

Farmington votes on sewer issue Tuesday

Farmington voters will go to the polls Tuesday, May 22, to decide a way to pay for a \$12 million-sewer separation and improvement project.

Polls will be open to registered voters from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at six voting precincts.

Farmington must comply with federal and state mandates to clean up the Rouge River.

The project is part of a \$900 mil-

lion, three-county effort to eliminate untreated sewage discharges into the Rouge River. Farmington is one of 47 Michigan communities in the three-county Rouge River Watershed Basin that must come to grips with the river's pollution.

Farmington's part in the project will involve building new sewers, rehabilitating and improving the city's entire sewer and pumping systems, and building a 3.2-million-gallon retention basin to hold excess

sewer water until it can be sent to Detroit for treatment.

City officials are leaving it up to the voters to decide which way to finance the project, the largest and costliest public works project in the city's history.

A "yes" vote will mean higher property taxes to pay off construction bonds. A "no" vote will mean higher water and sewer rates to meet bond payments.

THE PROJECT will cost each household an average of \$120 to \$210 a year for the next 20 years, depending on:

- Whether voters approve the sale of general obligation bonds.
- Whether the city, as expected, qualifies for a 2 percent state loan over the 20-year life of the bonds.
- How much water each household uses if the bonds aren't approved and a user fee is added to water

and sewer rates, boosting them by about \$1.51 per 1,000 gallons used.

The \$12 million can be raised in one of two ways:

- Increasing property taxes, 3 mills the first year and declining thereafter, to pay off construction bonds.
- Raising water and sewer rates, by about \$1.51 per 1,000 gallons used, to meet bond payments.

Each option has its advantages de-

pending upon each resident's individual situation.

Absentee ballots must be returned before the polls close on election day. As of Friday, 240 such ballots had been requested and 101 had been returned. The city has 7,534 registered voters.

To vote absentee today, stop by the office of City Clerk Jo Bushey at the city hall, 23600 Liberty.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
Council Chambers
23600 Liberty
8 p.m. Monday, May 21

- Public hearing to review 1990-91 budget and millage rate.
- Annual contract for vehicle cleaning.
- Contractor payment for 1989-90 sidewalk program.
- Proposed budget for SWOCC.
- City logo.
- Appointments to boards and commissions.

Farmington Board of Education

Warner Middle School Cafeteria
30303 W. 14 Mile
Tuesday, May 22

- At 3:30 p.m., the board will host an employee recognition reception.
- At 6 p.m., the community relations committee will meet. At 8:30 p.m., the building and site committee will meet.
- At 7:15 p.m., the board will hold a Truth-in-Taxation hearing. At 7:30 p.m., it will hold a 1990-91 budget hearing.
- The regular board meeting will start at 8 p.m.:
 - Bid openings.
 - Discussion of upcoming election of two Oakland Schools board of education members.
 - Financial gifts to schools.
 - List of adult and regular high school graduates.

- Approval of election workers for June 11.
- Personnel matters.
- Resolution for Volunteers Appreciation Day.
- Adult basic education consortium agreement with Huron Valley Schools.
- Textbook curriculum presentation: language arts, math, voc ed.
- Textbook recommendations: social studies, science, foreign language.
- Interim report, gifted education.
- Purchase of walk-in freezer at East.
- District security system.
- Dedication of right of way at Hillside to Farmington Hills.
- Bid approvals, if desired.
- Committee reports.
- Policy reviews.

• Vote to consider going into closed session. Attorney/client privilege regarding pending litigation.

Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills
Farmington Community Library, Hills branch
32727 W. 12 Mile
7 p.m. Tuesday, May 22

Greg Burk of Waterworks Systems will discuss pond restoration.

Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22

Call city hall, 474-6115 for agenda.

Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission
Heritage Park, Spicer House
Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22

Call special services department, 473-9570 for agenda.

Farmington Hills City Council
Committee of the Whole
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
7 p.m. Wednesday, May 23

The council will discuss the city's facility needs.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24

Call planning office 473-9543 for agenda.

Rouge rescue volunteers sought

For the fifth straight year, Farmington Hills will take part in Rouge Rescue '90. This year's cleanup is Saturday, June 2.

The cleanup will focus on where the river crosses Middlebelt, between Grand River and Eight Mile.

The staging area will be behind Herd's Restaurant and Vonachern Dashaund Kennels on Grand River, just east of Middlebelt.

Like in past years, the major focus will be to remove logs and debris that have settled in the river.

"We have found that small stretch

of the river has several major logjams with other accumulated debris, such as 55-gallon drums, tires and plastic crates. Due to these jams, the river has cut many new passages throughout the flood plain, adding to the problem of erosion and fallen trees," said Jean Barrett, assistant to the Farmington Hills public services director.

Cleanup will begin at 8 a.m. and will last until 11:30 a.m. Lunch will follow. Activities will end by 1 p.m.

Volunteers are essential to the project's success. City employees,

Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Knights of Columbus members will be among the volunteer workers.

TO VOLUNTEER, call Barrett at 474-6115.

"Let's help the Rouge River return to the way your grandparents remember it," Barrett said.

Appropriate cleanup attire includes boots, gloves and old clothes. Many schools throughout the watershed have instituted a program combining classes, workshops, field trips and water quality monitoring

to create an awareness of the environment and determine how it is affected by humans.

Some schools are coordinating these activities with universities to gain expertise, while others compare water quality tests and results with schools in other communities and countries (via computer link).

"This information exchange provides valuable insight to problems and solutions, which each area or country has experienced. Each can learn from the other's triumphs and defeats," Barrett said.


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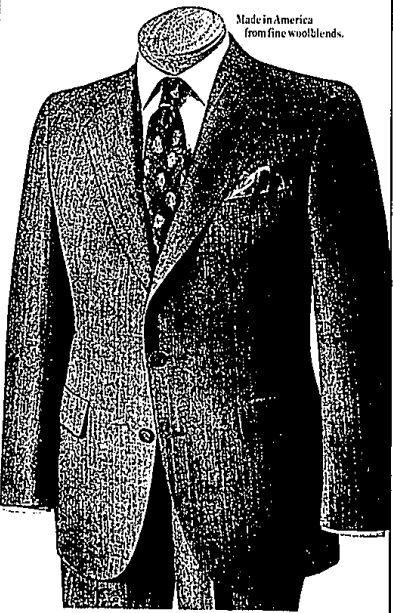
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