

Rouge cleanup costs denounced

Continued from Page 1

28 mills," he said in an informational report to city council.

DEADMAN SAID it would cost the city only between \$6 million and \$10.5 million to separate sanitary and storm sewers, instead of treating the combined sewer overflow in the Rouge — the basis for cost estimates given in the SEMCOG report.

SEMCOG officials did not detail the alternatives for Farmington as mentioned by Deadman. He said a rough draft of the report released in December included the information. The recently released report is a

"worst-case" scenario, estimating it could cost up to \$1.8 billion for the two-county project over 20 years if no federal or state grants were available. But SEMCOG officials have said efforts would be stepped up to secure state and federal grants for several Rouge River projects.

The city of Farmington has a partially separated sewer system with about 400 acres of the city served by a combined sanitary/storm sewer system.

"Farmington is one of those few communities . . . that the cheaper solution is to separate the storm water from the sewerage system,

rather than participate in a system which would store and treat the combined sewer overflows," Deadman explained in a report. "We may be the only community where it's more beneficial to separate the system."

DEADMAN SAID he contacted SEMCOG officials several months ago to ask the intergovernmental agency to clarify Farmington's position when releasing information on projected costs for the system. "It is unfair to continue to alarm the citizens of our community over the potential of huge future costs . . . when SEMCOG knows full well

that a less expensive solution is a viable alternative for Farmington," he added.

Discussion about Rouge River pollution and treatment will continue. SEMCOG plans call for making the river "fishable and swimmable," for the estimated 2.5 million people who live in the Rouge watershed area. "We will learn a lot more about this," Deadman said. The SEMCOG report "is still in draft form. That's a lot of money, even for the federal government."

"Their solution is probably not the solution Farmington will select, if we are forced to do something."



staff photo by BOB SKLAR

Farmington Department of Public Safety officer Terry Purves signs a Safety City completion certificate for Michael Fredericks, 4, of Farmington.

Pint-size residents cruise Safety City

More than 200 youngsters got a kid-level view of street safety Saturday, thanks to Safety City.

A cooperative effort of the Downtown Farmington Business Association and the Farmington Department of Public Safety, Safety City gave youngsters a chance to tour a pint-sized streetscape that included a city hall, a school, a library, a school bus and directional signs.

"It's a way for kids to get out and see street signs and learn safety precautions at their level," said officer Terry Purves, who along with fellow school liaison officer Vincent Ziegler, led tours.

An emphasis of their presentation was to beware around strangers. Bon Ton Shoppe manager Jerry

Wingter, DFBA president, acknowledged that Safety City was part community relations to bring prospective shoppers downtown.

A lot of new people in town aren't exposed to downtown as a shopping district," he said. "Farmington is a growing community in the sense we're seeing a lot of young families moving in."

Safety City also was intended to build good will — "to provide a non-retail reason for coming downtown," he said.

Alongside Safety City was the last day of the Farmington Beautification Committee's two-day spring flower sale.

In conjunction with Safety City, refreshments were served, courtesy of the DFBA.

Hills compensation board proposal cut from ballot

Continued from Page 1

"That made everything that happened the week before null and void," Vagnozzi said, who questioned the simple majority vote but was reassured by city attorney Paul Bibeau it was sufficient. At the council's public hearing meeting Monday, Bibeau reported that indeed a mistake had been made.

At the May 9 meeting, some council members wanted the two proposals voted on separately. But that effort lost and both were included in one vote. Now, the council is taking each issue separately although state statute doesn't require it, Bibeau said.

"We're going to fall back and re-propose," Mayor Jody Soronen said, about the proposal authorizing creation of a compensation commission.

THE COUNCIL will seek voter approval of the proposal sooner than expected to allow board and commission members to maintain their seats while seeking council election.

"If we didn't do it now it wouldn't be effective for the next city council

election (in 1989)," Soronen said. Voters soundly defeated attempts to change the charter provision in 1985. It was the only proposal defeated out of five before voters that election year.

The charter provision has forced several city council candidates since the 1985 election to resign their board or commission seats to run for election. They include council members Ben Marks, Aldo Vagnozzi and Jean Fox as well as unsuccessful candidate Jonathan Grant, a former library board trustee and president.

If voters amend the charter, board or commission members who are council candidates would be allowed to continue in their positions if they lose the election. Proposition passage also would bring consistency to election qualifications in the charter. City council members are not required to resign their seats to seek election to county or state office.

Though he voted with the majority Monday to seek voter approval in August, Vagnozzi believes the proposal is bad timing because of the emphasis on county, state and the

presidential election. "They (voters) aren't looking at the city," he said.

VAGNOZZI SAID he believes it's impossible to separate politics from both proposals. In the case of the boards and commissions proposal, some council members want it this year because two council members are seeking election to other public bodies.

Councilwoman Jan Dolan is seeking to replace retiring state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, in the 69th state House district, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills. Soronen is seeking to replace Oakland County commissioner Jack McDonald, R-Farmington Hills, in the 23rd county commission district, which includes Farmington Hills. McDonald is seeking election as the county prosecutor; incumbent L. Brooks Patterson is not seeking re-election.

If Dolan and Soronen are successful in their election bids, two seats on the city council would be vacant. "People will be looking at possible replacements from the boards and commissions," Vagnozzi said.

Mercy plans all-nighter to celebrate graduation

Mercy High School in Farmington Hills is sponsoring its All-Night Graduation Party for the Class of 1988 on Friday, May 27.

It is the second year of the party, which will stress that graduation can be fun and safe, organizers said.

The event will bring newly graduated classmates together in a drug and alcohol-free environment. The Mercy chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk, parents and school administrators have planned the party.

The "carnival" theme will add clowns and midway games to hits from last year, including: movies, swimming, graduation videos, prizes and food.

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