

Survey: Hills residents back parks-rec tax

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THE CITY was divided into four quadrants for the survey. "Residents are pleased with the direction the city is moving in," Mayor Terry Sever said.

Sever said he was surprised that 63 percent of the respondents indicated future support of the renewal of the parks and recreation millage — an increase of 10-12 percent since it was passed three years ago. "Based on these numbers, it would pass by 68-32 percent (today)," he said.

In 1986, low voter turnout resulted in a total of 2,109 ballots cast, 1,188 (54.4 percent) supported the special millage and 920 (43.6 percent) opposed it.

The survey states, though, "It is important to note that the 68.5 percent who indicated they would support the continued millage may not be representative of the voting public at large."

More than 75 percent (5,500) said they vote in elections for city officials. More than 21 percent of the respondents said they would vote more if provided more information on both candidates and issues. Less than 6 percent suggested more publicity of election dates and polling places.

Survey results were tabulated by

'Residents are pleased with the direction the city is moving in.'
— Mayor Terry Sever

Research-One, a market research firm in Southfield, at a cost of \$17,000, said Steve Brock, assistant to city manager William Costick, Gordon Kane, the firm's president, is a Farmington Hills resident.

WHILE THE survey did not conform with scientific survey practices, "it does allow every resident the opportunity to let city government know of their thoughts and concerns," said the report. Caution should be taken, however, in extrapolating the results over the entire city, cites the report.

"The survey is a tool that indicates what we can do to make things better," said Esther Frank, community relations specialist for the city. Sixty-seven tables were generated from the survey, each relating every question in the survey to the same 16 demographic characteristics.

Characteristics studied included quadrant, length of residency, expectation to live in the city 10 years

from now, voter attitude toward the city (either favorable or unfavorable), children living at home or not, and the type of dwelling unit.

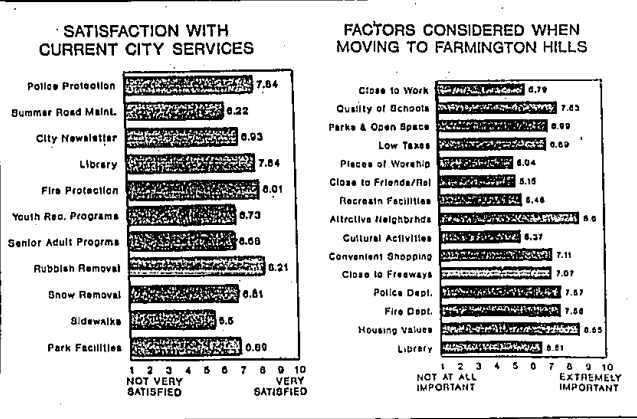
Important issues were rated on a scale of 1-10 in a bar graph and showed that traffic congestion (9.28), quality of life (9.2), police protection (9.03) property taxes (8.91) and environmental protection (8.48) are of extreme importance.

Those issues are followed by general city services (8.1), residents growth (7.41), library facilities (7.35), affordable housing (7.09) and commercial growth (7.06).

LESS THAN 15 percent of respondents work in Farmington Hills. Nearly 70 percent work outside the city. Sixteen percent are retired or don't work.

The overall average for residency in the city is 8.35 years — higher in the northeast and the southeast (about 9.5 years) and lower in the southwest (8.5 years). Forty-four percent have lived in Farmington Hills more than 10 years.

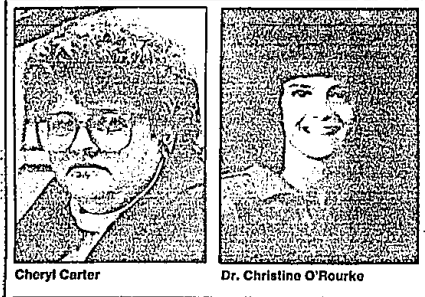
The report indicated that 94 percent of respondents who have children at home live in single-family dwellings. More than 52 percent of those responding attended college, with 32 percent actually graduated.



One-third have done some post-graduate study. Average age of survey respondents is 47 years with people in the

northeast quadrant a bit older, 52 years. About 53 percent of the respondents were male, about 42 percent were female and 5 percent

did not answer this question. The average annual household income of those responding is almost \$64,000.



