

Arena from page 1A

lars without going to the voters." The proposed arena, which would cost from \$6 million to \$8 million, would be financed with a bond issue. Depending on what type of bonding the city used, it would not necessarily have to get voter approval.

Lichtman reiterated that the vote on such an issue could be skewed, and doom a proposal that would be popular among residents and could eventually make the city money.

"Another sticking point for several council members was the amount an arena could charge for rent. In comparison with other arenas, such as those in Redford, Plymouth and St. Clair Shores, Oliverio and Grant said they were concerned that the proposed arena would charge too much. They said, would not only throw off calculations about how much the arena could make, but would put the new facility at a competitive disadvantage.

Lichtman said the city's consultant, Jack Vivian of the University of Michigan, had said that the fee structure would be reasonable for the times. Lichtman, and other committee members, pointed out that the demand was such that there would be plenty of hockey players, figure skaters and

others looking for ice time.

Bob Fox, superintendent of recreation in Birmingham, said in an interview that his facility has to turn away 160 hockey players and about 50 figure skaters because there is not enough ice time.

"We welcome any other arenas in the area," Fox said. "There is plenty of demand."

City manager Bill Costick agreed to crunch the numbers again, using lower hourly rental fees, and report back to the council. With that issue unresolved, location was discussed.

Although the committee considered the Little Caesars property on 12 Mile and Drake and property on Haggerty just north of Nine Mile, building an arena at the Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile has the most promise.

Since the land is city owned, the cost of a new arena would be cut by more than \$1 million. In addition, the site is close to I-275, flat with minimal trees, thereby lowering construction costs, has close access to sewer and water, is secluded from residential areas, and would enhance the park with parking and a concession outlet. Since the park is under construction, the arena could still be put in during the planning stages.

Panel to review cable performance

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

Soon, members of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission will sit down and decide whether MetroVision has lived up to its end of the deal.

As part of the Cable Act of 1984, franchise authorities have a six-month period to review a cable operator's performance. The procedure is a precursor to opening negotiations with MetroVision on renewing the 15-year franchise agreement.

At its March 1 meeting, SWOCC OK'd a resolution that members will take back to their respective city councils to start negotiations.

The current agreement between SWOCC and MetroVision expires in May 1997. Negotiations for renewal have to begin three years prior to the expiration, according to law.

A renewal will likely be more difficult, than starting from scratch.

Ever-evolving technology and increasing pressure from outside competitors will make things sticky. For customers, though, the

bottom line is rates.

"... Clearly the question of rates, whether it's a FCC mandate or whether they are reasonable, is definitely going to be taken into consideration," said SWOCC chairman William Hartsock.

MetroVision contends it has provided reasonable rates. More so, a spokesman said the cable company fully complied with FCC guidelines last year in an attempt to cut rates 10 percent.

Many customers would disagree. More than half of them received rate increases, especially those who subscribe to basic broadcast service that went from \$1 a year to \$10.62 a month.

SWOCC member Aldo Vagnozzi was wondering if they can expect the same with the recent 7 percent cut proposed by the FCC.

Vagnozzi asked MetroVision representatives if customers were going to see a rate relief "since we never got the 10 percent."

"We're going to be rate sensitive," MetroVision general manager Bob McCann said. "We've been as rate sensitive as anyone around. We've been as good as

good can be."

Cable companies are feeling the heat in other corners.

Ameritech is proceeding with its use of video dial tone, which combines visual images with voice and data. Cable operators sees that as an infringement.

MetroVision asked SWOCC to submit letters to the FCC, expressing concern outside competitors would not be obligated to pay franchise fees as cable companies are required to do.

"We welcome the opportunity to compete with Ameritech ... we just want a level playing field," MetroVision vice president Tom Bjorklund said.

MetroVision — taking a cue from phone companies — has already started re-wiring Livonia and Redford with fiber optic cable. The line is smaller, but has the capacity to transmit more data and visual images.

MetroVision wants to follow suit in Farmington and Novi. However, by allowing the company to proceed with a major upgrade, some members of SWOCC wondered how it would affect up-

coming negotiations.

