

Special gift



Tea and flowers: Farmington Nursing home resident Alice Leary accepts a carnation from employee Kim Peterson during the facility's Mother's Day Tea. The event is held annually as a tribute to mothers. It also kicked off National Nursing Home Week, May 10-16.

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public opposition to the fee or widespread as Anderson describes.

"I haven't run into it," councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said. He also insisted that the city is not violating the state Constitution with its fee, based on three legal opinions.

True recycling fee

The words "true recycling fee" and "opt-out," however, were done to pick for some council members who refused to approve any directions containing those words.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith started the ball rolling with suggested directions to city manager William Costick that included a true user fee and how that could be implemented in Farmington Hills.

"I don't know what the definition of a true user fee is," Vagnozzi said. Smith responded: "A true user fee says, 'You use it, you pay for it.'"

Both Vagnozzi and Larry Lichtman maintained that the council was rehashing previous discussions.

"I'm happy to see the tax proposition go down. But the city simply must do something to change the current unconstitutional recycling tax and this resolution is one tiny step in that direction."

Patrick Anderson

Nancy Bates, however, said, she couldn't support Smith's motion because "we have a true user fee (now)."

Mayor Jonathan Grant wants city staff to contact trash haulers to determine the costs for a resident who opts out of the city program. All he wants, Grant said, is more information.

"I'm not going to get into an administrative nightmare that will cost the city more in the end," Grant said, referring to other communities' opt-out recycling provisions.

Councilman Terry Sever said he supports the idea of a true user fee. "The city should move in a direc-

tion of allowing for the opt-out system," he said, adding he doesn't believe most residents will seek another contractor. "People in our community tend to be convenience-oriented."

Three-hour discussion

The almost three-hour discussion began with a sample ad valorem tax ballot question, as well as a sample charter amendment. Business representatives were quick to voice concerns about the possibility of supporting a program for which they receive no benefit.

"It seems to me that is flawed

when 40 percent of revenue comes from a source that receives no benefit," said Brian Manwaring of Marketing Displays.

He referred to the proposal, which included a minimum ad valorem tax of .45-mill to pay the more than \$1 million recycling bill. The tax would have had to be paid on real and personal property with residents picking up 60.6 percent of the tab, and non-residential 39.4 percent.

"A tax shift to the business community is not necessary," said John Caliendo of Nissan Research & Development. "What you're really asking us to do... at Nissan is to adopt 200 households and adopt their responsibilities."

Linda Lynch, president of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, told the council that at least 100 businesses were asked if they favored the proposed tax. "Not one of them is in favor of placing this proposal on the ballot." With the tough economic times, "adding a tax burden would not be in their best interests."

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GROUP MEETING - WHAT THEY DO

Often the best advice for living with rheumatoid arthritis comes from others with arthritis.

It is with this experience in mind that doctors' offices provide patients with rheumatoid arthritis a monthly group meeting.

One benefit of such a group is to exchange ideas on ways to avoid joint wear and tear, or inform others of stores where you can buy practical shoes at a reasonable price.

A second benefit comes from group discussion on tension associated with arthritis, and how to combat anger and overcome the fatigue, upset and anger that follows in tension's wake. Often you feel better knowing that others face the same difficult emotions shadowing you, and have similar difficulties as you in resolving their feelings.

A third benefit of group meetings is their effect on people without arthritis. With good reason, participants require you to come accompanied by someone closely tied to your life and care. Often the person invited to look in, gains the most from the meeting. Discuss on within the group about the pain and stress others feel that parallels what your guest sees occurring to you. The result is that skepticism by that guest that you are "really ill" ends.

In sum, group meetings give assurance that while you are different, you are not alone.

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