

# Officials eyeing potential area for wetlands

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are looking at 12 sites, particularly Pelts-MDOT, to replace wetlands along 12 Mile for the continuing construction of the boulevard.

"We have to provide a plan on how we will mitigate the area we are filling in," said David Call, Farmington Hills assistant city manager.

The 4.5 acres of wetlands along 12 Mile, Drake to Haggerty, are mostly ditches filled with cattails and similar weed growth that the state Department of Natural Resources

says is typical of wetland vegetation.

"A good part of the area is just ditches that over the years have silted up," Call said. "We're having to go to great lengths to replace wetlands that we don't think are wetlands. But we have every intention of meeting the requirement."

The city has been awarded a \$3.6 million grant — good through the end of 1992 — to help build the next estimated \$7 million one-mile boulevard stretch from Haggerty to Haggerty roads. The wetlands also extend into the third mile stretch between Drake and Haggerty roads slated for construction later.

THE CITY, according to DNR require-

ments, must obtain a permit to fill in the wetlands and replace them somewhere else before they can bid the road construction project, Call said.

That's where the Pelts-MDOT acreage, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road, comes in. The permit application has been sent to the DNR. In a recent closed executive session, the city council discussed the issue and told Call he could send a plan calling for the new wetlands at Pelts-MDOT.

"They said send the plan to obtain a permit only. They said they would not authorize to proceed with any of the work there," Call said. "This is for permit reasons only."

That plan calls for putting the new wetlands on the flat portion of MDOT, near Oxford Estates condominiums. "It wouldn't affect treed areas," Call said. "We are expanding upon wetlands that are already there."

After the ad hoc Pelts-MDOT committee meets to review plans, the council will receive another report. A response from the DNR to the city's permit application, now with a plan, could come as early as Nov. 15.

News of the plans reportedly surprised a few members of the ad hoc Pelts-MDOT committee. Committee chairman Mark Davis is expected to meet with Call and other city officials.

Davis said he would prefer not to comment yet. "The committee will study the plan. The city has committed to full disclosure and discussion," he said.

An eye on Pelts-MDOT doesn't mean the plan is cast in stone. "We can change our minds. We can substitute the plan," Call said.

But time is crucial. A change in plans — if any is made — must be done by January 1992 at the latest. Construction of the second boulevard mile must begin in March or the project won't be completed on schedule in November 1992.

Please turn to Page 8

## Sever tops field in Hills

Continued from Page 1

who joined campaign forces with Sever — trailed Sowerby by 200 votes. Write-in candidate Andrew Raczowski received 270 votes for last place, which many political watchers said was pretty good for a write-in.

Sever received 7,060 of the total 10,989 ballots cast in what is considered a high-turnout — 22 percent of the 47,857 registered voters — city council election.

BATES EARNED 6,820 votes, followed by Smith with 6,381, and Lichtman with 5,679. Of those who didn't earn one of the four seats, Sowerby captured 5,033 votes.

### ELECTION RESULTS

'91  
Farmington Hills City Council

Top three finishers win four-year terms, next highest finisher wins a two-year term.

Terry Sever Incumbent	7,060
Nancy Bates Incumbent	6,820
Joanne Smith	6,381
Larry Lichtman Incumbent	5,679
Paul Sowerby	5,033
Ron Oliverio	4,832
Andrew Raczowski	270

Oliverio, 4,832 and write-in candidate Raczowski, 270 votes. Vote totals are unofficial.

Looking back six years when he was first elected to the council, Sever said he never thought there would be a time when he would take first place.

"I didn't think then that I would place so high for someone who says it like it is," Sever said. "I've grown. I have taken a position and convinced people I believe in that position. They may not agree with it. But they respect it."

At her post-election party, Bates said she thought she would get a four-year term. "I think I had broad-based support in the community. I think I listen to people and they feel heard."

SHE THANKED her supporters and family, particularly her husband, Charles Bates. "He put up signs, dropped literature and made calls. He was very patient with the stresses of a campaign," Bates said.

Looking forward to a week-long vacation, she'll miss her first meeting as a new council member. Smith said she, too, thought she would do well. "I think I won because I think what I said applied to voters. Smith said she had supporters in every subdivision and attributed her victory to years of experience and "lots of friends."

