

# City To Buy Church As Center

Livonia is about to buy St. Paul's Lutheran Church site on Farmington near Five Mile Road, as a center for senior citizens.

Studied by Mayor Harvey W. Moelke, the City Planning Commission, the building authority, heads of senior citizens organizations, and officials of St. Paul's, the idea was given approval all along the line.

Moelke presented the proposal personally to the City Council's seven members Wednesday night, a body which had favored buying the property for other purposes only to have

their resolutions for appraisal vetoed.

COUNCIL liked the new idea, especially since bids for the proposed Center ran far above the budget amount. The bids, about \$250,000 instead of the expected cost of \$150,000, were rejected and the Council gave the "go ahead" signal to the purchase plan.

A Senior Citizens Housing Committee was set up to take the matter out of the hands of the Parks and Recreation Department, which was to defray the costs. Councilmen were

critical of the "lack of communication" with the department in the progress of the program.

The purchase now will be made through a special self-redeeming bond issue.

The mayor appeared in person to explain the problem and a way to solve it, and to announce that he had changed his mind about adding the church site to city property, since it can be put to useful purposes.

He received not only a friendly reception, but approval of the idea.

The church has been anxious to relocate on larger property, and had offered its property to the city months ago. It reportedly has bought seven acres, also on Farmington Road.

St. Paul's present trustees are surrounded by city property earmarked for Civic Center development.

The idea for converting the property—church, school and rectory—into meeting places for senior citizens was welcomed after the cost of building a new center at Ford Field skyrocketed above the budget figures.

MOELKE told the councilmen that the property can be had, with accommodations twice those of the proposed building, at the price of \$300,000, including the land.

He recommended that the purchase be made through the Building Authority and a bond issue with rental paid by the city to retire the bonds. Thus, the taxpayers would not be required to approve the purchase.

Moelke said six months might be needed to handle the bond issue.

A councilman remarked that "I think it right and proper that Mayor Moelke and his staff be congratulated for doing such

a commendable job."

It was a rare tribute paid to the mayor by Council. They are often at odds.

The mayor explained his about face on the property purchase.

He said that previously it would have served to general purpose in the Civic Center plan, and that the city was without funds to buy it as the Council proposed.

But the need for a gathering place for the 1,000 men and women who belong to the senior citizens organizations and the possible 4,000 to 5,000 other elderly who could use the facilities made it advisable to buy

the site—which is at the center of the city.

The mayor said that school classrooms could be converted into meeting rooms, that there are two offices, and that an auditorium could accommodate 300 to 500 for meetings and dinners. There's a multi-purpose room, and a kitchen, and the buildings are laid out so that they could be converted to meet needs.

THERE IS parking space on the site.

The house occupied by the pastor could likely be used by a manager or custodian, the mayor said.

The church and school would be permitted to use the facilities, under the purchase plan, while new buildings were going up on the newly selected site.

Moelke also said that by using a bond issue to finance the program, the Parks and Recreation Department would have more funds for other purposes, since inflation in land and building prices is eating away at the \$4,400,000 bond issue provided for parks and playgrounds.

Moelke said the fact that a strike of tradesmen will mean higher labor costs, and likely would increase building prices for the center much more.

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## Silver Swans To Splash In Carousel At Bentley

The swim extravaganza, "Carousel of Classics," will be presented for the public by the Bentley High School Silver Swans, a synchronized swim group, on May 22, 24 and 25/26. Performances will begin at 7 p.m. at the school, 16100 Hubbard Rd.

Costumes, hand-made by volunteers, will range from "Fairy Ann and Andy dolls" to a black-suited bumblebee and flower girls.

Background music will include "Nutcracker Suite," "Dumbo Waltz," "Flight of the Bumblebee" and "March of the Toys."

The swim club in formation around colorful carousels. Swimmers in the spotlight will include Jan Johnson and Elaine Schuldt, soloists; Debbie Barnett and Chris Johnson, soloists; and Pat Teahan, who perform duets, as well as trios and quartets doing synchronized stunts.

Silver Swan sponsor is Miss Janet Lozon, responsible for arrangement of the numbers as well as costume-making. She was aided in the latter by an "out-of-school" volunteer, Mrs. Elaine Lozon, her mother, who resides in River Rouge.

Other physical education teachers assisting with the program have been, Miss Beverly Aboda and Miss Beverly Dale. Tickets may be obtained by calling any of the three teachers at the school, 427-1900, Ext. 87.

Miss Elaine Schuldt is club president, and Miss Linda Adams, publicity chairman.

## Analyst To Read PWP Palms

Parents Without Partners, seeking new members in the Livonia area, will meet at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at the Nativity United Church of Christ, W. Chicago at Henry Ruff.

Guest speaker will be Mrs. Florence Disher, handwriting analyst. Her talk will concern members' handwriting and what it tells her of their "character, traits and talents."

Family events for the Livonia Chapter include a potluck dinner planned at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 24 at Rosedale Garden Presbyterian Church, and a family bowling party at 2 p.m. next Sunday, May 26, at Livonia Lanes.

Information about membership may be directed to Mrs. Dorothy Berry, reporter, 422-8020, or by writing Parents Without Partners, 4130, P.O. Box 2295, Livonia.

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