

Parks unveils vast and expensive wish list

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills parks and recreation commissioners would like to see a park on the city's west side, a cultural arts facility and additional activity space for the community's elderly.

"We think it's time the city council and community residents come to grips with the quality of life," said Dennis Fitzgerald, parks and recreation commission chairman.

In their attempt to define what quality of life is all about in Farmington Hills, the commission focused on three major facets of the commu-

nity: youth sports groups, cultural arts groups and the elderly.

"We think the evidence is plain these three groups have unique needs," Fitzgerald continued.

A park on the west side of the city was among the priority suggestions presented to the city council recently. Commissioner Jerry Ellis said a west-side park is needed for the fast-growing area of the city to provide four baseball fields, two soccer fields, restrooms and concession stands.

ELLIS SAID more ball fields are needed for the south end of the city.

he said recreational fields are needed at Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. Sports buffs also would like to see nine fields near the Hamd office building on 13 Mile repaired as well as more fields added at existing parks.

"The general consensus is that the city is on the right track," Ellis said. But the largest concern is youth's accessibility to the city's parks. "We believe you need sidewalks and bike paths through this community," Ellis added.

A cultural arts center is also a priority suggestion from parks and recreation commissioners who have

been listening to concerns from many cultural arts groups, such as the Farmington Artists Club, Farmington Musicals and Farmington Community Band. The groups are faced with a lack of adequate facilities for storage, meetings, displays, performances and workshops.

"There is a strong feeling among these groups for the need for a cultural arts center," commissioner Barbara McCann said. "Most of these groups outgrew the community center several years ago."

At least 600 people are involved in the cultural arts groups in the community. If more room was available,

even more residents would participate, McCann said.

"What are you looking for? A building? What size?" city manager William Costello asked.

McCANN SAID the size of a facility has not yet been determined but there's little uncertainty that some type of facility is necessary. "First we have to have land. Then a facility on the land," McCann said.

Fitzgerald added that the community's largest growing population — the elderly — also are in need of a facility. "You can't have a quality of life issue that focuses on one need. We need to create a vehicle to take

of all needs. We would like to provide the vehicle for that response," he added.

How to pay for needed facilities, however, is an accompanying issue that parks and recreation commissioners also are considering. "Yes, we're going to need some taxpayers' dollars to make this happen," Fitzgerald said.

Mayor Terry Sever said he believes that any renewal of the five-year, 0.5-mill parks and recreation levy approved in 1986 should be "for communitywide needs, not just parks."

C'ville schools seek tax increase April 24

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

Voters in the Clareneville School District will be asked April 24 to approve a 2.5-mill tax increase, to help free the district from its financial doldrums.

The millage increase vote — the first in eight years sought by school officials for general operations — was scheduled by the Board of Education at its Thursday meeting.

ONE THING the millage increase would allow is reduction of class size for kindergarten through third-grade students in the district which includes Livonia, Farmington Hills, and Redford.

"It's important to establish a solid foundation for children," said Superintendent Michael Shibler, adding smaller classes mean "teachers have more opportunities and more time to spend individually with students."

Shibler said the district is able to seek an increase due to Redford voters' approval last August of a ballot issue changing the governmental status to a charter township.

The superintendent said money raised through a millage increase and money retained through approval of an anticipated request for a Headlee rollback override — would:

- Head off cuts in K-12 instruction and extracurricular activities.
- Give salary increases to employees whose wages have been frozen since they received a 6 percent pay increase in the 1987-88 school year.

- Lower class size in grades K-3 from about 31 to 26 students per teacher.

- Increase the media specialist position by 1.4 to allow for a full-time librarian in each elementary and at Clareneville Middle School. This would also boost teaching of computer skills at both levels.

- Help the district pay an anticipated \$24,000 increase in costs due to increases in health insurance premiums, data processing costs and more.

SHIBLER PRESENTED to board members several reasons for a millage increase.

"For the past two years, the

Clareneville School District has received approximately 2 percent new monies each year, while operating costs have increased over 6 percent each year."

Further, school officials anticipate state aid — important to a comparatively poorer district like Clareneville — will rise only 1 or 2 percent next year, again, at a smaller rate than the inflation rate.

"Last summer, the Board of Education anticipated that the 1988-89 school aid formula would be inadequate and took action to reduce operating expenses by \$400,000," Shiber said.

If voters approve the measure, the total general operating millage to fund schools would rise to 41.4 mills.

Should voters approve the increase, the owner of a house valued at \$90,000 would pay an extra \$8.75 per month or \$105 more per year. The owner of a \$70,000 house would pay an extra \$10 per month, or \$122 per year.

Cost is an additional \$11.67 per month or \$140 per year for the owner of an \$80,000 home, according to calculations by school officials.

ANTIQUE SHOW AND SALE

NOW THRU FEBRUARY 12

Over 45 antique dealers from across Michigan and throughout the Midwest will exhibit their wares and offer their service at the 11-day show. Thousands of items will be available, including oak and walnut furniture, and vintage clothing. Services including lamp and glass repair, furniture refinishing, phonograph repair and parts.

Admission is FREE, during all mall hours

Tel-Twelve Mall
 Telephone and Twelve Mile Roads, Southfield, 353-4111
 Featuring Crowley's, Montgomery Ward, Knart and 70 other stores and restaurants
 Mall Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10:00 - 9:00, Sun. Noon - 5:00

RED DOT SPECIAL WOMEN'S SHOES

TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **25% OFF**

ALREADY REDUCED FALL CLEARANCE FOOTWEAR



4 DAYS ONLY!
 ALL "RED DOT" SHOES AT EVEN GREATER SAVINGS


NUSRALA'S Name Brand Shoes

We put fashion in a box and a lid on prices.


Eleven Convenient Locations To Serve You.

Exquisite Kitchens and Baths That Excite The Senses



The Extraordinary Difference in Windows and Doors



Newmyer's

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM 669-3500

FULL SERVICE CONTRACTOR • FROM DESIGN TO COMPLETION

SHOWROOM:
 3081 Haggerty, Suite 1
 Walled Lake
 1/4 Mile North of Pontiac Trail

- BATHROOMS • KITCHENS
- PELLA WINDOWS • ADDITIONS
- DOORWALLS • SUNROOMS