Aug. 17, 1914, in Franklin, Minn., and died Feb. 9, 2003, at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He is survived by his son, Robert (Ming Wei); daughters, Kathleen (Timothy) Crabb, Susan Brosch, Sally (James) Juhlmalsh, Maureen (Marcel) Dijkers, Mary (Gary) Nance, Margaret (Guy) Markham and Elizabeth (Robert) Cross; brother, Wilfred; sister, Clare Grimes; 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife,

Lois and son-in-law, Warren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

Ethel Poole
Services for Ethel Poole, 83, of West Bloomfield, were held Feb. 12 at Hecey-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Sand officiating. Burial followed at Franklin Cemetery.

Mrs. Poole was born June 5, 1919, in Detroit and died Feb. 10, 2003, at Providence Hospital in Southfield. She is survived by her son, David (Jean) Poole; daughter, Karen (William) Elders; and grandchildren, Jason Poole, Lisa Switlik, Tiffany Kolp, William Elders II and great-grandson Nathan. She is preceded in death by her husband, Benjamin. Memorial contributions may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

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