



Graduating senior Bryan Cole (right) is congratulated by Farmington High principal Gerald Potter at commencement.



Farmington High junior Erin Romanoff gives her boyfriend, graduating senior Jason Morris, a kiss, during the graduation program.

Moments after Tuesday's ceremony, Farmington High graduate Lee Kolozsvary gets a congratulatory hug from his grandmother, Betty Kolozsvary. At left is his grandfather, Ted Kolozsvary, with other family members nearby.



Looking to future

That's motto for FHS Class of '90

MORE THAN 200 Farmington High seniors ended their high school careers Tuesday at Ford Auditorium in Detroit, many graduating with honors.

The class motto reflected student sentiments of the day: "Looking into the future, we must see our differences and respect the earth and the people of it, hoping to create a world of peace."

Senior class colors were blue and silver, the class flower was the white rose, and the class song, "The Time to Remember."

Class officers included David Winey, president;

Matthew Langdon, vice president; Jennifer McGlinch, secretary; and Colin Earles, treasurer.

Principal Gerald Potter presented the class of 1990. School board president Helen Prutow and Superintendent Michael Flanagan extended remarks. School board members Jack Inch and Helen Ditzhazy presented diplomas.

After the ceremony, many of the 247 seniors returned to their school to enjoy an all-night party, hosted by their parents. A "Fiesta de Sol" theme highlighted this year's event, the sixth annual party for Farmington High graduates.

Center owner's proposals spur DDA contract delay

By Casey Hans
staff writer

An 11th-hour request from downtown Farmington's largest property owner prompted the Downtown Development Authority to delay contract approval for Phase III of its redevelopment project.

Kenneth Lenchner, president of Equitable Management Group of Southfield and owner of the Downtown Farmington Center, appeared before the DDA board Tuesday, suggesting installation of a large fountain to replace a smaller one in the center of the city parking lot near his center — plus possible installation of a clock and more pedestrian lighting.

He also suggested the DDA adopt a "gaslight district" theme for the area.

"You have to pump up what you have," Lenchner told the board. "You don't have to spend a lot of money."

Lenchner did not say whether Equitable was offering to pay for any of the changes, or whether he was requesting all DDA district taxpayers foot the bill.

The DDA board will meet 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, to reconsider the Phase III contract, and any changes city planner Christopher Wazany might recommend. The planner was also asked to meet with Lenchner to determine how the additional projects might be funded.

DDA EXECUTIVE director Wendy Strip Sittsamer came to the June 12 meeting, recommending the board award a \$250,000 contract for the third phase of the \$1.4 million project.

The phase includes work in the city's largest parking lot, which fronts Equitable's Downtown Farmington Center, and includes pedestrian lighting, tree plantings, sidewalk replacement and, eventually parking lot resurfacing, which would be paid partially through special assessment of property owners.

She was unsure initially whether the DDA would be able to do any construction this year, because of a large city sewer project. Work on the municipal parking lot was able to be planned for this summer, but will likely be done after the annual Founders Festival in July. Additional work along Grand River from Grove to Mayfield is planned for next year.

Some DDA board members seemed surprised at the last-minute requests from Lenchner, but were willing to postpone action for one week to consider them. Several board members noted that the current fountain in the parking lot is poorly maintained, and said they were reluctant to put in a larger unit, only to have the same problems.

City manager and DDA board member Robert Deadman said he wanted the city's largest parking area to be "softened" with appropriate tree plantings and was concerned that more concrete not be added to the plan.

"We need to soften a bit that sea of asphalt," he said.

"We thought, and our planner thought, trees down there would do that."

Both Strip Sittsamer and Wazany said they are concerned that any alteration to the plan be aesthetically pleasing, and blend with the current design.

The DDA board was formed in 1986, and began working on the project immediately.

The first phases involved pedestrian lighting, tree plantings and sidewalk replacement along Farmington Road and Grand River and on some adjoining streets. A rotating banner program was also implemented by the DDA board. The project is funded through tax increment financing, where tax dollar growth in a district is captured for a set period of time and used.

Tuesday's meeting was the first time Kenneth Lenchner has appeared before the board, although Equitable's interests are represented on the DDA by his son and board member, Larry Lenchner.

Hearing to air Peltz site uses

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents are invited to discuss uses for the city-owned 26-acre Peltz property, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road, at a public hearing, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26.

The public hearing, in city council chambers, 31555 11 Mile, is the result of several city council study sessions on the city's facility needs, including use of the Peltz property, which the city bought last year for \$620,000.

"Our interest is that other homeowners associations look at the (Peltz) property, use of the property, and see if it is in keeping with the character of the property," said Kurt Yockey, chairman of the Concerned Citizens of Quaker Valley.

The rolling Peltz property, and adjacent landlocked acres owned by the Michigan Department of Trans-

portation for which the city is negotiating, are just north of Quaker Valley subdivision.

The Peltz property has become popular various groups and city agencies vie for use of some or all of the acreage.

"The hearing is to generate ideas, opinions about potential uses of the property," City Manager William Costick said. The city council has not publicly thrown its support behind any particular land use.

THE CITY council, at parks and recreation commissioners' request, filed a state grant application to build a \$1 million sports park on Peltz.

Two weeks after city officials applied for the grant in late March, library trustees asked the city council to consider selling about 12 acres to build a new 80,000-square foot library to replace the cramped 35,000-

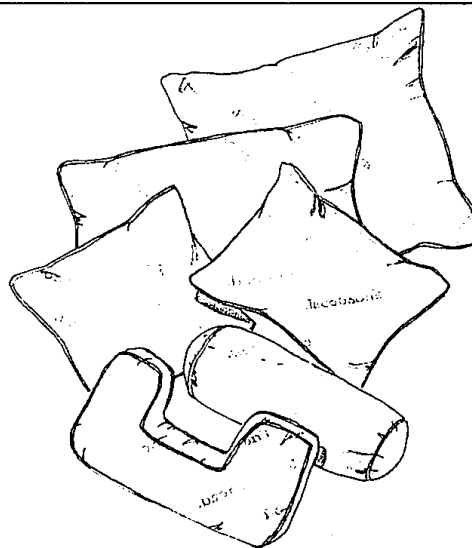
square-foot 12 Mile library. The city council has yet to consider the request.

Both the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils publicly support construction of a new library.

"We're not steadfastly in favor of one option or another today," Yockey said. A position paper from his subdivision's committee is expected before the facilities study, Yockey said.

A range of uses is available, including high-density uses, such as baseball diamonds and soccer fields, or low-density uses with some soccer and ball fields and open space. A nine-hole golf course or a more passive use with jogging trails, also are possibilities, Costick said.

City staff will put together a topographical map of the Peltz property for the public hearing, Costick added.



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