

Headlee, Anderson back parks millage proposal

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onal campaign" against the school tax proposals. They also plan to contribute financially to the city's "Say Yes to Parks" committee.

Fitzgerald contacted Headlee and his associates — whom Fitzgerald considers another special-interest group in the city — for their opinion about the parks and recreation tax.

Fitzgerald said he was delighted with Headlee's support, but added, "I would hate to think any one person's endorsement makes a difference in a millage campaign."

Headlee and Anderson said they are pleased that for the past two years the city levied a tax rate less than allowed by the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. "This is a strong signal to the taxpayers that their city officials are concerned about high property taxes and are willing to control their expenditure growth," wrote Headlee, author of the Headlee Amendment.

Headlee and Anderson also urged continued public participation into the proper use of the parks and recreation revenues, should voters approve the tax.

ANDERSON SAID Monday he listened to residents who are skeptical of the parks and recreation tax. "We heard their concerns about how the

money is spent. We need to authorize the money so we can purchase land (for youth athletics). But they need to continue talking about this," Anderson said.

In the letter to Fitzgerald, Headlee wrote: "We urge Farmington Hills citizens to actively participate in these decisions and urge the commission to listen objectively to their views."

And some residents plan to do just that. "I don't want to see the next \$10 million spent the same way the first \$5 million (for the first five-year parks and recreation plan) was," resident Roy Lindhardt said.

If approved, the half-mill tax will generate about \$3.6 million over eight years. The eight-year action plan, which provides voters with an idea of projects to be financed with the money, has an estimated \$10.9 million price tag. City officials hope the difference can be financed with state grants.

Lindhardt was first to call himself and others the "birdwatchers," or those who want to preserve the city-owned Peltz-MDOT acreage, west of Farmington Road, south of I-486, in as much of its natural state as possible.

Like resident and naturalist Joe Derek, Lindhardt is unhappy with the use of some of the money from the first parks and recreation tax.

"The ball and soccer people didn't get all the field they were told they would get. And there is no natural park (Heritage Park). It's just a bunch of projects," Lindhardt said.

DEREK SAID he's mistrustful of those running parks and recreation in the city. "I would be in favor of a parks millage. But I can't trust the personalities involved. We get pacified. We get a little hoodwinked," he added.

Both Derek and Lindhardt believe city officials and parks and recreation commissioners have not provided enough detail about the proposed eight-year parks and recreation plan.

"Even though we have asked for specifics, we haven't gotten any," Lindhardt said.

But Fitzgerald believes the eight-year plan is "as specific as it can get." If the plan were detailed and commissioners — for one reason or another — failed to complete the projects, residents would be upset. On the other hand, if more than the specific listed items are completed, residents also would be upset.

"How can you be specific when you need to do engineering studies, ecological studies? When you haven't done that, it's unreasonable," Fitzgerald added.



SHARON LOMIEUX/staff photographer

Ernestine and Warren Dolan leave Farmington City Hall after having their property assessment lowered.

Assessment can be reviewed

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commercial properties, 3 percent and industrial properties, 1 percent.

BUT THAT IS down from the previous year, when average residential assessments increased 10 percent, commercial 6 percent and industrial 5 percent.

"The market on condos has really flattened out," said Sailer. On the average, assessment on condominiums increased 0.4 percent,

Sailer said.

During the past year, several condominium projects in the city and the entire Bel Aire subdivision were re-apportioned.

Of these condo projects, Valley View went down 3.7 percent and Wynset went down 3 percent, Sailer said.

"But remember, that's an average, you've got some in there that may have increased maybe 8 or 10 percent."

Pine Woods, a brand new

project, increased 8 percent because the city moved it up closer to market value.

"There's still some spread," Sailer said. "We have one neighborhood, Warner Farms, which went up 16 percent, because of sales that we've had in the area. We had one subdivision behind World Wide subdivision which went up 2.5 percent. We had other areas that were 4 percent and 5 percent which were our lowest. These were all based on home sales in the area."

The 'ache will last forever'

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nea was on top of things and didn't procrastinate, he said. Jack was finally getting life together by learning a trade in the shop.

"Jack was a very honest person," said Dennis Ringle, Cantrell's guidance counselor in junior high and high school, before the funeral. "He was a big boy, always very kind and very polite. You don't know the Tom Sawyers, but you know the Huckleberry Finns."

Ringle recalled how often he called Linnea Dahlberg Roberts, Cantrell's mother, at the meat market the family owned on Joy Road in Detroit.

That market, The Butcher Shoppe, proved deadly for Linnea Dahlberg

Roberts, who grew up in Garden City and graduated from Garden City West High.

The family resided in Farmington Hills for many years until last June when they moved to Novi.

"Jack was an upbeat, light-hearted kid who could roll with the punches and keep going," said Howard Aldrich, former 47th District court officer who first met Jack when he paid a traffic ticket.

"He never showed that anything could get him down, but always kept a positive outlook. If he knew you, you were his friend and he would always take a minute to greet you and catch up on your life. From the customers' descriptions of his folks, they were all alike."

ROBERT ROBERTS, Cantrell's stepfather, died in the store. His wife died in Mount Carmel Hospital, Detroit. Cantrell died in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Two others, employees Stephanie Dingess and Joseph Leannals, were also hit by gunfire in the incident. They were taken to area hospitals.

Bill Kasperowicz, a Colgate Street neighbor, knew the Roberts family for 15 years.

"They were good people," Kasperowicz said. "They did not want to stay in Detroit. They were fearful of the neighborhood. But they said they had good customers."

Survivors include Jack's father, Jack Cantrell and sister, Lisa Cantrell.



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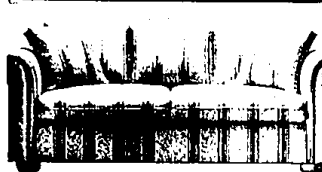
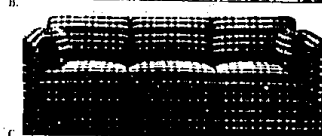
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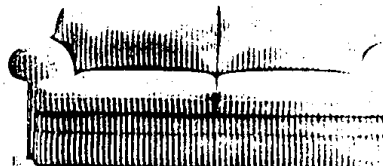


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