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Twenty-Five Cents

Save pond, board told

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

The Farmington Board of Education wants to relocate a catch basin as part of a property sale — and it's catching opposition from some nearby residents.

The catch basin, in the rear of Warner Middle School on 14 Mile Road, is part of a parcel of property the district wants to sell to Brooks and Layne Inc., a West Bloomfield developer.

The board, meeting in regular session Tuesday, voted 6-0 to approve a \$578,775 purchase offer from the developer.

Residents near the Warner school property attended the board meeting and voiced their opposition to the sale of the property.

"The area is becoming very commercial and that's the only piece of nature left along Northwestern Highway," said resident Walter Sanders.

"Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder," Sanders said. "What Mr. (William) Prisk (assistant superintendent of finance and services for the school district) sees as an eyesore is a source of enjoyment to people who live in the neighborhood."

Currently, the retention pond catches runoff water during rainy weather so that the sewer system isn't overburdened. The pond has turned into a haven for red-wing blackbirds, cattails and other wildlife and fauna.

"VERY TRUTHFULLY, it's a swamp," said Sanders after the meeting.

"I have nothing against the developers, I just wanted to preserve the little bit of nature that's there," he said.

"(The retention pond) is in my backyard and I prefer birds and cattails to a brick wall," said resident Myra Ellsworth. "I would like to see it stay the way it is."

School board Treasurer Richard Wallace said that, "From a financial stand-

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Two winners, Torry Sever (left), and Ben Marks look happy as primary votes are tallied Tuesday. The primary survivors will square off in November for a seat on the Farmington Hills City Council.

RANDY FORST/Staff photographer

Hills gold coasts sparkle

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of stories on the commercial development of Farmington Hills. This segment examines two major growth areas in the city.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Drive along eastbound I-696 or Northw. 34th Highway in Farmington Hills and it's difficult to ignore the constantly changing scenery.

Give it a few weeks and what once was bare steel girders surrounded by mounds of dirt quickly becomes either the headquarters for a major corporation or the offices for attorneys and accountants.

But for motorists who care to take in Farmington Hills' changing commercial scenery, there is a rule to remember.

The 12 Mile Road corridor — easily visible from parallel I-696 — is targeted for the large, corporate offices seeking the best in exposure and location. Northwestern, on U.S. 24, is being redeveloped into a business district. It's neatly tucked into aesthetically pleasing landscapes.

Developers, builders and city officials refer to Farmington Hills' two major office growth areas as either "gold mines" or "building booms." But that doesn't mean development has been haphazard.

On the contrary, both corridors have been the result of long-term planning. In some cases, particularly along Northwestern, the particular type of office development was the result of controversy and eventual compromise.

JOHN STEINER, responsible for research for The Detroit, a publication of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, chalks up the suburban-ville attractions to Farmington Hills' two office corridors, to city officials'

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Marks, Sever, Nichols survive

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Campaign veterans Ben Marks and Torry Sever were the top vote getters in Tuesday's primary, bumping Councilman Robert Anzlovor out of the running for a seat on the Farmington

Hills City Council.

Marks and Sever will square off in the November general election to serve the remaining year of an unfinished term Fred Hughes left when he was transferred.

Anzlovor was chosen by council last January to replace Hughes until

the election.

"I feel good that we worked hard and it showed," said Marks, the top vote-getter in the council primary. "I think the voters got the message."

Admitting he "didn't work hard enough to deserve first place," Sever said "I'm just relieved the primary

part is over."

UNAWARE OF how he had finished, Anzlovor later commented when told of the final vote, "I'm disappointed, of course."

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oral quarrel

If you had bomb, would you use it?

U.S. demonstrators marked the 39th anniversary of the atomic bomb attack on Japan by unfurling an anti-nuclear banner from the scaffolding surrounding the Statue of Liberty and by spilling fake blood at the Pentagon.

In Hiroshima, target of the first A-bomb, the anniversary was celebrated with quiet ceremonies to honor the thousands who perished in the attack.

Today, the debate still rages about the United States using atomic weapons to conquer Japan and bring a deci-

sive end to World War II.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

Had you been President of the United States in August of 1945, would you have used the atomic bombs on Japan? Explain why or why not.

To answer this question, call us at 477-5498 anytime before 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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Poron's Packard

This 1935 Packard convertible sedan was owned by Argentina's Juan Poron and now the prized possession of Farmington Hills' William J. Cherkey, was one of more than 100 classic automobiles displayed at the Concours d'Elegance last weekend at the Detroit's Meadow Creek Hall. A story and more photos may be found on page 13.