

# Voters face parks and recreation tax question

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se if the money is being spent wisely," said Anderson, who works for Richard Headlee, the well-known tax-editor and author of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment.

Headlee and Anderson campaigned against the Farmington Public Schools' two tax proposals, which were defeated Feb. 5. They spent upwards of \$10,000 in what they called an informational campaign.

DESPITE THE council's approval of the eight-year action plan for parks and recreation, the Observer has received phone calls questioning what residents believe to be the lack of specifics and protection for the city-owned Pelz-MDOT Michigan Department of Transportation acreage, south of I-696 and west of Farmington Road.

Resident Roy Lindhardt, who with others led a hard campaign to convince city officials not to put athletic fields on the pristine acreage, is con-

cerned that the action plan does not prohibit the fields on Pelz-MDOT. "My feelings are that down the road, they'll think they got the money to spend. They got \$9 million. If they can't buy (other) property, they'll invent other things to spend it on and they will develop Pelz-MDOT," Lindhardt said.

He also wondered whether city officials intended to pacify the so-called birdwatchers when they removed any mention of athletic fields on Pelz-MDOT from the eight-year plan.

The purchase of land for a minimum of 10 baseball fields and a minimum of 10 soccer fields is a priority in the eight-year plan. City officials say they are optimistic that land can be bought at a good price, particularly with the present downturn in the real estate market.

BUT MAYOR Aldo Vagnozzi said that should the city be unable to buy enough land, it will be up to the city council to take a second look at the plan.

"The way it's worded, we could

look at Pelz-MDOT," he said. "Our goal is to find enough land, and not the pristine land, to meet the obligations to the active athletics."

The eight-year action plan totals an estimated \$10.9 million. The 5.5 levy, if approved, would generate an estimated \$9.6 million over eight years. Officials hope the difference can be financed with state grants.

The plan's priorities include land acquisition and ballfield development (\$5 million), bike paths (\$500,000), senior adult-cultural facilities and programs (\$3.6 million),

youth athletic fields (adding one new one and upgrading others, \$70,000), Pelz-MDOT development (entrance road, parking, natural trails, picnic areas, \$600,000) and Heritage Park improvements (\$200,000).

The plan also includes the purchase of a roving recreational vehicle program trailer (\$25,000), the purchase of senior adult program transportation vehicles (\$270,000), the expansion of San Marino (\$500,000), and leasing or contracting for a facility or programs for teens (\$200,000).

# Selective enforcement of snow-removal law upheld

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a special meeting Monday night, prior to their regular meeting, where their decision — basically to make no change — was announced. Residents will now have to take any appeals to the 47th District Court, which will be advised of the city council's decision. "Although these are judgment calls, we support our code enforcement officer in the violations he is writing up," said Mayor Shirley Richardson. "We are trying to create a pedestrian-type city. Safety is number one in our community."

discuss the policy matter, after a handful of residents in the Grand River-Wilmarth area came before the council earlier this month to voice their complaints about receiving tickets. Most said they had shoveled their walkways, but received tickets anyway.

Public services director Earl Billing said he realizes issuing snow removal tickets is subjective, but that his department bases its decision on whether the sidewalks are safe for pedestrian movement, especially for senior citizens who make up a growing amount of the city's population. "We don't look to see if it gets right down to the cement," he added. "We

look to see if there's clear passage."

CODE ENFORCEMENT officer John Konecni has reviewed side walks three different times this winter, and issued 25 tickets on Jan. 7 and Jan. 9 for snowfall which had occurred during the holiday season and a "dusting" which fell on Jan. 2. Billing said. The other two times, Konecni issued no tickets.

The city pays special attention to the Grand River and Farmington Road corridors because of the high volume of pedestrian traffic along those routes. Warning letters were sent to property owners along those major thoroughfares earlier in the

season, advising them of the ordinance and their responsibility to keep the sidewalks clean of ice and snow.

Councilman Ralph Yoder said he would advocate sending letters to all residents, advising them of the ordinance next year.

Councilman William Hartsock, who proposed city council review of the policy, said he remained concerned that the ordinance was "not specific in terms of measurement" but agreed they had to be some type of enforcement.

Councilwoman JoAnne McShane said she would prefer to have the city contract out to remove snow

from violator's walks for safety's sake, then bill the residents or put the amount on tax bills. But city manager Robert Deadman said the city's Downtown Development Authority has tried for two years to

find a contractor willing to do the work. No one will even bid, he said. "I'm not thrilled to see people ticketed for this," McShane added. "No matter who we put out there, it will be a judgment call."

## Residents sought for city spots

Two vacancies are reported on Farmington boards and commissions this month.

Residents interested in serving on the Farmington Planning Commission or in the Republican seat on the

city's Board of Canvassers should send a letter and background information to the city manager's office, 23600 Liberty, Farmington 48335.

Appointments will be made by the Farmington City Council.

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Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for Underground Storage Tank Removal Bid until 4:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 5, 1991 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington, Michigan 48336, addressed to Beverly Hausman. They will be opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education meeting at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities therein, or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany our bid proposal form which may be obtained from our purchasing department. It is strongly recommended that bidders attend the pre-bid meeting on Friday, February 22, 1991 at 10:00 P.M. at O. E. Dunkel Middle School, 32800 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334. Bidders are to call Mr. Dewey Nichols if they are unable to attend. Plans and specifications will be available at the pre-bid meeting or may be picked up at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center.

CATHLEEN M. WEBB, Secretary  
Board of Education

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