

## Ice Arena, Sports Facility Will Be On November Ballot

By DAN McCOSH

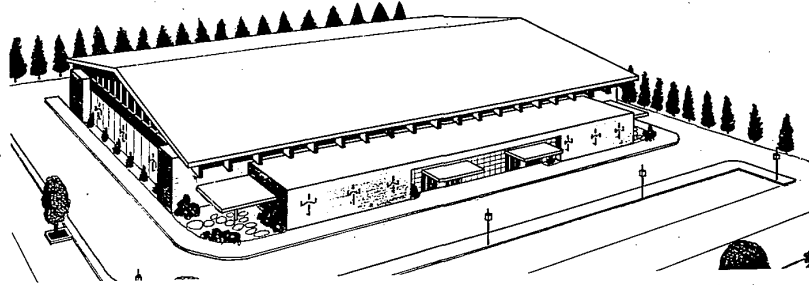
A \$1,250,000 recreation complex including an ice rink, handball and squash courts will be on the ballot for voters in the City of Farmington this November.

Farmington City Council unanimously voted Monday to place a proposition on the ballot Nov. 7 seeking voter approval for the sale of general obligation bonds to finance the facility.

First proposed two years ago, the project died for lack of a site, according to City Manager Robert Deadman. The newest proposal is expanded over the original concept, which was mainly an ice facility.

"WE BELIEVE the facility has the potential for many other auxiliary uses, such as high school commencement exercises, community meetings, dog shows, antique shows, summer roller skating and other spectator sports," Deadman said.

The building will provide an Olympic-sized ice arena 200 by 85 feet, and will have approximately 43,000 square feet. A seating capacity of



ARTIST'S SKETCH — This rendering is similar to the project being considered, although some changes are anticipated.

approximately 1,200 is planned, with an expansion capability of over 3,000 seats.

The building alone is expected to cost approximately \$1.1 million, with about \$150,000 for site acquisition and development.

Revenues expected to total approximately \$43,000 would pay for approximately half of the cost of the bonds, ac-

ording to Deadman, the remainder would be paid out of the general fund.

"The study of similar facilities in Detroit area communities indicates that these ice facilities can generate enough revenue to cover the operational costs," Deadman said, predicting revenues would also pay for half the bonds.

Regarding the community tax support, he added, "These costs can be justified in terms that any recreational program provided by the city requires local tax support."

"WE ARE HOPEFUL that citizens of Farmington will lend their support in providing the community with a facility that will serve many of the

current and future recreational needs of the people," he continued.

"If the city is to build such a facility, each year's delay adds more costs to the project. Since the city first proposed the idea of building an ice facility in the city, the cost of construction has increased the cost about 12,000 a year.

A PUBLIC VOTE on the project is expected to save some money on interest if approved.

Municipal bonds are currently selling for an average interest rate of about 5 1/2 per cent, according to Deadman, while building authority bonds would go for about 6 1/2 per cent, increasing the cost about \$12,000 a year.

### Charter Vote

A second vote on whether to place the Farmington Hills charter on the November ballot was more "no" than the first time. A legal opinion changed the commissioners' minds.

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### Center Closes

A glass collection site at Oakland Community College has been closed, although the Farmington paper collection center is still in operation. To find out where to take those bottles, see:

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### Welcome Change

Wondering what to do with your Saturday afternoons this fall? For many, a visit to a live theatrical performance could be a welcome change from the football game and area shopping centers will make it a lot easier.

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### Kingmakers

Observerland Republicans didn't win any nominations at last weekend's state convention, but they did play the role of kingmakers.

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### Fewer Pupils

Incredible as it may seem, nearly all Observerland school districts report fewer elementary pupils this year, and some even expect declines in total enrollments. Meanwhile, teachers in three districts were scheduled to return to work without contracts.

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## Quakertown Sewer Route Costs In

An alternate route for the proposed "10 Mile arm" sewer that avoids the "Quakertown valley" area may also be the cheapest, a study from engineers Pate, Howard and Bogue, indicates.

