



# Farmington Observer

Volume 97 Number 15

Thursday, November 28, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

152 Pages

Twenty-five cents

## Farmington Focus

### Foundation for Spicer considered

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills will consider forming a foundation to stimulate interest in and financing of development of the city's 211-acre Spicer property.

A proposal was made that we consider the joint sponsorship of a park foundation," said City Manager William Costick, about the Farmington Public Schools' proposal.

Foundation sponsorship would include Farmington Hills, Farmington

and the Farmington Public Schools.

But Farmington Hills City Council Monday approved only the concept of a foundation in a 5-2 vote. Councilwoman Joan Dudley and Councilman Terry Sever opposed the proposal.

Council also agreed to form a committee charged with researching and developing detailed information about establishing a committee.

A FOUNDATION would act as an agency to receive financial gifts and donations — a function the city does not perform — for the proposed park, west of Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

The city bought the property — the largest tract of publicly held land in Farmington Hills — in April with the help of a \$1.2-million grant from the Michigan Land Trust Fund (MLTF). The city's share: \$800,000.

"The notion is that working side by side, the foundation would attempt to involve the private sector through the community's corporations, major businesses and interested citizens, accepting their gifts, donations and contributions for development of the park in general or for specific purposes," Costick said in a report for council.

But Dudley and Sever could not be convinced to consider creation of a foundation.

"I have two concerns about this," Dudley said. "One, it is extremely parochial. I am going to be less than delighted with less than direct control over this property by this city."

DUDLEY ALSO told council she does not want private dollars used to develop the Spicer property. The property, she said, will be the one thing that might encourage taxpayers to vote for additional capital improvement millage in the future.

Although Sever maintained that he likes cooperation between cities, schools and individuals, he said it's not the right time for creation of a foundation. "My concern is that there is too much speculation."

With a foundation, financial contributions would be made for a project still without concrete development plans, he added.

Sever also opposed a foundation be-

### Look for finer city — mayor

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Since Farmington can't get much bigger, Mayor William Hartsock thinks it will get better.

"I envision Farmington growing gracefully," he said, "with little pockets of new development, but mostly improvement of what we already have."

The city's movement toward a downtown redevelopment project reflects this. "If we didn't take an active interest in our downtown area, it would be gross neglect on our part," he said.

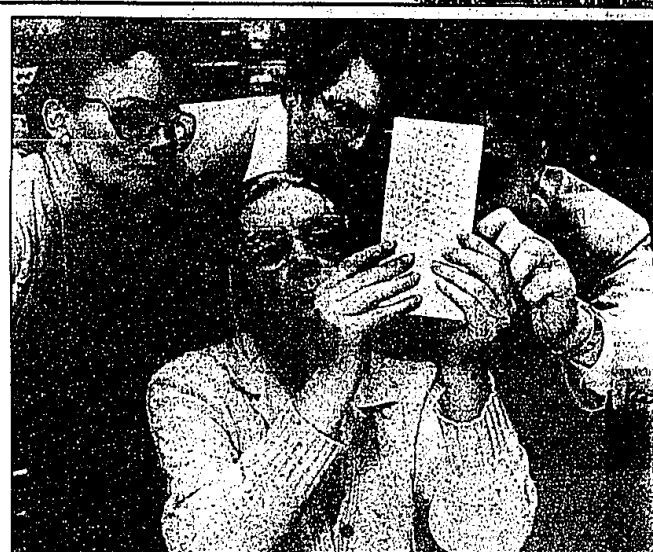
City council will probably support the recent recommendation by a downtown study group for creation of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA). "It will act as a catalyst for our downtown area," he said.



W. Hartsock  
mayor

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sever supporter Mary Buha (left), county canvasser Whitford Brown, Councilman Terry

Sever and Grant campaign coordinator Richard Stemple examine a voter's punchcard.

## Affirmed Recount upholds Sever's win

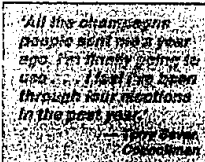
By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

It has taken four elections, one appointment bid and two recounts, but Terry Sever will finally sit on the Farmington Hills City Council as a bona fide member serving a two-year term.

Results of an election recount conducted and certified by the Oakland County Board of Canvassers Nov. 21-22 confirmed Sever's victory over challenger Jonathan Grant in the Nov. 5 general election.

Sever picked up an additional vote, bringing his official number of votes to 3,965 — changing his victory from six votes to seven, said Howard Altman, Oakland County elections director.

Grant's total of 3,958 votes re-



been through four elections in the past year."

The recount was a repeat of events in last year's special election, except this time, Sever pulled in a victory. In 1984, Sever edged past Councilman Ben Marks by 85 votes only to lose a long-sought council seat after three weeks by one vote to Marks in a recount.

Despite his recount experience, Sever said he was no less apprehensive about the outcome. "It was still slim enough of a margin that I didn't feel 100 percent I would be successful," he said.

On Nov. 12, Grant requested a recount to determine if there was "a

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## A life of giving

### Woman fighting back for leukemia victims

people

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

Sylvia Brown's story is about 30 years of total dedication, which has paid off.

Brown, former executive director of the Southfield-based Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, retired from her paid position in 1981.

But Brown, whose smile and manner radiates motherly warmth and the inner serenity which comes from years of giving, is still very much involved in the foundation and is a devoted board member.

The Farmington Hills woman and her husband, Harry, who also is a member of the board and former president of the non-profit, volunteer organization, lost a 24-year-old child to leukemia in 1946.

"Our daughter, Sandy, was taken ill in February and died in March when my husband was in service," Brown recalled. "We had a 5-year-old daughter, and our son was born later."



MOLEY/FARMINGTON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sylvia Brown is flanked by toys donated by motorists. The stuffed animals, dolls, games and other fun things will be given to patients at the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan's

Christmas party. Brown is holding a decorative canister filled with Christmas cookies to be sold as one of the foundation's many fund-raisers.

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