A major investment by the cable operator could be seen as tying a franchise authority to a renewal, thus lessening the chance to go with another company or operating the system itself.

In other SWOCC news:

MetroVision asked SWOCC and SWOCC board member Frank Leuthoff will serve as executive director on an interim basis until a successor is found. The position will be posted in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi city halls. Lark Samuella resigned after 11 years to become project manager of the Michigan Government Television Network.

MetroVision will credit customer bills for the 30 cents a month it was overcharging. The average refund or credit is \$2, according to Bjorklund. MetroVision asked SWOCC to be allowed to pass the credit to only current subscribers.

With SportsChannel going out of business, MetroVision will likely replace the all-sports channel with E, a 24-hour entertainment network.

Attorney outlines arena bond options

If Farmington Hills wants to borrow money to build an arena by selling bonds, now is a good time to do it.

Attorney John Everhardus, who is the city's bond specialist, outlined options and restrictions for financing the arena with bonds.

Unlimited tax general obligation bonds would have to be approved by the city's voters. The city would be required to levy each year whatever millage was necessary to pay the principal and interest on the bonds.

That tax millage could be in excess of the charter tax rate limit. But it would likely receive a higher rate than building authority bonds and could fetch a lower interest rate.

Building authority bonds would not need voter approval. They would be secured by the city's obligation to make annual

lease payments to the city building authority sufficient to pay the interest and principal on the bonds.

The building authority bonds would be subject to the city's charter tax limit.

Both bonds would place limits on the city's use of outside management and limit the amount of bond proceeds to be used in other than a primary use to 10 percent. That would mean the cost of space for restaurant or pro shop facilities could not exceed about \$600,000 under the present proposal.

BY BILL COULTANT STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council wants to address concerns about several issues involving Heritage Park and doesn't want to continue the inaction of the past two years.

The council voted 7-0 to have councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio, City Manager Bill Costick and representatives from the city's Historic Commission, Historic District Commission and parks and recreation commission come up with suggestions by the first regular meeting in May.

Oliverio said she brought up the issues because they had been unresolved for the past two years.

"There's so much controversy," she said. "We need some consensus. We need to find out what we agree on and go from there."

The council discussed the need for improvements to the buildings at the park, whether to include the buildings in the city's historic district, a report on a proposed working farm, other improvements at the park, and maintaining Heritage as a passive park.

Mayor Larry Lichtman said he opposed putting park buildings in the historic district because the city council would lose control of them.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates said the city needed to decide what was "active" and what was "passive" use at the park, and could the buildings maintain their historic authenticity and still comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi called the last two years a "Catch-22 situation" where the process

had been "aimed at really not resolving anything."

That, said Oliverio, was why the council needed some specific proposals and some deadline.

Members of the historic commission, including former Mayor Jean Fox, talked about the deadlock within the parks and recreation commission and encouraged the council to move forward.

The farm committee report is an example of the delayed action.

The committee studied using existing buildings and land at the park for use as a working farm that would include "petting" animals. That report was completed in August of 1992 without action by the council.

"What was the whole point of having the committee do this if we're going to shove it under the rug?" Oliverio said. "Let's get going on it."

Hills council wants to play ball on park issues


**Farmington Observer**  
ISSN 1587-6440  
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Second class postage paid at Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48009-0910. Telephone 464-1100.  
Subscription Rates (Residents in Michigan)  
One year (Oakland County) \$36.00  
Newspaper \$15.00  
One year (Livonia or Novi) \$24.00  
One year (Livonia or Novi) \$24.00  
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, 21956 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI 48336 (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric & its agents have no authority to bind the newspaper and any publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

**BLINDS DIRTY?**  
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL  
Verticals • Mini-Blinds  
Venetians • Pleated Shades  
Curtains • P.V.C. etc.  
Ultra Sonically Cleaned & Pressed, Sanitized & Disinfects  
Static Protected, Lubricates Working Mechanisms  
Get the 5th Blind FREE up to 60"  
**Alexander's Blind Cleaning**  
Fully Insured - On Site Mobile Service  
1-800-254-6344

