

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

## Eyesore soon will be park

By summer's end, what was once an unsightly, weeded short cut through Floral Park subdivision in Farmington will be transformed into a "beauty spot."

"In effect it is going to look like a park," said resident Kevin Duke. "The city (Farmington) is improving their Fink Street right-of-way."

With the help of Youth Jobs Corps workers and about \$2,500 of city money, the right-of-way will be renovated into a "passive park," said City Manager Robert Deadman.

"The street was never built through," Deadman said of the park area which was supposed to be the extension of Fink.

The new park, located at the end of Fink, between Floral and Hawthorne, will be complete with park benches, a swing set and sandbox, Deadman said. Other improvements include a small, pedestrian bridge over a creek running through the area, as well as a new pathway.

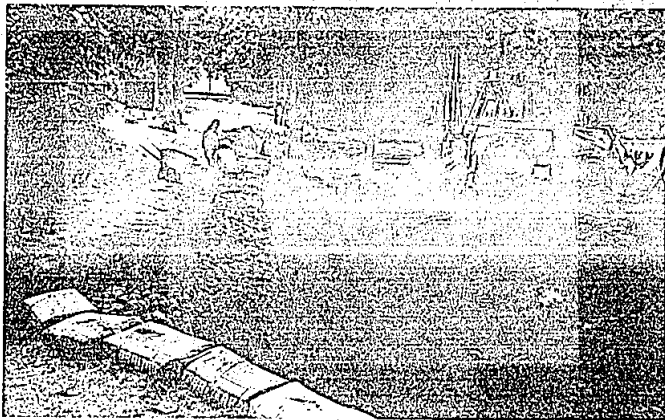
"They are improving the stream bed there too," Duke said, referring to the placement of gabions to prevent erosion.



Workman Ed Norwood fashions a gabion — rocks held together with wire mesh — which will help prevent erosion of the stream bank.

TECHNICALLY, THE park can be

Please turn to P.



Workers prepare a bed and banks for a stream which will flow through Farmington's newest park.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Top vote-getter strong in north

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

First-place council victor Ben Marks drew his greatest support from the wealthy northern neighborhoods of Farmington Hills.

The nine precincts north of 13 Mile Road gave Marks more than half of his total 2,555 votes.

Leading second-place Terry Sever by 777 votes in the final tally, Marks captured 15 of the city's 24 precincts. Sever dominated the remaining nine precincts.

But capturing nine precincts still did not provide Sever with even half of his total winning votes. Sever's second-place standing came from garnering enough votes away from Councilman Robert Anzlovor.

Bumped out of the council race, Anzlovor lost in all the city's precincts, including Precinct 19 where he lives. 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.

In the primary vote tally, Marks had 49.5 percent (2,555) of the city's total 6,469 votes cast. Sever followed with 34.7 percent (1,778) and Anzlovor received 15.4 percent (791).

### analysis

UNLIKE ANZLOVAR, both Marks and Sever won their home precincts. In Sever's home Precinct 10, he carried 137 of the 407 votes cast, but Marks was only 15 votes behind Sever there.

In comparison, Marks captured 188 of the 419 votes cast in his home Precinct 8, and Sever trailed by 58 votes in that precinct.

While Marks dominated the city's northern section, Sever carried the majority of the city south of 10 Mile except for Precincts 1 and 13. These two precincts went to Marks.

The eight precincts in the city's mid-section, between 10 and 12 Mile, were evenly divided between the two top vote-getters. Sever secured Precincts 7, 21, 24, and 12. Marks dominated Precincts 17, 14, 9 and 8.

Marks also captured the precincts in which voter turnout was the greatest. Marks won in Precincts 9, 11, 17, 18, in which voter turnout was 20 percent or more. In Precinct 17 where voter turnout was 30 percent, Marks drew his second highest total of 208 votes. Sever

received 77 and Anzlovor 81.

Marks and Sever each captured one of the two precincts showing the lowest voter turnout.

Precinct 20 where 10 percent of the 1,704 registered voters cast ballots went to Marks. Sever dominated in Precinct 24; also where only 10 percent of the 2,590 registered voters went to the polls.

SEVER'S LOWEST show of support was in Precinct 29 where he received 35 votes, one more than Anzlovor received in the same precinct. Marks received the fewest votes in Precinct 21. He tallied 35 votes compared to the 38 received by Sever in that precinct.

Marks ran strongest in Precinct 22. He garnered 214 votes while Sever received 69 and Anzlovor 40. Precinct 22 had an 18 percent voter turnout.

Voters in Sever's home Precinct 15 gave him his best edge with 157 votes. Marks received 122 and Anzlovor 55. Voter turnout in this precinct was 15 percent.

In some precincts, such as 16 and 20, Sever outdistanced Anzlovor by only one vote.

Anzlovor's was strongest in Precinct 11 where he received 67 votes. But Marks won the precinct with 185 votes. Sever received 130 votes.

## Consultants up for review

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

For the first time since cityhood, Farmington Hills officials will be reviewing their consultants.

First on tap is the law firm of Brennan, Bibeau & Poehman, which has provided Farmington Hills with legal counsel since township days.

Council decided earlier this year when studying the budget and a management audit to review one of its consultants each year, said City Manager William Costick. One consulting service will be reviewed annually.

"... that doesn't necessarily mean anybody is unhappy (with current consulting services)," Costick said. "The city has never reviewed the consultants we've had for a number of years."

But after council passed a proposal to review each of the city's consultants, a problem came to light.

"The question is how do you do that," Costick said.

Council members admitted they would have no idea how to evaluate a consultant such as a planner or attorney because of the specific and generally technical nature of the services provided.

"It's certainly a sticky wicket," said Councilman Donn Wolf. "It leaves the council in a quandary what to do."

BUT BOTH Councilwoman Joan Dudley and Costick came up with suggested procedures for accomplishing at least the review of legal services.

Costick's proposed talking with each consultant, and then making an evaluation.

Instead, council last week decided to follow an evaluation procedure suggested by Dudley.

To review city attorney services, city administrators will send letters to law firms with experience in municipal law. The letter will offer a description of duties and services the city would expect from a law firm, and invite the

firms to send a written presentation about what they could offer Farmington Hills in the way of legal services.

"Listening to these firms may give council a set of priorities," Dudley said, on which to base an evaluation.

THE BEST WAY, she said, to get an objective look of the city's legal services is to get other attorney's opinions.

"What I'm suggesting... while the law is several hundreds of years old, methods change," Dudley added.

Other council members said that Dudley's suggestion at least got the issue "off dead center," but Williams disagreed.

"I don't think we are at the point of shopping for attorneys," he said.

Others insisted reviews — especially of the city's legal services — aren't meant to imply dissatisfaction with any of the consulting services.

"As a legislative body, it is our responsibility to review on a very regular basis," said Councilwoman Jan Dolan.

## Home show planned for Hills subdivision

By Jean Adamczak  
staff writer

Farmington Brook subdivision Aug. 31 through Sept. 16.

The event will showcase 12 new homes on display in the subdivision located east of Haggerty Road between 12 and 13 Mile roads.

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Some of the Homearama homes in the Farmington Brook subdivision receive finishing touches.

RANDY BORST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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