

Council at odds on park rezoning

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Councilman Terry Sever wanted the rezoning request denied. "I want to make it very difficult for him (the owner) to build on the north," Sever wanted to leave the residential zone in place and change the business zone to offer nearby protection for residents from other types of business.

If the owner follows through with his site plan for the northern parcel, more than likely he will have to seek a variance from the zoning board of appeals to put up a certain number of units on the acreage, city officials said.

"BY LEAVING it alone (with current zones), they (owners) would have to go the (Zoning Board of Appeals) to get variances," Sever said. He added that is the time the city could get concessions for nearby residents.

City officials have been working with nearby residents and park owners to resolve problems with encroachment into the subdivision, unightly dumpsters and ensuring that the playground area is not expanded.

"We found with a few exceptions that the mobile home park is well maintained," said Dale Countegan, Hills director of planning and community development.

In August, angry residents threatened recall of certain council members over proposed rezoning of the park and other land development issues. Residents have since changed their minds about pursuing a recall.

clarification

A story in the Monday, Sept. 12 issue about the Farmington Community Center's new amphitheatre should have said the Farmington Hills Planning Commission approved the site plan for the facility.

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Testing changes raising doubts

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TRUSTEE JACK Inch, who voiced his concern during a MEAP report last March, said the program "is theoretically a very meaningful" one, but he remains concerned with how the program might be abused.

"This all sounds very positive. It would give a concept of where the student is... In direction of approach and attack," Inch said. "But will it be objective in its approach, or just another method of comparing district A to district B?"

MEAP tests are given every few years, and are used by teachers to gauge a classroom or student or response to certain objectives on the test. But they are also used, as Inch indicates, to compare districts

'But will it (the testing) be objective in its approach, or just another method of comparing district A to district B?'

— Trustee Jack Inch

across the state each year. MEAP testing for fourth and seventh graders began in 1989 and for 10th graders in 1979.

MEAP tests in mathematics, reading and science will be given this year to Farmington students in grades four, seven and 10, from Sept. 26-30. Science is a new, regular addition to the program this year.

THE STATE has approved the following changes beginning next year:

- Science testing will be shifted to grades five, eight and 11 in the fall of 1989.

- Sample and voluntary testing in health, career development and social studies will be shifted to grades five, eight and 11 in the fall of 1989. Farmington is participating in some health education testing this year.

- A test in writing skills will be given, beginning in the spring of 1990, to students in grades three, six and nine.

- Traditional reading and mathematics tests will continue in grades four, seven and 10. New reading objectives are being piloted this year in Farmington and other districts.

STATE BOARD president Barbara Roberts Mason said the changes expand the number of teachers who receive MEAP results, increasing the number of teachers and students who have a "stake" in the results.

"We're trying to spread out the testing, so it wouldn't be too much of a burden in the same year," added Ed Roeder, director of the MEAP program at the state level. Districts should receive final word about the changes next spring, he said, after final financing and other information is in place.

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