

HOMES

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py with pounding highway noise.

Resident Rick Adams said if the council approved the project, the residents already there would have to live with their "mistakes."

Another resident, David Sharp, said building homes closer to the highway could be dangerous to the people living there if a truck carrying toxic chemicals ever spilled.

Rodney Arroyo, planning consultant with Bincher Arroyo, spoke on behalf of the project's proponent, Gregory Smith.

He couldn't divulge the name of the proposed developer; he said the company is planning to build homes larger than originally projected.

Residents nearby said they wanted the development to be upscale to help maintain their property values.

However, the city cannot dictate the type of facade used in building the homes, said city attorney Steven Jopich.

Arroyo said the developer will also give the city \$200,000 toward a sound barrier project if the homes are approved.

In explaining their votes, Mayor Nancy Bates and Councilman Jerry Ellis said allowing a single-family home

Living wall concept moves forward

BY PAUL B. PACE
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council passed a resolution Monday to pursue the creation of a living wall along I-275 between Eight Mile and one-half mile north of Nine Mile.

City Manager Steve Brook presented slides to the council showing different types of walls made up of natural vegetation along roadways in parts of Europe.

So far, the concept where a steel skeleton supports a slope of earth to act as a sound barrier has yet to be developed in the U.S.

"This isn't a done deal," Mayor Nancy Bates warned residents who live near I-275 who were in attendance.

A developer who wants to build 61 homes even closer to

development is the last option, since residents opposed apartments, condominiums or light industrial businesses in the parcel, which is currently wooded.

Among the conditions the

I-275 said he will donate \$200,000 for a sound barrier if the development passes final approval.

About \$120,000 in replacement tree funds for the development and a \$200,000 federal grant could also financially support part of the living wall concept.

The council Monday in a majority vote approved the site plan for the development.

Bates pointed out the living wall is not contingent on the development.

Brook said building a natural wall could cost nearly half the amount of a concrete sound barrier.

Bates said the city is working with federal and state legislators to make the concept a reality.

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development is the last option, since residents opposed apartments, condominiums or light industrial businesses in the parcel, which is currently wooded.

Among the conditions the

development will have to adhere to will be approval from the state Department of Environmental Quality. The project area includes several wetlands.

Grand River has already met twice, according to Brent Morgan, Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

For more information, call Morgan at (248) 473-7276.

EVENT

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ing an event to support it.

"I thought, 'I can't be the only woman in this area who has suits in her closet,'" Jacokes said.

To learn whether that's true, Jacokes Communications will host "Share Wear" on 4-7 p.m. Wednesday.



Jacokes

May 7, at their headquarters, 36520 Grand River in Farmington Hills.

"I saw this as a wonderful way for women to get together

to help other women who are trying to improve their lives," Jacokes said.

She's invited colleagues, vendors, city officials, family and friends to clean out their closets and bring in any clothing they would feel comfortable wearing to an interview themselves. Donations should be in excellent condition, laundered or dry cleaned, ironed and on hangers.

Dress for Success provides clothing to low-income women who are entering the work force. Some have been abused and living in shelters, others are coming off welfare.

"They all need the added confidence a new suit or business clothing brings."

"Image counts," Jacokes said. "Image is sometimes just as important as substance in that you can have a great message, but if it's not packaged well, people won't know it."

Dress for Success helps clients look sharp

Dress for Success provides interview suits, confidence boosts and career development to more than 45,000 women in over 75 cities each year.

The not-for-profit organization provides a client with one suit when she has a job interview and a second suit when she gets the job. The Dress for Success Professional Women's Group program then provides ongoing support to help the client build a successful career. Many Dress for Success affiliates actually provide more than just those two suits, such as extra silk scarves, blouses and other interview-appropriate clothing items - with the goal of providing enough clothing to mix-and-match for a whole week's worth of work attire.

Volunteer Personal Shoppers help the client select an interview outfit. Women are referred by various not-for-profit and government agencies including homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, immigration services and job training programs. Support comes through financial contributions, in-kind donations and volunteers.

