Project is deer one to scout

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Continued from Page 1

— visible from a large deck at the top of a steep hill south of the Spicer Estate House (park visitors center). The other station is near the southwest end of the park.

In the research process Bouchard met with Farmington Hills naturalists and residents Joe Derek and Don Milliagton, a planning commissioner, both of whom supported the Eagle Southerder and Interest of the Eagle Southerder and Into Some stumbling and the recommendation of other naturalists in Oakland County, the city's aparts and recreation division denied Bouchard's project. "We were never down on the Idea. We thought it was a great idea, Just not in this park," said Eric Wurmlinger, assistant director of the city's special services department.

All Eagle Scout projects that come to the city go through Wurmlinger. But Bouchard's request came near the time some residents voiced concern about development and the park environment, Wurmlinger said. Naturalists contacted by the city said feeding the deer in the park would make the deer aggressive and dangerous and may encourage poaching.

ANOTHER NATURALIST said

ANOTHER NATURALIST said the project might increase the deer population and that deer in the park are not natural to the park, which the naturalist said hasn't had a naturalist said hasn't had naturalist said hasn't bear with the part of the naturalist said hasn't want to finish it. I wanted to



DANIEL LIPPITT/staff photographe

Andrew Bouchard is all smiles over one of his deer feeders in Farmington Hills' Heritage Park. Bouchard supervised the building of the feeders to earn his Eagle Scout award.

quit," Bouchard said. But he didn't.
Finally, Bouchard, with his father,
Ron, in the audience, appealed to the
city council and got unanimous approval of his project.
"We think the city and fellow residents are proud of the aspects of nature. Why shouldn't the park be used
for what the Spicer family Intended

it for?" Ron Bouchard said.
From the deck south of the Spicer Estate House, visitors can see one of the feeding stations and any deer that come by for dinner. "I encourage people to come and feed them." Bouchard said. The feeders must be refilled weekly, which he said he will do.

Parks chairman contacts Headlee

Continued from Page 1

Farmington Hills taxpayers will be asked to support a half-mill levy for eight years for parks and recreation projects. The elty's original half-mill levy approved by voters in 1985 expired July 1990.

Headlee and Anderson took Issue with the school millage proposals, which were defeated overwhelming; by Feb. 5. They spent upwards of \$10,000 in what they called an informational campalign about the school budget and millage proposals. Headlee is the author of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment.

ent. FITZGERALD CONTACTED the FITZGERALD CONTACTED the pair because he wanted to provide them with the facts how the parks and recreation commission spent the revenues from the former levy and how they plan to spend an estimated \$3.6 million if approved in May.

"Pitzgerald said." At first I was told I was giving Dick Headlee more recognition than he deserves. But Dick Headlee is a business owner in this community with a special interest like anyone clse.
"The good news is Dick Headlee is

"The good news is Dick Headlee is looking at it from an economic standpoint," Fitzgerald continued. And with that, Fitzgerald is optimis-tic.

tle.

Anderson said he was impressed at the first meeting with Fltgeraid.

"I was impressed that the first hing he showed me was the flyer showing what was promised would be done with the first half-mill. They had accomplished most of what they had promised."

promised that an arms of the Braining of the Braining of the Braining of the City-Owned Pettra MDOT acreage, south of 1-696, west of Farmington Road, also contacted him. A week ago, Lindhardt told the Cobserver he is concerned that the eight-year parks and recreation plan. describing how the tax renewal would be spent, does not adequately

protect the 72 acres from develop-

ment.
"We are listening to those who have legitimate concerns," Anderson said.

ANDERSON SAID he and Headlee

ANDERSON SAID he and Headtee
both Farmington Hills residents
continue to review the city's tax
proposal and expect to make a decision within a week. That decision
will be to support the proposal, oppose it or remain neutral.
"Our focus is to make sure they
(taxpayers) are getting value for
heir dollars, "anderson said," We're
willing to pay more than the average. We want parks and recreation
that's better than the average. But
we want to be sure dollars are well
spent," Anderson said.
Fittgerald says there is a lesson to

spent," Anderson said.

Fitzgerald says there is a lesson to be learned in the defeat of the school district's militage proposals. "You better be good stewards of the dollar. Our life is an open book," he said

"I know we are going to get a deci-sion from them (Anderson and Headlee) otherwise they wouldn't be asking questions," Fitzgerald contin-

itadice) otherwise they wouldn't be asking questions." Fitzgerald continued.

The elght-year action plan totals an estimated \$10.0 million. The half-mill levy, if approved, would generate an estimated \$19.0 million over eight years. City officials hope the difference can be linanced with state grants.

The plan includes land acquisition development of ballifields and soccerfields, bike paths, senior adult-tural facilities and programs, Heritage Park improvements, some development, such as a plente area and entrance road on Peltz-MiOT acquaints of City-owned San Marino Golf Course.

Also included in the plan is the purchase of a roving recreational program trailer, purchase of senior adult vehicles and leasing or contacting for a facility or programs for teens.

Economist urges Hills officials to campaign

Farmington Hills economist Pa-

Farmington Hills economist Parick Anderson says he hopes Farmington Hills officials will get out and discuss their half-mill parks and recreation tax.

"I certainly encourage the city officials who voted to put it on the ball to tampaign for it as long as they don't use taxpayers' dollars," said Anderson, an economist with Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co of America, Inc.

ander Hamilton Life Insurance Co of America, Inc.
Dennis Pitzgerald, chairman of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission, said commissioners have formed a "Yes to Parks" committee and invited whomever wants to participate to get involved, including elected city officials.

Anderson said he believes the Parmington Public Schools would have gotten more yes votes Feb. 5 when two militage proposals were defeated if school board members had gone out and debated the issues.

"Individual punits of the public purse," Anderson said.

FARMINGTON Hills taxpayers will be asked to support a half-mill levy for eight year for parks and recreation May 7. The request is a renewal though it is for three years more than the original five-year half-mill levy that expired July 1990.

Fittgerald acknowledged that tax dollars would not be used to print of the May 7 parks and recreation vote. He said eity-owned facilities also won't be used for informational meetings or other efforts to campaign for the vote.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said he plans to get involved. "I plan to do it on my own time. If I didn't believe in it (the proposed milage), I wouldn't have voted for it (at the city council level)."

Anderson also cautloned that city officials may not be given voting lists from the city clerk's office free of charge. "They have to pay the same price as anyone," he said.



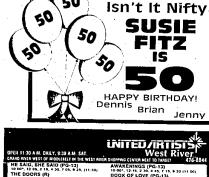


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