



Getting the lead out of old firing range costs \$100,000

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills plans to spend about \$100,000 to get the lead out.

The city will ask for bids to clean up property belonging to the YMCA that the police department long used as a firing range. All that lead — from bullets used in target practice — has contaminated soil at the range, officials say.

Assistant City Manager David Call said the high concentration of lead in the berm area of the property, located north of Grand River and east of Drake Road, was a result of target practicing over a period of years.

"There are very high lead levels in the berm," Call said. "That soil will have to go to a hazardous landfill."

That conclusion came from soil borings taken by Testing Engineers and Consultants, Inc., which found less contaminated soil on the range surface itself.

The city has liability for the contamination, even though the property belongs to the YMCA,

There are very high lead levels in the berm. That soil will have to go to a hazardous landfill.

David Call
assistant city manager

which is looking at recreational uses of the property. By removing the contaminated soil, the city can clean up the contamination without involving the state Department of Natural Resources, Call said.

"Since we are cleaning up the site ourselves, we don't need to ask the DNR to come in," Call said. "Anything less (than a total cleanup), and we would have to work with the DNR."

The more heavily contaminated berm soil will cost \$206 a yard to handle and haul away to a special hazardous waste site. The soil on the surface of the firing range is less contaminated and can be taken to a regular sanitary landfill, he said.

Testing Engineers and Consultants took 25 samples at the

site, including soil and ground water.

Call said the city is using \$97,000 as a rough estimate of what the cleanup will cost. He told city council members that holding bidders to that figure might be a mistake since initial estimates of the amount of soil on the berm and the firing range appear to be off.

"If we put a cap on it (bid), we may exceed it," he said. "I'd like to keep it open and evaluate the bids."

Council members Terry Sever, Aldo Vagnozzi, Ben Marks and Mayor Nancy Bates voted to start the bid process at the Feb. 22 meeting. Council members Jon Grant, Joanne Smith and Mayor pro tem Larry Lichtman were absent.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
Farmington City Council Chambers
23600 Liberty St., 474-5500
8 p.m. Monday, March 1

Agenda items include:
■ Contractor payment, change order approval and engineering payment for the Sewer Improvement Project;
■ A proposed amendment to the

zoning ordinance;
■ Discussion of city council mission statement;
■ Update on Detroit Edison improvements;
■ Caddell drain erosion repair project;
■ Grant application regarding Shilwassee Park;
■ Consideration to set a date for Mayor Exchange Day;
■ Confirm joint meeting with Farmington Hills council May 19;
■ Financial reports on the General Fund and 47th District Court;
■ Introduce an ordinance regard-

ing reception antenna facilities.

Farmington Downtown Development Authority
473-7276

Farmington City Hall
8 a.m. Tuesday, March 2.

Agenda items include:
■ Financial report for month ended Jan. 31.
■ Approval of payments.
■ Approval of budget request for 1993-94 fiscal year.
■ Report on "Giving of the Green" promotion for March 15-29.
■ Public comment.

Driveway from page 1A

horse," said Mihalko, who lives on Oak Forest.

Some residents at Tuesday's meeting asked for an amendment to the board's motion, saying it would consider another option. Board president R. Jack Inch refused.

The debate has included several heated meetings.

Oak Forest resident Roger

Wittkop told Inch that it appeared the board had already made up its mind before Tuesday's meeting.

"I take a little umbrage at that comment," Inch said. "I am listening to you. I have not decided. 'Made up my mind.' Other people on the board may have... You know me better than that."

Susan Miller, president of

Wooddale PTO, said she is worried about the impression the controversy has left.

"We're striving to work together to provide safety for our children," Miller said. "We monitor that situation every day. I feel that it is unfair of everyone to think that this is one neighborhood pitting itself against another neighborhood."

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MEET RON LEAL,
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Thursday, March 4
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Livonia

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WONDERS NEVER CEASE

MARCH

events

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH, 11AM-1PM
Cub Scout Troop Pinewood Derby in Center Court

MONDAY, MARCH 8TH 8AM-10AM
St. Mary Free Blood Pressure Screening

MONDAY, MARCH 8TH-APRIL 10TH
Easter Train Ride

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH 9AM
"Wonder Walkers" Meeting
"Eaton Place" Food Court

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH 11AM-2PM
American Heart Association Free Blood Pressure Screening

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH 11 AM
Easter Bunny Arrival on Center Court.
Easter Bunny Photo operation begins. "Peter & The Rockin' Rabbits" Show in Center Court at 11 AM, 2, 4 & 7 PM

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH-28TH
20% Off Sale! Look for your coupons and a list of participating stores in the Detroit News/Free Press on March 24th
Women's League of Voters Used Book Sale (store next to Montgomery Ward)

SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH 2 & 7 PM
Spring/Easter Fashion Show in Center Court

Photo Provided by Alberts

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