

It's Rolnick, Inch

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He noted that an incumbency "is not a guaranteed seat for life," but said it was too soon for him to decide if he would run again. He encouraged more people to run for school board seats in the future.

From 1,000 to 2,000 voters typically participate in school elections, according to Bacon. He said voter turnout usually depends on if there is a millage issue and if there are incumbents running for re-election.

LAST YEAR's school election

brought out 3.7 percent, or 1,792, of the registered voters — a record number. Voters filled two four-year seats from among 14 candidates, with Jack Cotton and Helen Ditzhazy emerging winners. There was also a four-mill renewal on the ballot, Bacon added.

In this year's election, Rolnick took the top number of votes in precincts 2, 3 and 4. In Rolnick's home district of precinct 2, and in the absentee category, she led by only slim margins.

Inch led in precinct 1 by 37 votes, his home district which includes the

city of Farmington, followed by Rolnick. He took second place in the other three precincts.

Running together in two previous elections, Inch had been the top vote-getter, Rolnick said.

The most votes were cast at precinct 1 with 516, followed by precinct 2 with 455, precinct 3 with 425 and precinct four with 289. A total of 135 votes were cast by absentee ballot.

The re-elected trustees will be sworn into office at the next regular board meeting on Tuesday. New officers will be elected among the board at the first meeting in July.

Farmington Public Schools

Annual election, Monday, June 9, 1986

precincts:	Rolnick	Inch	Blizman
1. Farmington Training Center	191	228	97
2. O.E. Dunckel Middle School	182	178	95
3. Warner Middle School	178	138	109
4. East Middle School	104	98	87
5. Absentee Votes	51	50	34
totals	708	692	422

Registered voters, 52,008; actual number of voters, 1,036; turnout percentage, 2 percent.

Hills survey's thrust: develop more parks

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sion members were faced with the question of what to do with the land when the purchase was completed.

In an attempt to involve city residents in determining what to do with Heritage Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission formed what they called a blue-ribbon citizens committee in 1984. It consisted of special interest groups, agencies and civic groups.

"The direction to them was let's dream," Fitzgerald said. Committee members split themselves into three subcommittees. The community agencies committee consisted of representatives from groups such as the Farmington Area Jaycees, Farmington Community Center, Farmington Public Schools, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Columbus.

THE SPECIAL interest groups committee included representatives of subdivision associations, the Girl Scouts, the Farmington Naturalist Club and the Commission on Aging. The third subcommittee — involving activities — included representatives of the Farmington Garden Club, Farmington Artists Club, youth athletic organizations and the arts commission.

"Each subcommittee was charged with determining what is a fair priority (of uses suggested for Heritage Park)," Fitzgerald said.

When subcommittee members completed their work, the blue ribbon committee met as a whole and developed 8-9 major objectives for Heritage Park.

"They (objectives) categorically were all passive. That was the voice of the community," Fitzgerald said.

Meanwhile, city officials discovered that if they expected to apply for federal and state grants, the original eight-year-old parks and recreation master plan needed updating.

In mid-October 1985, the city hired planning consultants and landscape architects, Gerald Lucidite and Associates and John Grissim and Associates of Farmington Hills to

update the master parks and recreation plan, as well as develop a master land use plan for Heritage Park.

IN DECEMBER 1985, surveys were mailed to residents with the city's newsletter to solicit opinions on the city's existing parks and recreation facilities and what type of facilities and services were still needed. The survey's results constitute a large portion of the new master parks and recreation plan.

The updated master parks and recreation plan and master land use plan for Heritage Park were completed in February 1986 and presented to both the Farmington Hills Planning Commission and Farmington Hills City Council for approval in March.

The parks and recreation plan offers a comprehensive review of the area's existing recreation services and facilities, as well as an assessment of recreational opportunities and deficiencies. A list of improvements — called a five-year action plan — proposed to be undertaken by the city to meet community needs completes the plan.

A significant portion of the overall project is the master land use plan for Heritage Park. It provides a guideline to follow in creating a park that would offer passive and semi-passive recreation for residents, including children and the elderly.

The land use plan includes a detailed site analysis of the acreage, a master site plan identifying uses for each area of the park, strategy for completing improvements and detailed cost estimates.

The plan also features an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities.

