

Wanted

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do for our kids right now."

About increasing the number of reserves from nine to 20 officers, Goss said there have been some deletions from the roster as some have found employment with other departments.

"We've had a really good reserve unit here, but it seems like after they get on board they find full-time jobs elsewhere," he said.

Goss emphasized that the struggle for reserves is a problem not unique to Farmington.

"It's not just us," Goss said. "Everybody's time right now is at a premium."

Reserves assist police patrol, firefighting and assisting with parades and festivals. Training will begin in late August.

Applications for the full-time officer must be received at Farmington City Hall (23600 Liberty) no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 12. Application and interview information is now available

by contacting Carole Lukas-LeBlanc at (248) 474-5600, ext. 234.

Reserves age 21 or older, with a high school diploma or GED may apply. The department, which provides both police and fire service, has a residency requirement of within six miles of the Farmington city limits.

For more information, contact Cmdr. Maria Putt, at (248) 474-5600, ext. 246, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Council briefs

Judy Downey, executive director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, updated council members during Monday's regular meeting.

Downey applauded the arrival of Great Harvest Bread Co. and said the annual Farmer's Market is off to a good start, with nine vendors.

Other summertime activities are soon underway,

including the Friday night concert series at the renovated pergola-gazebo (the first concert is this Friday) and, beginning next week, the Summer Fun Series.

Also, following the Farmington Founders Festival, a two-year curb and sidewalk repair program is expected to begin. Downey said it will cost about \$30,000 to make the repairs, mainly on Grand River and Farmington roads in the downtown business district.

Council members approved the reappointment of Demetra Mohas to the Traffic and Safety Board. Her new term will expire in July 2002.

Lee Ratliff's request to not be considered for reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals was accepted. Ratliff is leaving after a 25-year tenure, due to business and family commitments.

Bids

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However, the developer will own the land and lease it back to the city for 30 years. At the end of 30 years, the land would go back to the city.

With tax exempt bonds, the city could own the land in 16 years, a PM Group spokesman said.

Conceivably, revenue from golf operations would generate money to cover \$520,000 to \$540,000 in annual lease payments.

Some were puzzled by the offer.

"We own the land now," Mayor Aldo Vagnorzi said.

With the \$5.5 million upfront, the city could immediately recover money for the land. A PM Group spokesman said golf course revenue would exceed lease payments.

Proposals include new clubhouse and maintenance facilities. A driving range wasn't part of some proposals, though developers said they would gladly reconfigure plans to include one.

"You lose a lot of golf course

when you include a driving range," said John Neville of The Silverman Companies.

Councilman Jerry Ellis said, "but you're gaining a cash cow, which is what we want."

Some bidders suggested the city set up a brownfield redevelopment authority, which allows new tax money from surrounding development to be captured. That money would pay for capping the landfill.

To clean up and cap the landfill and dredge a nearby lake will run \$3.4 to \$3.6 million. There may be a presence of landfill gas to deal with, too.

The landfill issue shouldn't be taken lightly, an environmental consultant said.

A second environmental assessment needs to be done and the site would require a state Department of Environmental Quality permit. The permit process is lengthy, said Wally Kurzeja, a consultant with Ann Arbor-based Lake Forest Partners.

Plans submitted have the golf

course being built on the landfill site.

"If you don't cap the landfill, you can't build the golf course," Kurzeja said. "This is the critical task. What is done with the landfill is what to drive whatever you do."

A brownfield authority would last five years, said attorney Richard Barr, speaking for the Selective Group. Money captured could be used for other environmental projects.

"You mean we get to take tax money from the state? That's a new one," Ellis said.

Aside from financial details, some developers shared their affinity for the site.

Al Ludwig of the Selective Group lives in Farmington Hills and regularly golfs with his family at San Marino course.

"I want to do this project because I know it will be fun," Ludwig said.

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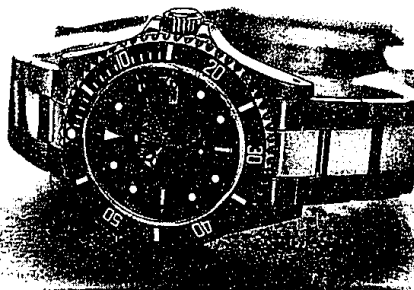
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