

Interest groups clamor over city land

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moting a new library, other community facilities or leaving the land undeveloped.

"I encourage you not to give up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Kurt Gallagher of North Farmington-West Bloomfield Baseball for Youth.

Soccer organizers spoke the same philosophy: the need for more playing fields for youths.

North Farmington-West Bloomfield baseball needs 10 more fields in the next 10 years to accommodate the boys and girls who want to play. The South Farmington baseball group needs five or six fields in the next 5-10 years. Children are turned away from participating because of the lack of fields, sports park supporters said.

Parks and recreation commissioner Jerry Ellis said that a youth sports park — not a "Softball City" type of development as critics suggest — is the only way to go.

"If you start cutting it up and di-

viding it up . . . ultimately nobody will be happy," he said.

Roxanne Fitzpatrick of South Farmington baseball doesn't see the need for a new library. "I always found a parking spot at the library," Fitzpatrick said, referring to library supporters' complaints of an overcrowded 12 Mile library branch.

"I HAVE a real problem trying to understand the need for a library. Now I feel we're getting pushed to the back burner again," Fitzpatrick continued.

The other side of the coin was just as evident. "This is probably the last opportunity to respond logically and economically to the demands that growth has placed upon the library," Farmington Community Library president Robert Plummer said. But there was more. Quaker Valley residents spoke of preserving the acreage in its natural state. If not possible, they would support a nine-hole golf course. And if done properly, a library.

Other community groups, including the Farmington Musicians, Farmington Community Band, the commission on aging, asked for a cultural/performance arts center. Many, however, also supported a library on part of the site. Many also saw the practicality in sharing driveways and parking.

As the night wore on, many argued for the need to look elsewhere for more playing fields and city/community facilities. Talk surfaced about using part of the flatter, 211-acre Heritage Park for sports fields instead of the Peltz-MDOT rolling, wooded terrain.

But youth sports supporters hung on, at times booing and hissing when other groups promoted their needs and detracted from others.

And many — with the use of a video by the Quaker Valley Homeowners Association — urged the city council to maintain the acreage as a nature park to preserve the environment and wildlife.

"Because people want the land left alone doesn't mean we're against ballparks and kids," said a Quaker Valley resident and member of the Farmington Artists Club.

2 men rob restaurant

Two men robbed employees of a Farmington pizza parlor of \$100 at gunpoint Tuesday night.

Just before midnight, the men arrived at Plaza One, 31160 Grand River, and held employees at gunpoint with a rifle before demanding money, said Gary Goss, deputy director of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

The two left out the rear door, and jumped into a car, thought to be a Dodge Daytona, parked on Violet Street.

The subjects are both described as white males 18-20 years old. One was about 6 feet 2 inches tall and thin, had a fair complexion and wore a dark shirt wrapped around



his head. He is thought to have blond hair.

The other is 5 feet 8 inches with a medium build. He had dark messy hair and acne on his cheeks. This subject carried the rifle.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call the Farmington police at 473-7262.

The district's options for Hillside:

Following are three options being considered by the Farmington Public Schools in handling the opening of Hillside Elementary School this fall.

The district is fighting a tight time line to get the school completed:

• The Ideal — Hillside is completed on time, in August, and all students attend the 11 Mile location in Farmington Hills.

• Alternative Plan A — A portion of the school is completed on time, and students in grades kindergarten, one and two attend Hillside. Students in grades three, four and five stay together at Shiawassee Community School until the rest of the building can be occupied.

• Alternative Plan B — Nothing is completed at Hillside, and grades

kindergarten, one and two stay together at Shiawassee Community School. Grades three, four and five are housed at Longacre and Flanders

elementaries, where many of these students attended school last year. Students would be moved when the building is completed.

Board studies options for opening Hillside

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during a windstorm.

More recent assessments show the early elementary section of the school might be done by August, with the remainder completed by mid-October.

DONALD COWAN, director of operations and student services, stressed that the district would only put students into a completed building that is safe. He said he is "confident" with contingency plans the district has set up if the school is not done.

The two plans call for students to be housed at Farmington Community School (the former Shiawassee School) and Longacre and Flanders elementary schools, if necessary. Regardless of plan, classes of students would be kept together with their respective teachers, so when

moved to Hillside there would be as little disruption as possible.

Cowan said parents and staff have been kept informed through a Project Hillside committee, which has regular meetings and sends out newsletters with new information. Cowan also met recently with Hillside parents to discuss options and plans.

Last week, several school trustees walked the school site, checking out various aspects of the building and site. They were concerned about dead trees on a berm separating the school from neighboring houses, that teachers this fall are aware of the school property lines when taking classes on walks and outside, and about a large retention area, required by the city.

McCarthy said the retention area would be sodded and could be used as recreation space when dry.

Hills man speaks at Round Table

Charles Gleason of Farmington Hills was among the 100 speakers to address Million Dollar Round Table members at this year's annual meeting June 24-28 in San Francisco.

Gleason discussed "Objections Clinic."

More than 5,000 Round Table members from around the world

convened to discuss issues of current interest in the life insurance industry. Only the top 4-5 percent of all life insurance agents in the world meet the strict qualifications for MDRT membership.

Gleason has been a Round Table member for 20 years.

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