

Site use sparks great debate

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"They are afraid of losing the millage and are scrambling around trying to do the right thing," Lindhardt said.

City officials are expected to draft a plan explaining how money will be used if voters later this year renew a 0.5-mill parks and recreation tax. The city council is expected to hold an election this year, but hasn't approved a ballot proposal or set a date.

Planning commissioners went further than just giving their blessings to the five-year master plan for parks and recreation. When it came to proposed plans for Peltz-MDOT, they made some deletions.

In the five-year action plan, a wish list of projects and purchases, commissioners deleted any proposed development ideas for Peltz-MDOT. The action plan suggests four ballfields and three soccer fields, plus a gravel road for a portion of Peltz-MDOT.

They also deleted details under the top priority category for buying and developing additional land for athletic fields. The action plan, as proposed by planning commissioners, leaves few details in either of the two categories.

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'The reason that's where the controversy is is because it's the only piece of land we have.' If more land isn't bought soon, 'we'll fight over Peltz-MDOT forever.'

— Jerry Ellis
parks-rec commissioner

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MDOT should be left in its natural state. "I don't think any activity, especially ballfields, should go on that property. I'd rather the city sell it," commissioner Jeri VanHouten said.

Commissioner Debi DeLong said she preferred that the estimated \$1.6 million devoted to development on Peltz-MDOT be removed and added to an estimated \$4 million for land purchase and development. "Take \$5.6 million to go out and purchase land," DeLong said. That didn't happen.

The planning commission's three men, Millington, Philip Arnold and

Paul Blizman, took a somewhat different posture.

"I think it's a question of development and how it's developed," Blizman said. He said that unless voters demand that Peltz-MDOT remain as is, there will probably be ballfields built there.

While the birdwatchers were out in force Thursday, youth athletic field advocates also offered their opinions.

"There is a sense of urgency in the people who are going to vote (in the millage issue)," said Farmington Soccer Club president Joe Miller, adding that the proposed action plan seemed to address the need for additional soccer fields.

"The need for ballfields is immediate. It's not only for kids, it's for families," said Keith Gallagher of North Farmington-West Bloomfield Baseball League.

He applauded the action plan's "serious commitment" to parks, including youth recreation.

Paul Jakobs of the South Farmington baseball organization said ballfields are needed immediately. "We will take ball diamonds wherever they will go. We need them now. You own Peltz-MDOT now."

War spurs both understanding, stress

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how the world is pulling together." But, he said, people are also concerned about people being killed and anti-war sentiments.

Shapiro said her patients also "like seeing the human side of political leaders."

FOR THOSE with anxiety over the events in the Middle East, experts suggest getting out of the rut of watching or listening to constant news programs and just checking the news periodically, talking about the

'It's hard not to dwell on it. It's living history. We're all at the front lines with CNN.'

— Keith Levick
Hills psychologist

situation, and getting into other routines.

"I feel we can overdo it, just like

we do with anything," Levick said. "If you're feeling down and uptight, don't watch things that will make you more depressed."

"The country is exhibiting a great deal of empathy and support, on the other hand, we need to move on and not be dragged down with it."

"Stop and think, and start to look at it in a slowed down, rational way," Maddox suggested.

Not only individuals are affected by the war, Levick said his business clients are feeling the same stress. "People are uptight," he said. "They're not sure how it will impact business — and it is already impacting business. People aren't happy, they're not out spending money."

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
City Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile Road
7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 28

During its regular meeting, the council is expected to consider:

- an ordinance amendment to the Tree Protection Replacement Standards in the city code.

- approving a parks and recreation master plan for the city.
- designating Farmington Hills as a Bill of Rights Bicentennial city.
- extending the deadline for the Southland Park project.
- a tri-party road improvement agreement.
- a report regarding the Detroit Edison Tree Replacement Program.
- the consent agenda, which includes consideration of a 1991 dust control program, a refund of special assessment district construction savings and approval of minutes.

Election Information Meeting
Farmington Public Schools
Harrison High School
29995 12 Mile
7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 28

The school district will hold a question and answer session, designed to offer information on the Feb. 5 special millage election scheduled in the district.

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Meeting to review school tax requests

Residents with questions about the upcoming school millage requests should plan on attending a town hall-style meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at Farmington Harrison High School, 12 Mile Road west of Middlebelt.

The meeting, sponsored by Farmington Public Schools, will be run by Farmington superintendent Michael Flanagan and will have a question-and-answer format.

School officials, in a Tuesday, Feb. 5, special election, will ask district voters for new millage in two different ballot proposals, each for 10 years. The proposals are:

- Proposition 1 — a new operation tax of 2.7 mills would bring the district about \$6.75 million per year based on current property values. School officials say they need the millage to make up for \$5.8 million recaptured by the state and to keep a five percent cash reserve in the coffers. A homeowner with a \$100,000 house would pay \$135 more a year in property taxes.
- Proposition 2 — an operational tax of one mill would bring the district about \$2.5 million per year and would be earmarked for capital projects such as renovations and building additions. During a recent discussion about school facilities and boundaries, a number of parents said they wanted the district to spend money on building improvements. If this passes, the same \$100,000 household would pay another \$50 per year.

PASSAGE OF the second proposal would be contingent on passage of the first.

Monday's meeting was scheduled to address additional questions from parents, but also from others in the community who might not have children in the district, Flanagan said. In recent weeks, parents have attended various meetings at individual buildings.

The millage proposals have strong forces in the community, working both for and against them.

A contingent of some 240 parents have joined with members of the Michigan Education Association to stump for passage of the two proposals.

A number of other taxpayers in the district, including Farmington Hills Insurance executive and tax cut proponent Richard Headlee, have spoken out against the measures, saying the district has plenty of money and needs to spend it more prudently.

Gulf crisis stirs crank callers

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prepared to face all contingencies," library director Beverly Papai said. The library received its last bomb threat in 1978.

Police has stepped up security in several areas, including private homes, businesses, utilities and public facilities. One homeowner requested security, said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer.

"Most cities are experiencing increases in bomb threats," Dwyer said.

Possible retaliation against and between religious and ethnic groups

as well as fear of terrorism has prompted stepped-up security, Dwyer said.

Police should be notified immediately if anyone or any facility receives a bomb threat. "They (homeowner or officials at a facility) make the decision if they want to evacuate the building," Dwyer said.

At 10 a.m. Jan. 16, the phone mail service at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America received a bomb threat call. He said the bomb, set to explode at noon, was in a bathroom. The bathroom was searched and police and company officials found nothing.

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FLIGHT OF THE INTRUDER (PG)
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THE GRIFFERS (R)
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