• Pepsi  
• Mountain Dew  
• Pepsi Free • Diet Pepsi  
Free • Vernors • A&W  
• Slice • Diet Slice  
8 - 20 oz. Btl. .... \$2.99 dep.  
2 Lit. Btl. .... \$1.19 dep.  
6 - 12 oz. Cans .... \$1.99 dep.  
Good March 1-March 31, 1994  
**DISCOUNT POP**  
15348 Midland N. of 8 Mile 421-5670  
9870 Telegraph S. of Michigan 277-3080

**"We Couldn't Care More"**  
OUR PERSONNEL IS TRAINED, QUALIFIED & CERTIFIED TO MEET AND CARE FOR A VARIETY OF CLIENT HEALTH CARE NEEDS.  
• Complementary/Alternative • Physical Therapies  
• Certified Home Health Aides/Nursing Assistants  
• Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)/Registered Nurses (RN)  
• Services rendered at home, hospital or assisted living facilities  
• Bonded & Screened • Private Insurance Accepted & Processed  
WE ARE PROUD TO BE CLIENT DRIVEN  
WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOUR WELLNESS  
WE ARE DEDICATED TO YOUR PERSONAL SPECIALIZED HEALTH CARE REQUIREMENTS  
CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A FREE HOME ASSESSMENT  
854-4077  
1-800-251-0080  
401-4194  
1911 WEST 10 MILE SOUTHFIELD  
HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

**MEET**  
**STEFANO FERRAGAMO**  
**FROM**  
**SALVATORE FERRAGAMO**  
Friday, March 11  
1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Shoe Salon  
Each pair of Ferragamo shoes is crafted with the utmost care to reflect the heritage of excellence intrinsic to the name, Salvatore Ferragamo.



**Jacobson's**  
336 W. MAPLE RD. • BIRMINGHAM • 644-6900  
Shop Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA® and American Express®.

**READER SERVICE PHONE LINES**  
**HOMELINE: 953-2020**  
➤ Open houses and new developments in your area.  
➤ Free real estate seminar information.  
**CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 591-0900**  
➤ Place classified ads at your convenience.  
**CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS**  
**OAKLAND COUNTY: 901-4716 WAYNE COUNTY: 591-0500**  
➤ Request subscriptions at your convenience.  
**EVENTS LINE: 953-2005**  
➤ Current details regarding community events including dates, times and fees.  
**AD SITTER**  
➤ Don't talk to strangers! Let us handle the callers. At your convenience, call in to retrieve responses from your ad. It's convenient, safe and free with any paid classified ad. Respond to an ad: 953-2000; place an ad: 591-0900.  
**FAX LINE: 1-800-967-5904**  
➤ You can use a MasterCard® or Visa® to access the following information from our classified ads:  
• Item No. 9402: Looking for a place to rent or someone to share an apartment with? Get a listing of our rental classifieds. Available beginning October 6 by 6 p.m. and every Wednesday thereafter at the same time. Cost: \$5.95.  
• Item No. 9700: Collectibles: Auction sales, Antiques crafts, rummage sales. Cost: \$5.95.  
• Item No. 9800: Recreation: boats, motorcycles, campers, airplanes, etc. Cost: \$5.95.  
• Item No. 9822: Vehicles: Used trucks, vans and all makes of automobiles. Cost: \$39.95  
**O&E ON-LINE**  
**BIRMINGHAM AND SURROUNDING AREAS: 901-4711**  
**LIVONIA AND SURROUNDING AREAS: 591-0903**  
➤ With a computer and modem you can log on to O&E On-Line, a computer bulletin board service (BBS). Here's some of the features you can access:  
• Community events including all areas covered by our paper  
• Stock quotes that are updated daily.  
• Associated Press news - local and national.  
• Westcoast Music Review, an electronic music magazine.  
• Boardwatch magazine, a guide to on-line information services.  
• PC Catalog allows you to shop on-line for all computer needs.  
Sign on to O&E On-Line with or without our software. Software is available by mail for \$5 or save yourself the shipping costs by stopping by the Observer & Eccentric offices in Livonia or Birmingham and pay \$3.  
**BBS HOTLINE: 953-2266**  
➤ Feel free to call us if you need help signing on to O&E On-Line.

**THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS**