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Waste of money?

Critics: Arena plan costs cold cash

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't on the agenda, but a proposed plan to build an arena was not left out of Monday's regular Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

During public comments and questions two residents came forward to oppose not only the proposal, but any further spending on studying it.

"There are a lot of ice arenas around," said Richard Lytwyniuk. "This is going to cost big bucks."

Lytwyniuk and Harris McBride, who before has said he opposes the project, said even paying for architectural drawings of the proposed arena would be money wasted.

Mayor Larry Lichtman called Lytwyniuk's figure of \$40,000 to pay for plans wrong. He also chided Lytwyniuk for his sarcasm

and inferences that council members had done anything "needy" in the process of proposing the plan.

"I don't know where you've gotten that number from," Lichtman said.

City manager Bill Costick said the city had not yet authorized any money for plans but added that he expected those plans, if authorized by the council, to cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

Councilman Terry Sever offered to sit down with Lytwyniuk and convince him of the project's ability to make money for the city over time. Sever, along with other council members, also defended the use of money already spent on a market study and money that will likely be spent on architectural drawings. By spending some money to study the project, the city could better plan an arena and save money in the long run,

Sever said.

In other action, the council:

- Heard a breakdown of the fire department's annual report from Fire Chief Richard Marinucci.
- Despite a decrease in fires, in part credited to the department's fire prevention efforts, emergencies handled by the department were up by 12 percent overall in 1993, Marinucci said. That trend is likely to continue, with more medical calls because of a growing and aging population.
- As requested by councilman Aldo Vagnuzzi, Marinucci provided a breakdown in response time that showed the departmentwide average response time (4.74 minutes), response times for the duty crews and paid-on-call crews for each station.
- The duty crews are all averaging a breakdown in response time with Station 1 at 3.82 minutes, Station 2 at 3.06 minutes, Station 3 at 3.29

minutes and Station 4 at 3.86 minutes. On-call response pulled up the averages with times from 6.9 minutes for Station 1 to 4.5 minutes for Station 3.

The closeness of paid-on-call firefighters to the fire stations and the area covered had a lot to do with those response times, Marinucci said.

- Amended the zoning for property on the east side of Haggerty on the north side of Hills Tech Drive from one-family residential to industrial research office.
- Directed the city staff to write a resolution protesting more losses of state revenue sharing money.
- Discussed organizing a study effort on ways to improve the Grand River corridor.
- Considered a revised Mercy Center site plan that includes improvements to parking, roads and building three soccer fields.

RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the recreation division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570. For city council agenda items, call the Newsline at 474-3838.

OUTDOOR SAND VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION
Registration for returning teams will begin April 4 at the recreation office. New teams can begin registering April 18 on a first-come first-served basis. All games will be played at the new sand volleyball courts at Founders Sports Park. For more information, call the recreation office at 473-9570.

DAY CAMPS
Registrations are now being accepted for the summer day camps, which will be in Heritage Park. Day camps are scheduled for 6- to

8-year-olds and 9- to 12-year-olds. Nature's Way Camps will also be for ages 6-8 and 9-12 ages. There are eight one-week sessions scheduled beginning June 20. Half-day session for Camp Wee Wunna (ages 3-5) are also available. For more information, contact the recreation office.

NATURE DISCOVERY WAGON
Pre-registration for children ages 3-6 and a parent or grandparent is being accepted for a program that will provide a tour of Heritage Park's natural sights, sounds and textures of spring. Participants will ride on a hay wagon with special stops along the way. The evenings end with a camp fire and roasting marshmallows. Fee of \$5 per person will be accepted for the Wednesday, May 4, May 18 and June 1 programs. Program runs from 7-8 p.m.

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHORUS

Farmington Hills Department of Special Services and the Farmington Community Chorus present their spring concert, "All That Jazz," at 8 p.m. Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, at the Harrison High School Auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile Road. Tickets at the door are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students and \$3 for children 10 and under.

GOLF LESSONS
A six-lesson program working on your swing, stance and grip will be offered on Mondays/Wednesdays and on Tuesdays/Thursdays starting the week of May 9, at the Novi Oaks Driving Range. Each lesson is 50 minutes and participants will be asked to buy a bucket of golf balls. Beginner classes only. Pre-registration fee of \$45 required.

YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD
Individuals interested in develop-

ing their running and jumping skills should participate in this three-practice program. Practices will be run by Farmington area high school coaches. This program is open for students in high school down to the 10-and-under division. The program culminates with a track meet on June 12. A \$10 pre-registration fee is required. Call 473-9570 for information.

BOATER'S SAFETY
This class is designed for 12- to 16-year-olds who wish to operate a motor boat of six or more horsepower, without adult supervision, and for adults who wish to learn the proper procedure for the waterways. The class is co-sponsored by the Oakland County Sheriff's Marine Division. The class will be held in the Heritage Park Day Camp Center from 8-9 p.m. May 9 and 11. A pre-registration fee of \$5 is required.



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