

the Farmington enterprise & observer

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New zoning law passes Hills council; changes studied by plan commission

A new zoning ordinance representing a three-year review of the Farmington Hills land use laws was adopted as written by the Farmington Hills council Monday.

Suggested changes coming from a public hearing on the new law were referred to the planning commission for consideration of adoption as amendments.

"It would be a shame if the ordinance were not passed because of improvements not made in it," commented David Stader, former planning commissioner who left the post when he lost a bid for election to the first Farmington Hills council. A full house packed the courtroom for the hearing on the ordinance.

The majority of the people

attending were concerned about new regulations of recreational vehicles.

Farmington Hills has had no restriction on storage or parking of campers, trailers, etc., in the past.

The new ordinance states they must be stored either alongside the house, if they are under six feet, or behind the house, if they are over six feet.

It prohibits any long-term storage in front of a house.

"It seems rather unfair," Craig Findley, 33891 Hartlow, said.

The recreational vehicle section was one of several to be reviewed by the planning commission. Others were green belt and setback provisions, and bicycle trails.

Representatives from the

Council of Homeowners Assn. spoke in favor of stricter screening planting requirements, and asked for changes in the requirements for screening berms and walls.

Claude Oates, of Villain-Leman planning consultants, reviewed the changes in the ordinance.

The planning commission

would gain some authority now held by the Zoning Board of Appeals under the new law.

Special uses, such as service businesses located in industrial zoning, would be subject to planning approval under the new ordinance.

Other changes include adding several categories to duplicate the former zoning of Wood Creek and Quaker-

town, promised during the campaign for the new city charter.

Distances between building in multiple-family zones will be controlled through the use of a formula based on the height and length of the buildings.

A new provision requires open, green space in the front yard of every commercial development.

Building on flood plains is restricted, and new provisions are added relating to residential fences, flood plains, and access to major thoroughfares for specified uses.

Douglas Mann, chairman of the planning commission, said, "We had a very fine ordinance to begin with, the review should make it better."



FAAC is looking for medical clinic site

By MARTHA MAHAN

Once a location has been found, a free medical clinic for Farmington young people should soon open its doors.

The money is in hand. An administrator has been hired. Recruitment of a volunteer professional staff is nearly completed.

"We had aimed at a target date of Feb. 1 for opening the clinic, but I suspect it will be early March before we get under way," said Joseph Damiani, director of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) under whose umbrella the clinic will function.

The medical facility, formally known as the Outreach Clinic, will attempt to attract "hard to reach" young people, especially the drug users whose general life style make them subject to certain types of health problems and who shy away from the usual clinic atmosphere or the family physician.

"The volunteer staff selected to work at the facility will be able to relate to young people comfortably and in their own jargon."

--FAAC Director Joseph Damiani

Counseling, education and general health maintenance as well as diagnosis and treatment or referral also will be an important part of the program, Damiani said.

The program will operate through a \$25,000 federal grant channeled through Oakland County.

FAAC also has applied for another \$39,000 in federal funds to establish an alcohol-combat program.

Both the drug and alcohol programs will refer to medical facilities, "not detoxification centers either for drugs or alcohol," Damiani emphasized.

Like the medical center, the alcohol unit will hit hard in counseling, community education and telephone trouble calls, he said.

"The medical center won't be an emergency room for medical cases, either," Damiani said.

"We won't be equipped for that sort of thing, and any medical emergencies will be sent directly to Botsford or some other hospital."

Why would young people troubled with medical problems likely related to drug use go to the Outreach Clinic instead of their own doctor or established clinics?

"The facility will be colorful, more informal than traditional hospital clinics, and it will be operated during convenient hours," Damiani explained in a report to the county.

"The volunteer staff selected to work at the facility will be able to relate to young people comfortably and in their own jargon. Professional staff will be selected according to their expertise and their skill in working with youth."

To background the need for such an operation, Damiani said 650 calls requesting medical service were received over FAAC crisis-intervention telephones in one 11-month period.

Clinics in neighboring communities such as Ann Arbor, Detroit and Birmingham report that Farmington young people have been seeking their services, Damiani said. And Farmington young people have indicated they feel a need for this kind of service.

The Farmington clinic also will keep records on where its clients come from, he said.

The project has the support of the local medical community, he said. A telephone survey of some 56 local physicians showed only two with a negative attitude.

Damiani, who took over as

Prospects for a new program to serve hot lunches daily to senior citizens in Farmington will be discussed at a meeting scheduled at 10:15 Friday, Jan. 18, in University Hills Christian Reformed Church, Farmington Road at I-96.

Needed now, she said, are interested persons to administer a Monday-through-Friday hot lunch program. Some paid staff and many volunteers will be needed.

Three speakers will help explain the projected program on Friday.

They are Henry Alting, division manager for the field operations of the Oakland County Commission, Office of Economic Opportunity; David Batzka, vice-pres-



Snow time!

WINTER FUN is an afternoon at the Farmington ski hill, at Farmington Rd. and Shiawassee. The informal hockey games (left) start every day after school. Cathy Fields rides down the hill on a saucer, and Laura and Kelly Cass take a trip on a sled. The skating and sledging are all free and highly informal. The informality has caused a few accidents on the sled hill, however, and sliders are asked to use caution when going back up the hill against traffic.

Evert Photos

New senior lunch program is started by churches

are authorized and are being used, in Oakland County, in six centers in Pontiac," she added. "We have demonstrated that there is a need on the part of many elderly people in Farmington, and it's my dream to bring it here."

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dent of the Michigan Association of Gerontological Students, and Michael Yoelin, director of the OEO nutrition program for Oakland County.

Mrs. Bates said the program, which will include some sort of program as well as hot lunches, is relatively new.

"It's replacing the 'Meals on wheels' program which I have been told is being phased out," Mrs. Bates said. "The reason for that is that recent studies have shown that many seniors not only do not eat well but also are desperately lonely."

"Taking meals to the, however well-intentioned, is only isolating them more. The program, as set up now, provides some meals to be

taken to those really unable to get out, but in most cases the elderly people will be brought in for social contacts as well as food."

Mrs. Bates emphasized that the meals would be prepared by a catering service, so no cooking would be involved for volunteers.

"It's driving, serving and programs that will be needed," she said.

Mrs. Bates said she had contacted as many as possible of the church and women's groups in Farmington but was issuing an open invitation to all interested to learn more about the program in the Friday meeting.

A continental breakfast will be served by University Hills church, she added.

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