Cheryl Carter Dr. Christine O'Rourke

clarification

Pictures of Cheryl Carter and Dr. Christine O'Rourke were reversed in Thursday's Observer. Carter is executive director of

the Farmington/Farmington Hills Neighborhood House. O'Rourke is a new veterinarian at Plaza Veterinary Hospital, Farmington.

Full Medicaid funding sought

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"The Medicaid program has a mission to provide access to quality care for all recipients at the lowest appropriate costs. We must walk a fine line to meet all federal and state requirements and also live within legislative appropriations," he said. "We believe we have met this challenge and are in compliance with all requirements."

Most hospitals faced bigger prob-

lems from declining revenues due to empty beds, changes in payments from public and private insurers, and the payment rates for Medicare than from the Medicaid payments, Babcock said.

Medicare pays for about 40 percent of hospital care in Michigan, while Medicaid covers about 12 percent, he said.

COOPER ARGUES that demand for health care services has grown

while commitment to pay for those services has eroded.

"The result is a growing health care crisis, one that threatens both health care access and the health care delivery system itself," he said.

The budget for state programs has risen on average 34 percent, except for the state's Medicaid funding, which has actually fallen by nearly 1 percent in real dollars, Cooper said.

State Sen. Robert Geake, R-North

ville, who heads the Senate appropri-

ations subcommittee on social services, said there just weren't enough tax dollars to pay for the needs of every program, including Medicaid. "We have not been able to reimburse them at 100 percent of their costs, but this is not because we don't consider their services important. There just isn't enough revenue to adequately fund all of the state programs," he said.

The Associated Press and staff reports contributed to this story.

Hills resolution backs 12 Mile widening

Farmington Hills wants the Michigan Department of Transportation to know it supports plans to widen and build a boulevard on 12 Mile, west of Farmington Road.

In a resolution adopted last Monday, the city council supported a conceptual plan calling for a combination of five lanes of pavement and a four-lane boulevard from Farmington Road to 800 feet west of Drake Road.

Preliminary engineering and landscape design work has started on the project, a joint effort of the city, county and state. A task force will coordinate the project.

The county will do an environmental assessment to submit for state approval. A public hearing is planned for September. The city council resolution is a required part of the environmental assessment. To pay for the \$8.1 million for

improvement project, the city is counting on a \$3.2 million state grant through the Michigan Transportation Economic Development Fund.

The city wants to split the remaining \$2.9 million with the county. The city council Monday authorized Mayor Terry Sever to present the cost-split proposal to the Oakland County Road Commission. The \$2.9 million includes \$1.1 million for

right-of-way acquisition. The city hopes the county will make the project part of its 1990 construction season.

This proposal is part of a long-range, four-phase plan to widen 12 Mile all the way to Dixon in Novi. Total estimated cost of the three-mile stretch through Farmington Hills is \$12 million, a figure that doesn't include right-of-way or relocation costs.

Chamber to host dinner cruise

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will host a dinner cruise on the Star of Detroit Friday, Aug. 18.

Cruise time is 7-10 p.m. Boarding time is 6:30 p.m. The cost, \$115 per couple, includes a hot and cold buffet, featuring a va-

riety of light and innovative dishes prepared in the galley. Live entertainment is planned for listening or dancing.

To make reservations, due by Tuesday, Aug. 8, call the chamber at 474-3440.

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Arthritis Today

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UPDATE ON DIET & ARTHRITIS

In a column in May 1985, I discussed the question of diet, nutrition, and arthritis. Medical opinion at that time concluded that a good diet was a good arthritis diet. Since then, two questions have arisen on diet and arthritis.

One is: can arthritis be caused by a food allergy? Several studies looked into this possibility. One involved 10 patients who thought that their arthritis was caused by specific foods. Another investigation followed 33 patients with arthritis using elimination diets— withholding dairy products and milk. No patients in either study showed a relationship between their arthritis and their diet.

The second question is: can the use of fish oils prevent or treat arthritis. The theory is that the fish oils would substitute in the body for a chemical, prostaglandin, which causes inflammation. However, studies to date show that fish oil, even when taken at the highest tolerable amount, has little effect on flares, activity, or remissions of joint pain and swelling.

Nor has any information come forth that would give credence to assertions that taking extra vitamins, using selenium, avoiding meat, or eating only fish will treat arthritis.

Thus, the original point remains: a sensible diet is a sensible arthritis diet.

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