

Reaching out to touch
on a dance floor, 1D



Basketball
all-area, 1C

April Fools'
desserts, 1B

Farmingington Observer

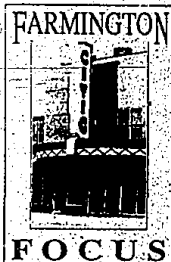
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Farmingington, Michigan

42 Pages

Fifty Cents



Residents demand vows on park tax

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Kurt Yockey just wants a straight answer. "We are getting different information from different sources," said the Quaker Valley homeowner.

There is little more than a month before Farmington Hills voters are asked on May 7 to vote for a half-mill tax increase for eight years for parks and recreation. But some residents are uncertain what their tax dollars will buy.

Residents, including Yockey, say

that uncertainty comes from presentations made throughout the community by city officials, parks and recreation commissioners and members of the "Say Yes to Parks" tax-increase committee.

Concern centers on the fate of the city-owned Peltz land and property immediately adjacent and owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation, just south of I-496, west of Farmington Road. The more than 70 acres is north of Quaker Valley subdivision.

Yockey says Quaker Valley residents were told by parks and recre-

ation commission chairman Dennis Fitzgerald and special services director Dan Potter recently that if the city cannot buy enough vacant land for ballfields and soccer fields, development of ballfields may fall to Peltz-MDOT.

ON THE OTHER hand, the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission was told something different, said member Joe Derek, a naturalist. Members were told by City Manager William Costick that plans are to maintain Peltz-MDOT as a natural area with parking, entrance road,

nature trails and picnic areas.

"I think we all feel the same way. It feels like a 'chess game,'" said Derek, who opposes development of any sports fields on Peltz-MDOT.

In a letter to the city council a week ago, Yockey, who also opposes development on Peltz-MDOT, asked the city council for an assurance that the wooded, rolling acreage would not be developed if voters approve the half-mill.

"I think it's a legitimate question," Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said. "The council sets policy. I hope at the April 8 meeting, we have a response

to the Yockey letter."

Vagnozzi said he is aware of the differences in presentations given throughout the city. "I would hope the presentations follow the master (parks and recreation) plan."

Fitzgerald Friday said he has no response to Yockey's letter. "The council has already said what's going on with that parcel (Peltz-MDOT)."

ACCORDING TO the eight-year action plan, which accompanies the request for a half-mill levy, \$600,000

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More cases of hepatitis reported

Disease confirmed in 5 Grace pupils

By Casey Hana
staff writer

There are now five confirmed cases of hepatitis A affecting students in William Grace Elementary in Farmington Hills, and several other possible cases pending.

Two cases of the infectious, viral disease which inflames the liver were confirmed in William Grace students the week of March 18 by the Oakland County Health Department, although it has not been determined whether the school is the common link.

County health officials continue to work with the school and residents of the area, in investigating the outbreak. Health officials said cases of hepatitis A, which is transmitted in a fecal-to-oral manner, are up across the county.

School officials are continuing their practice of monitoring attendance records daily, calling the homes of those who are absent.

THE SITUATION could continue for an extended time because of the

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A fine spring day

What to do on one of the first fine days of spring? Maybe the kids would like an outing at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills, and Kathy Anderson did just that with her two children recently. She helped her son Kyle (above), 2½, on the bars in the park's playground. Her son Jamie, 4½, also was on hand for

the fun. But this is Michigan, after all, and the weather can change in a hurry. A week later, high winds and heavy rains caused considerable damage in the area. For a story and photos of local storm damage, see Page 4C.

SHARON LEAHUEUX/staff photographer

Leaders eye roads, recycling

By Casey Hana
staff writer

An improved commute, emphasis on recycling and leaner budgets are planned for 1991, according to leaders of the three governmental units representing the Farmington area.

Their comments were made during the annual State of the Cities address March 27 at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. headquarters in Farmington Hills. Sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the event draws business leaders from throughout the Farmington area.

Officials from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills say major infrastructure improvements, including sewers and north-south connector roads, should help local residents avoid flooding problems and aid travel through the city. And a mandatory curbside recycling program slated to begin July 1 should make even more residents environmentally aware.

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Farmingington Mayor Shirley Richardson dons a necklace of trash to make a point about recycling during the recent State of the Cities breakfast at Alexander Hamilton Life.

SHARON LEAHUEUX/staff photographer

Observer makes changes to help, entertain readers

Beginning in today's issue of the Farmington Observer, you will begin noticing some changes in your hometown newspaper.

These are being made for your convenience, to make it easier for you to find the information you need and want to be both informed and entertained. We know you will find the additions helpful.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please be sure to give me a call at 953-2100.

IN TODAY'S issue readers will note an entirely redesigned, full-color, full-service travel section. This is now a regular feature of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. It tells you about exciting places to vacation, with insights shared by people living in your community.

Also included in your Monday issue is the ever-popular Street Scene with features on rock, jazz, the blues

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