



# Farmington Observer

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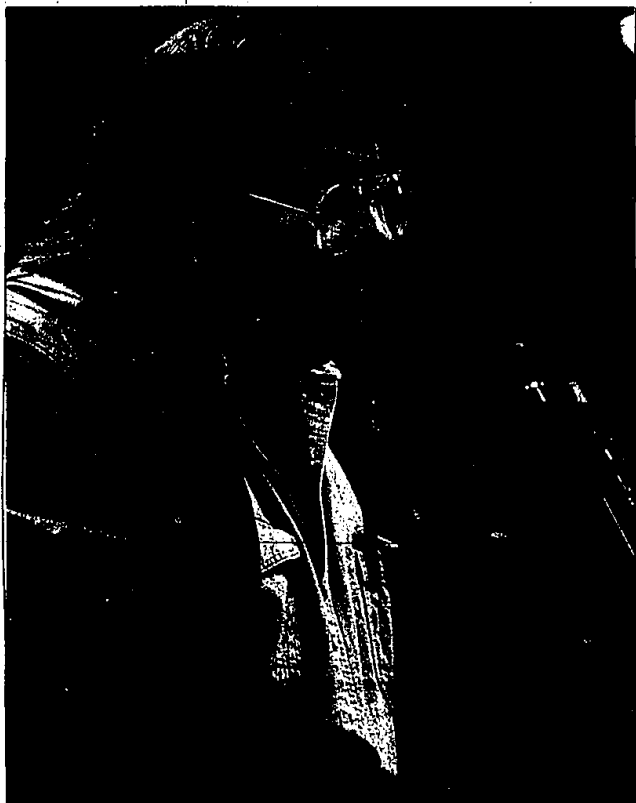
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Farmington, Michigan

76 Pages

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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

An angry Joe Derek, a Farmington Hills naturalist, tells the city council Monday that the ad hoc Peltz-MDOT committee, of which he is a member, "is a joke."

## Peltz-MDOT committee called 'joke'

See related editorial, 18A

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills naturalist Joe Derek supported the city's half-mile parks and recreation millage in April. And he's publicly vowed never to do anything like that again.

"I feel I'll never support anything again," said Derek, a member of the city's 15-member Peltz-MDOT ad hoc committee. "I feel I've been used. I've been used by the city to get a millage passed."

Derek's comments came Monday during impromptu discussion about the city council's closed meetings about replacing wetlands from the continuing construction on the 12 Mile boulevard to the MDOT acreage, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road.

Trying to control his anger Derek said the ad hoc committee has met to discuss plans for the land — which he said was promised to remain in its natural state — while the city council was busy making other plans, such as wetlands replacement.

HE RECALLED touring Peltz-MDOT with some city officials and seeing pink flags dotted about the land. When he asked a city official, Derek was told the flags were outlining the property's boundaries. In fact, Derek charged, the flags designated the proposed wetlands. The tour was more than six weeks ago.

"We have an ad hoc committee of which I am a member. And I think it's a joke," Derek said. "Only nature can make a volcano, a tidal wave or a wetland."

Ad hoc member Roy Lindhardt of-

**'I feel I'll never support anything again. I feel I've been used. I've been used by the city to get a millage passed.'**

— Joe Derek  
member, Peltz-MDOT ad hoc committee

ferred his opinion. "The committee did feel a little bit useless when 25 percent of the acreage was spoken for."

Wetlands replacement and the council's two closed sessions during which the issue was discussed was again raised by Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi Monday night as he attempted to diffuse negative publicity about the city that has appeared in newspapers and on talk radio.

"The impression has been left we somehow violated the Open Meetings Act in determining the possible usage of acreage on MDOT," Vagnozzi said.

The council apparently met in executive session Oct. 21 to discuss options for replacing wetlands from the 12 Mile construction project. Replacement is required if the city wants to hold on to a \$3.6 million grant to build the next one-mile boulevard stretch, Halsted to Hagerty.

On Oct. 21, the council discussed the issue under the Open Meeting Act's land acquisition provision, which allows for closed sessions. "MDOT-Peltz was one of these."

Please turn to Page 2

## Hills council taps Grant as mayor

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Tradition has been upheld with the election of Farmington Hills mayor pro tem Jonathan Grant as mayor for 1992.

As mayor, Grant will provide "wisdom and grace and his own touch of class," said councilwoman Nancy Bates, who nominated him.

Grant, in the second year of a four-year term, was elected unanimously.

Traditionally, the city council elects its mayor pro tem as mayor. The position is generally rotated among council members so everyone gets a chance at the helm. Bates' election as mayor pro tem was swift in comparison to previous years; the election for the position often means politicking and

several votes. She was elected unanimously.

GRANT AND Bates, who was re-elected to a four-year council term Nov. 5, will take office at the first meeting in 1992 on Monday, Jan. 6.

The swiftness of Bates' election and a remark from Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi that he had told both they could make brief acceptance speeches made it apparent the choices had

been made prior to the Monday night in-house election.

Grant, owner of Reliance Business Forms, said his election as mayor — not many years after he became involved in city politics and won a council seat — "speaks well of the opportunities we offer residents in Farmington."

Please turn to Page 10

## Historic process on hold for Spicer farm buildings

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills parks and recreation commissioners want the city council to wait before making farm buildings on the Eleanor Spicer Estate — Heritage Park —

designated historic buildings.

And that's what the city council is doing — but not without disagreement.

"This is irreplaceable," said Ruth Moehlman, chairwoman of

Please turn to Page 4

## At the helm Hartsock elected to top spot

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Outgoing Mayor Shirley Richardson told Mayor-elect William Hartsock that she intended to clean up the city of Farmington, but simply ran out of time.

Richardson, Farmington's first woman mayor, wasn't talking about graft, just noting — in jest — the unfinished sewer and road project in the city.

"Our city has been completely torn up," Richardson said before handing the mayor's gavel to Hartsock. "I tried desperately to get this town all cleaned up before I turned it over to you."

Hartsock, 41, served as mayor from 1977-79 and again from 1983-85. This will be his seventh term on the council.

"I'd like to thank the 1,000 voters and especially the 1,210 voters who voted for me," Hartsock said. He also thanked his friend, Valerie White, and his son, Chris, for their campaign assistance.

Hartsock cited the many hours he spent going door-to-door, listening to residents' concerns, for his success at the polls.

HARTSOCK FIRST ran for the council unsuccessfully in the 1970s and won a two-year term on his second try in 1973. He won successive four-year terms with high percentages.

Hartsock is single with one son. In the Nov. 5 election, Hartsock finished second with 1,210 votes after incumbent JoAnne McShane, 45,

Please turn to Page 9



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Mayor William Hartsock gets the gavel from Shirley Richardson, Farmington's outgoing mayor.

## what's inside

On the agenda . . . 9A  
Building scene . . . 1C  
Business . . . 12B  
Cable connection . . . 6A  
Classifieds . . . D-G  
Index . . . 2E  
Auto . . . F-G  
Real estate . . . D,E,F  
Employment . . . F,G  
Creative living . . . 1D  
Crossword puzzle . . . 3E  
Entertainment . . . 6-B  
Opinion . . . 18A  
Police/fire calls . . . 3A  
Sports . . . 1B  
Suburban life . . . 1C  
CLASSIFIEDS . . . 591-0900  
CIRCULATION . . . 591-0500

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