Lichtman said he approached the campaign realistically and knew "it was a long shot" to place better than



Candidates Nancy Bates and Ron Oliverio (foreground) await election results late into the evening at Farmington Hills City

Hall, with city attorney John Donohue. Bates was successful in her re-election effort; challenger Oliverio was not.

he did. "The three who won were strong candidates. I tried to make more of an effort to talk to neighborhood groups and people I thought might have a network out there," he said.

A DISAPPOINTED Sowerby said he felt badly for the community. "I'm disappointed. I don't run to lose. I'm disappointed for the voters

it's sad when this small percentage of people can determine the future of the community."

But he's not necessarily giving up now that he's run two election campaigns. "Three is my lucky number."

Sever's strength in the polls wasn't enough to put Oliverio — whom Sever supported — into the winners circle. "I ran a real good race," said the former industrial-research-office

candidate who lost in 1989. "The people decide who they want to represent. I'm happy with myself. I can't imagine what I could have done to do better."

Glancing at the write-in votes, Raczowski said he was surprised at the number of people who voted for him but spelled his name incorrectly. Other names written on the ballots also drew a chuckle from the

candidate. In addition to finding successful Farmington City Council candidate Bill Hartsock's name on the ballot, Raczowski pointed to an entire family that signed their names.

"I leave this with a joyous feeling of accomplishment," Raczowski said. "I feel great. And it just solidifies the feelings I have for the city and its people."

## Campbell returns to council

Continued from Page 1

at her victory. The 45-year-old insurance representative attributed her win to her campaign team and its hard work.

"I also think it had something to do with being available to the public in the last two years — reaching out to them," she said.

Campbell — whose trademark election signs were a take-off on the Campbell's Soup can — learned of his success after arriving at city hall just after 9 p.m. Tuesday night. The 40-year-old Ford Motor Co. quality associate said he was "really pleased" at the win, which he worked hard to earn.

"I'M SORRY to see Ralph leave," he added. "But I guess there have to be winners and losers."

Hartsock, who did a heavy door-to-door campaign effort, said he had mixed emotions about the win because of Voder, who is also a good friend. "We had to run like we were running for the first time," said the 41-year-old partner with Roney & Co. "I knew, in order to get elected, people had to get out and work."

Voters in precinct five at Longacre Elementary, representing the city's west side, cast 325 ballots, the largest number of any precinct. They were followed closely by precinct one at Farmington City Hall, representing the north central part of the city, where 319 ballots were cast.

Voters in precinct four, Flanders Elementary, cast 289 ballots; those in precinct six, Farmington Training Center, cast 233; those in precinct two, Ten Mile School, cast 231; and those in precinct three, Farmington High School, cast 183.

## Courthouse issue fails

Continued from Page 1

tween \$2 and \$4 per year for 20 years had the bond issue passed.

The \$750,000 bond issue in Farmington passed in all six precincts and with absentee voters.

But in Farmington Hills, just seven of 31 precincts voted in favor of the measure, which totaled \$1.6 million there.

Those voting in favor included: precinct 18 at Highmeadow school, precinct 19 at Forest Elementary, precincts 24 and 27 at Hillside Elementary, precinct 25 at Gill Elementary, precinct 26 at Hope Lutheran Church and precinct 28 at Faith Covenant Church.

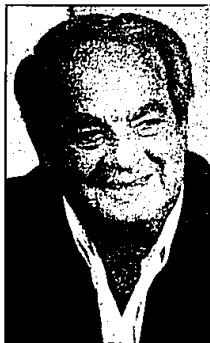
McShane got the highest number of votes in precincts one, two, six and with absentee voters and won 25 percent of the total vote. She and Hartsock tied for the highest number of votes in precinct three.

HARTSOCK TOOK the highest number of votes in precinct five and took 24 percent of the vote. Campbell won in precinct four, capturing 21 percent of the vote.

Neither Voder or Kenney were top vote-getters in any precinct. Voder captured 20 percent of the vote and Kenney 10 percent.

Also on Tuesday, Farmington voters joined other Oakland County voters in voting (949 to 929) to approve a bond proposal for an incinerator project in the county.

They also voted 1,042 to 839 in favor of a local bond issue for an expansion of the 47th district court. But, because of the loss of a similar issue in Farmington Hills, that expansion was defeated.



Ralph Voder



A pleased Arnold Campbell looks over election results at city hall Tuesday night, after finding out he won a two-year term on the Farmington City Council. His 12-year-old son, Andrew, is by his side while a framed JoAnne McShane, the top vote-getter, looks over his shoulder.



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