"The inventory of park and recreation facilities reveals a lack of developed parkland and other outdoor recreation facilities designed to accommodate the needs of residents," according to the park plan.

THE ONLY developed parks that Farmington Hills has are the five-acre Walden Park, off Independence, and the 2.5-acre Bond Street Ballfields, east of Ardmore, just north of 13 Mile. Farmington's two

developed parks — Shawasssee Park and Drake Road Park — total 28 acres.

The inventory also showed that facilities outside of the cities do not sufficiently make up for the lack of city-owned parks and recreation sites. While many subdivisions have open space areas that provide for passive recreation, they generally do not contain playground equipment or ballfields.

School facilities have been heavily relied on to provide for active recreation needs of residents, the inventory revealed. Improvements made at school sites have helped compensate for the loss of school fields at buildings that have been closed.

But in the final analysis, the inventory showed that the geographic distribution of the schools is not broad

enough to serve all of the city's neighborhoods.

WHILE PRIVATE recreation facilities provide recreation for certain segments of the city's population, they do not offer a comprehensive range of services and are not affordable for many residents.

"In summary, the inventory of existing facilities reveals a clear need to expand parks and recreation facilities that are available to all residents," according to the park plan.

"The lack of outdoor recreation sites, such as parks and athletic facilities, is readily apparent. It is important, however, that expansion of the system avoid duplication of facilities where the need is addressed by the schools, private operators, or other existing facilities."



Facilities for youth receive low ratings

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Sixty percent of 492 households responding to the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation survey in January gave a poor or fair rating to recreation facilities for children and teenagers.

"Even though existing recreation programs were generally given a favorable review, those intended for teens and handicapped persons received the lowest ratings," according to survey results detailed in the Farmington Hills master parks and recreation plan.

Survey results also showed that the greatest level of participation in city-sponsored recreation programs is in households with children under 17 years of age.

Households with children showed the greatest support for new outdoor recreational services and facilities, according to survey results. For example, households with children listed bicycle paths, playgrounds, and an ice rink as the most needed, yet other than playgrounds, households

with no children or elderly tended to agree, differing by only several percentage points.

Ballfields, soccer fields, tennis courts and a swimming pool were also considered as important needs by households with children, according to survey results.

"WE NEED a major sports parks for active youth sports," said Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission.

The proposed soccer and baseball/softball fields at the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Road are expected to fulfill much of the demand for youth athletic facilities. The proposed park is also expected to remove the demand for active recreational facilities at Heritage Park, Fitzgerald said.

Demand for youth athletic fields also has been spearheaded and supported by the area's youth sports organizations, such as the Farmington Soccer Club and West Bloomfield/North Farmington Baseball Club.

Other survey results showed that

the level of support for indoor recreation facilities was substantially less than for outdoor facilities. Only an indoor senior citizen/recreation center was considered a necessity by more than 50 percent of the households that responded.

When it came to methods of financing, approximately 41 percent of the responding households said a special millage should be levied to finance new parks and recreation facilities. But more than two-thirds preferred using grant money or private funding to finance construction. And approximately 63 percent of the households approved using of money

from the city's general fund budget for facilities' construction.

USER FEES were listed as the most desired funding source for operation of new recreation facilities.

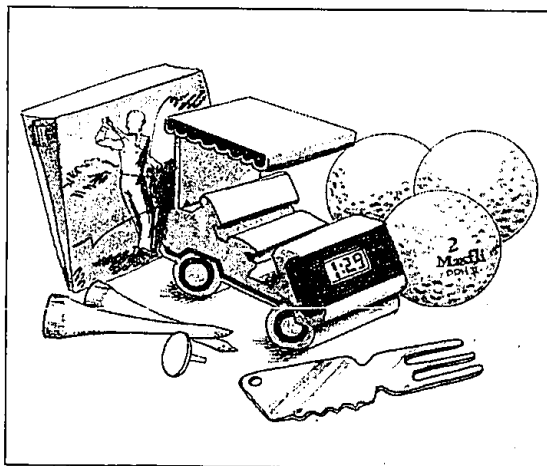
The survey's results also showed that a majority of the respondents are in favor of using money in the city's general fund budget and periodic solicitation of private funds for operation of recreational facilities.

Respondents listed a special millage as the least desirable method for financing operating costs of recreation facilities.

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