

# Harris aided Broomfield probe

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was in stable condition Thursday, according to Karen Hanson, hospital spokeswoman for Madison Heights' Oakland General Hospital.

SINCE JULY, Broomfield's press releases say that he has gotten "an email from my constituents about rising postal costs and declining postal service. They're fed up and they have a right to be."

Broomfield recently introduced legislation calling for a commission to look into the postal system nationwide. He's asked for a General Accounting Office investigation on the Royal Oak Post Office.

But Broomfield's office refused to release correspondence from constituents, postal employees or infor-

mation connected with the office of Postmaster Ken Harris.

Mark Bate, the officer-in-charge of the Farmington Post Office, has been filling in for Harris. Broomfield's assistants, Sinclair and press secretary Terri Hauser are citing privacy concerns in refusing to provide names of complaining customers.

Sinclair said that relationship between constituents and their publicly elected Congressman is "like with a doctor or a priest."

However, Dave Geiss, administrative aide for U.S. Rep. William D-Taylor, was willing to discuss the matter.

Geiss said Dave Lenard, president of the American Postal Workers Union, sent Ford's office a copy of a Sept. 27 newspaper article which de-

tails Harris' frustration with Daniel Presilla, who was then head of the Royal Oak management sectional center.

Presilla is now on a paid leave following Melville's deadly rampage.

THAT ARTICLE heavily quoted Harris' letter to Broomfield.

Of Presilla, who has been replaced by new postmaster Robert Flaherty, Harris said in his letter to Broomfield:

"He manages by intimidation and is only concerned with reducing hours and not about the quality of service to our customers."

"If you don't go along with him, you can expect audit teams into your office to see what they can find or you can expect an extended involuntary detail out of your office to an-

other assignment, that is inconceivable."

"He used intimidation on me and now I'm on extended sick leave for work-related stress."

Harris predicted reduced window service and closed window operations on Fridays and Saturdays before holidays.

"This should not be his choice, but the choice of our customers who should be able to conduct business wherever they want without facing long lines that are out the door."

The newspaper article further quoted Harris that, third class mail is being delayed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the hope that mail will be light on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and can be delivered without the use of over-

# Fox is dropped from site-panel

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members of the ad hoc Pelz-MDOT committee, Fox expressed her concern for discussing the MDOT wetlands replacement plan in closed session — a meeting for which she was out of town. She argued that discussion about city-owned Pelz-MDOT should have been in public, not in closed session.

The city council maintains it has not violated the Open Meetings Act because in addition to Pelz-MDOT they discussed the possible purchase of other land for the wetlands replacement. The Open Meetings Act allows a city council to closed meetings to discuss land acquisition.

"This isn't land acquisition. This has got to be done and should be done in a public meeting. This is not a proper thing for executive session discussion," Fox said Nov. 14.

Fox also made it clear she didn't believe the wetlands plan occurred as rapidly as some city officials maintain. And she questioned city officials' integrity over the impression given the public — before the May parks and recreation special millage vote — that Pelz-MDOT would remain undeveloped.

"This is no longer the pristine land promised in this vote. We (city council) were aware of (wetlands) mitigation. Never were we aware it would be on Pelz-MDOT," Fox also said.

Marks told Vagozzi Monday he didn't care if Fox wants to attend Pelz-MDOT meetings. "I certainly don't want to give her credibility from the council as an ex-officio member."

Vagozzi shot back: "She's not an ex-officio member."

MARK DAVIS, chairman of the

Pelz-MDOT ad hoc committee, told the council Fox should be retained on the committee because of her vast experience in parks, such as her work on the Oakland County Parks Commission.

Sever said he was unaware of the controversy over Fox's comments Nov. 14. Still, he said, there's no reason to fear her — or anyone else's — viewpoints.

"Her viewpoint should at least be continually emphasized and considered and she can do it best," Sever said. "There's not one person in this city that scares me as far as their input. We opened it up (the committee), we shouldn't be afraid of what comes out of that committee," he continued.

Loyalty is what Vagozzi said the city council should keep in mind when considering Fox's appointment. "All we're really doing is putting her on the mailing list," Vagozzi said.

He also reminded the council that less than a year ago he would have liked to have replaced members of some boards and commissions, particularly parks and recreation. But he didn't have the votes to do it — especially to replace some on the long-term parks and recreation commission — and he was concerned about the then-upcoming May special millage election. "So I went along," he added.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates said there's about 150 people, who served on the Year 2000 committee, who are waiting to serve on committees, boards and commissions. "That just seemed decidedly unfair to me," Bates said.

She said she could agree with placing Fox on the historical commission but Vagozzi had put his recommendation to appoint her.

## Thanksgiving is postal holiday

The U.S. Postal Service will operate on a holiday schedule on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28.

Normal mail service will resume on Friday, Nov. 29.

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## Pelt-MDOT panel to hire consultant

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THE CITY'S proposed plan calls for putting two separate wetlands on either side of an existing drainage course on the flat — or prairie areas of MDOT near I-696.

The plan also includes a 16-foot-high berm along the northern-most wetland. An ungraded access road about 10-12 feet wide also is shown.

Around the two wetlands there may be grading to fill low areas to make a smooth transition to the wetlands. A structural also would be built connecting the two new wetlands — and the drainage course — to control water flow.

It appears it would almost destroy the edge (where prairie and forest meet) we were talking about," Lindhardt told Holloway. "Your talking about not having those edges."

HOLLOWAY SAID management of any new wetlands on Pelz-MDOT would have to be done so habitats would not be lost. For example, if the construction is done relatively quickly so the breeding cycles of

wildlife are not overly disturbed, there's a good chance wildlife would remain and move into other areas of the land. If the construction takes a long time, wildlife probably won't remain or return.

"Such an extensive one (wetlands) that would remove such a large area of prairie would, in my opinion, be a net loss," said Jack Smiley, executive director of the Detroit Audubon Society.

Wetlands on Pelz-MDOT would have to be placed properly and provided with enough depth. If the wetlands were deeper and richer the food chain could be enhanced and draw more species to the area, Holloway said.

"You have uniquely the opportunity to capitalize on it (wetlands replacement)," Holloway added.

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