## Mayor's talk spurs school sidewalk vote



BOD SKLAR

Highmeadow third graders Mike Bastord, Shwayder stretch out their pro-sidewalk Meghan Fay, Elizabeth Lawrence, Carly Kaufbanner outside the Farmington Hills Cityman, Karen Berger, Kim D'anna and Ari Council Chambers last Monday.

staff writor

From the mouths of babes comes the wisdom of ages.
Highmeadow Common Campus'
75 birld graders came out to the Oct.
23 city council meeting as part of their project on Farmington-Farmington Hills history.
The subject was sidewalks. All three third grade classes thoroughly investigated the issue.
On Oct. 12, Mayor Terry Sever visited and spoke to the whole school on this year's theme, citizenship. That's when he suggested the students research a pertinent local issue.
Through skits, posters and small groups that the students formed themselves, they dug for Indormation and took a schoolwide vote. The result: 241 for afdewalks, 29 against.
Teachers Carol Apol, Karen Fielsh and Vicki Shaw assisted.
AT THE subsequent city council

AT THE subsequent city council meeting, students displayed a "thumbs-up for sidewalks banner" proclaiming their vote.

Elizabeth Lawrence represented the positive view of sidowalks, "it's easier and safer to walk on sidowalks the walks, it's easier to walk on the walks, it's easier to walk on the walks, it's easier to walk on your head to walk of the walk of the

"We worked hard," sald Law-rence, about the project.
Carly Kaufman represented the negative side of the sidewalk issue.
"Here are some of the reasons that we thought of against sidewalks. They're expensive, taxes will have to be raised, not everybody will use them but everybody has to pay for them, sidewalks can get tey and damaged and who's responsible for maintaining them."

STYLES BY:

that could be donated to wildlife.

Sixty percent of the students told
Sever the mayor should simply
"solve all the problems and answer
all the questions." Other suggestions
included, "work hard and lower taxes."

es."
After talking with their parents, the students also said the city should deal with the flooding issue ("His been a problem for 10 years"); improve road traffic ("It takes 40 minutes to get to my piano lesson"); and developers should strive to preserve the wetlands.
Kristin florton and Kelly Brickner summed it uo with their noem. "If I

summed it up with their poem, "If I Were Mayor":

If I were Mayor,
I'd make a lot of choices,
and then what I'd do is,
I'd listen to voices.
And then we'd all talk it over
and we'd get the results
in the month of October.
And at the next meeting,
we'd talk a lot more
and we'd get in you goe
and when it was over THE STUDENTS then presented letters to Sever about what they would do! they were mayor:
Casey Lowe felt more parks were needed and suggested a hoge bake sale to raise the money.
Matt Tenthi felt 100 acres of aprices would be just about right and

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#### Grant sought for park building

Farmington Hills is applying for a matching state grant to build a com-fort station-concession building at

fort station-concession building at Ploneer Park.

The city council authorized the grant application to the Department of Natural Resources Monday, Fi-nancial aid is sought through the "Project Michigan's Future" recre-

ation bond program.

The city would tap its parks millage to pay for its share of the \$110,000 project. Grants up to 50 percent are available.

A building similar to the new com-fort station at Heritage Park is being considered. Ploneer Park al-ready contains the necessary water and sewer line leads.

The neighbring Willowhrook Com-mons Homeowners Association sup-ports the proposal. Currently, port-a-johns are used at Ploneer Park.

Pioneer Park is a 15-acre athletic site on Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile. It includes two soccer fields and two baseball fields.





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