The study, financed jointly by Farmington Township, Quakertown and Oakland County, was prepared to compare several routes for a

proposed sewer project which would serve Quakertown and much of the northwest area of the township.

The results anticipated over a month ago, arrived in Township Hall recently.

TOWNSHIP CLERK Floyd Cairns said the study is being distributed to the township board, and a meeting with

Quakertown and township officials is planned before a public hearing on the study is scheduled.

The area to be served is bounded roughly by the "valley" of a tributary of the Rouge River that runs from Haggerty Rd. and 13 Mile Rd. to 10 Mile Rd. and Drake Rd. The area to be served is

about two miles wide, and the northwest end includes large parcels of vacant land, while closer to the end of the proposed sewer lies the Village of Quakertown.

Quakertown residents protested the original proposed route of the sewer, which would have put it beneath the bed of the river,

the lowest point of land in the area.

BUT COST figures in the study indicate this route would also be the most expensive, at approximately \$3,960,000. The main reason is extensive tunneling required for the route.

An alternate route built on the street right-of-way -- up Farmington Rd., then west at

approximately 11 Mile Rd. -- would cost about \$3,541,000, according to the study.

However, the added cost of maintaining three pumping stations on the street route would balance the cost after 12 years, according to the study.

A third route included in the study was approximately \$3 million, but it was along the undesirable river route.

## Farmington Sells Land For New Tennis Court

Farmington city council Monday approved the sale of a 2.54 acre parcel of land for \$134,000 to a developer who wants to build a tennis court on the site on Farmington Rd. north of Freedom Rd.

The developer, Edward M. Ashley, says he anticipates spending \$800,000 on the indoor tennis court "one of the finest in the Detroit area."

He displayed sketches of the proposed building to council that showed a brick-faced building with outdoor, unlighted courts as well as indoor courts.

THE LAND involved is one portion of a 5.78 acre parcel owned by the city.

"Council has considered the sale of the property if a desirable use of the property could be found and a fair market price offered," Deadman said.

"If council was to offer the property to the highest bidder, we believe it would lose the control it wishes to exercise in the development of this property," he added.

The lot is near the Farmington Aquatic Club, the Huron Valley Hunt and Fish Club, as well as some residential property.

The entire parcel of land owned by the city was appraised at \$205,000, or \$35,900 per acre. The portion to be sold to Ashley is priced at \$38,800 per acre, reflecting a storm sewer assessment.

The contract includes a clause that would return the

property to the city if a "good faith" effort has not been made by Ashley to construct the tennis facility as shown on the plat plan within one year of the issuance of the city permits.

## River Cleanup Starts Sept. 16

The Farmington and increasing the river's Beautification Committee will flow.

Jones called for community wide support of the cleanup. He said residents can participate by signing up the morning of the cleanup at the project nerve center located at the City Park in downtown Farmington.

Mrs. Barbrick said that this year's project has received the full endorsement of the Oakland County Department of Health.

She said several health measures will be taken to protect the workers along the river's edge. "The success of last year's clean up can be attributed to the overwhelming cooperation we received from local businesses and the many civic minded organizations who provided manpower.

With this type of cooperation," she continued, "especially from Scout groups, interested community groups, and the schools we can look to another successful clean-up Sept. 16."

A down payment of \$38,800 with the balance on a one-year land contract at seven per cent interest were the terms. The Mason Real Estate Co. was to receive a seven per cent commission on the sale.

### IT'S THE SELLING SEASON!



It wasn't a bad season for a duffer like you! Your scores were lower than ever before. And next year should be even better when you get that new set of clubs you have promised yourself! Now's the time to think about selling your present set, though, so you won't have to store them all winter long. A quick call to the Observer Classified Department should do the trick. We'll help you word your low cost ad for maximum results. Do it today, while you're in the selling season.



GOURDS GROW big, but Leslie Atkinson didn't know just how big until this monster that covers about 100 square feet of ground sprouted next to her home in Farmington. (Evert photo)