What appealed to her particularly about Dress for Success is the focus on helping people who are helping themselves.

"These are people who want to make a change in their lives," she said. "That's the kind of thing you hope people will support."

In addition to providing clothing by appointment, Dress for Success offers coaching and interview tips to help clients land a good job.

"The idea is to prepare women for the work world," Jacokes explained.

With the theme, "Wine, Women and Wardrobe Recycling," the Share Wear event will offer women the opportunity to come together, share a glass of wine, enjoy the company of other interesting

women and help others in need.

"At the very least," Jacokes said, "it's an ideal time to clean out your closets."

Jo-Ann Lucas, director of Dress for Success Detroit, and other representatives will be on hand to accept the clothing and talk about the work they do.

Four members of the Jacokes team are working on this project in addition to the business owner: Marcia Dauner, Julie Marchel and Leah Russell.

For more information about Share Wear, call (248) 473-6010 or e-mail sharewear@jackokes.com

For more information about Dress for Success, call Lucas at (313)-477-4982.

DELAY

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tion of the downtown community. "That only helps about a dozen businesses out of 100," he said.

"You are planning a community feature for the whole downtown to help 12 businesses?"

Also present during a Tuesday press conference at the Masonic Temple in downtown Farmington were Russell Lewis of Main Street Oakland County and Nicholas Kalogeris and Carolyn Dellutri from National Main Street in Chicago.

On Tuesday, the team took both a driving and walking tour of the DDA district.

The city of Farmington and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority last fall received a three-year technical services grant instituted by Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services to provide assistance for the revitalization and the preservation of Farmington's downtown.

A recent needs assessment report launched the beginning of the work plan.

Residents participated in the sessions with the Oakland County Main Street Resource team, scheduled April 30 and today.

There will be a public presentation of the Resource Team's observations and recommendations at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) in the City Council Chambers of Farmington City Hall.

"Feres looked at the most identifiable gateways into the city. He saw a Burger King to the east and a cemetery and greenery to the west.

"When you come into downtown, you have no idea where you are," Feres said. "You have historic on one end and nasty suburbs on the other."

"The streetscape needs to be updated and signage needs to be studied," Feres added.

Longacre House hosting events

The Longacre House, located at 24705 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills, will be hosting the following events:

■ **Chef's Cookout:** 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 16. The cost is \$19.95 and includes appetizers, salad, vegetables, potato, coffee, tea, cold beverages and dessert.

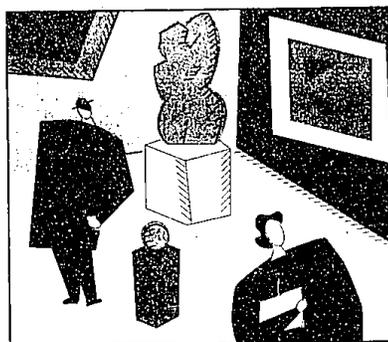
■ **Car Wash and a Dog:** 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, June 14. Get the car washed for Father's Day and enjoy a hot dog and a drink. Car wash with hot dog and drink, \$4.50. Car wash only \$3.

■ **Father's Day Brunch:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday, June 15. The cost is \$23.95 for adults and \$12.95 for children under 12. All proceeds will benefit landscaping at the Longacre House for

other outside events such as Car on the Park and the Chef's Cookout. Call (248) 477-8404.

exhibition BIRMINGHAM

a gallery tour



Volunteer docents will provide directions and information about the galleries and their exhibits.

- Free trolley service will shuttle visitors throughout town.
- Meet artists and learn about their work.
- Many galleries will provide food and refreshments.

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Friday,
May 9, 2003
6p.m. - 9:30p.m.

Downtown
Birmingham

Admission: FREE

- Artspace II
- Avenue Gallery
- Bloomfield Fine Arts
- Bruce White Gallery
- Cowboy Trader
- David Klein Gallery
- Gallery Nikko
- Habatat Galleries Birmingham
- Hill Gallery
- Posner Gallery
- Robert Kidd Gallery
- Yaw Gallery
- Zoom Artistic Photography