21898 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024 Robert Sklar editor/477-5450

Parks and rec Planned use of acreage clear

AYOR Jean Fox may technically be right that a use hasn't been decided for the Jack Peltz property, southwest of Farmington Road and 1-896.

But we agree with councilman Terry Sever, who insists the Farmington Hills City Council bought the 27 acres for parks and recreation use.

bought the 27 acres for parks and recreation use. Whether the spring purchase stipulated parks and ree use became a point of disagreement at the joint city council-parks and recreation commission study session Jan. 29.

The city is interested in buying 45 adjacent acres, owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The \$800,000 purchase would be shared by a state parks and recreation land trust grant and the city.

Sever and city manager William Costick have long maintained that the two tracts would be Chribhined for parks and recreation use. All Ob-Strver stories about the Peltz land have mentioned parks and recreation as the anticipated use.

use.

The city even applied for the land trust grant using as a lever the intended parks and rec use of the adjacent Peltz acreage.

TO SUPPORT her belief that no commitment on use has been made, Fox cited the April 10 city

council minutes.

At that meeting, the council authorized the purchase of the land without actually specifying parks and rec use.

But the authorization indicated the money would come from special census funds, "hopefully to be paid back by the parks and recreation funds, upon the recommendation of the parks and recreation commission."

But we agree with councilman Terry Sever, who insists the Farmington Hills City Council bought the 27 acres for parks and recreation use.

We'd like to underscore that although the April vote strongly implied a parks and recreation use, the fact special census money was tapped up-front technically left the door open on land use, as Fox believes

But as we see it, the intended use was clear: parks and recreation.

orks and recreation.
"I never would have voted for it (the Peltz purchase) if it had been for anything else," said councilman Ben Marks Jan. 29 — a feeling we think other council members shared. A lot of uses, of course, can reflect a parks and

FOR EXAMPLE, we've long felt the city should consider the feasibility of selling 18 acres of the future 72-acre Peltz-MDOT site for a new Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington

Farmington Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library.

Still, it bears repeating that no specific uses for the Peltz land have been etched in stone. John Bailey, parks and ree board vice chair, put it well: "I think it's a little too early to decide what's going on that site. Let's leave that open."

In our view, open space, parkland, recreational uses, even a community activities center or a new library, are all possibilities for the 72 acres. None of these uses is incompatible with the others.

Fur flying to precede teachers' certification

Doc

Doyle

Q: There is talk that future teachers will have to be tested and nationally certified in order to teach. This sounds similar to what Certified Public Accountants and lawyers go through to enter their profession. As a teacher, I've heard talk of national certification many times over the years. Is this present movement for real? It sound good but do you think it will become a reality?

will be fur flying before the program is put in place by its target date of 1993.

100

A: Yes, For several reasons.
First, enough has been written regarding other countries ability to out perform our students in many subperform our students in many subpects areas i.e. science and math.
Whether it is the teachers' fault, the
parents' fault, administration or an
over-all societal problem is open to
debate. The lack of our students
being able to compete with other
countries, at least on standardized
tests, is a continuing national concern.

countries, at least on standardized tests, is a continuing national concern.

Second, the Carnegle Foundation along with the Du Pont and the Kerox corps, have funished \$50 million in "seed money" for the National Teachers Certification Committee to develop specific criteria, primarily a comprehensive teacher literacy and knowledge of their subject test. Another \$25 million for the certification program is working its way through Congress. Also a plan to charge each teacher \$35-\$50 to take the certification lest is built in to keep the program alive. So the antional teacher certification committee has money. and it takes mone consultational teacher certification and and any major change in Cachers president Albert Shanker was the leading force and indeed proposed the national teacher certification program in 1985. Both Shanker and his counterpart, Keth Gelger, president of the National Education. Association, have stated their support for a National Board for Teacher president Albert Gelger, president of the National Education Association, have stated their support for a National Board for Teacher and his counterpart, Keth Gelger, president of the National Education and the National Educatio

on this issue.

Finally, the National Teacher Certification Board is composed primarily of teachers with some administrators, university professors, citizens and business leaders included, So we have money, AFT and NEA support and a working committee dominated by teachers setting the new standards.

However, nothing is girnle, There

However, nothing is simple. There

course information to students. There are clearly identified and researched teaching strategies that any new nationally certified teacher best master before facing those seasoned adolescences who are looking for the weakness in a teachers' armor — especially new teachers. How many times have I heard, "Mr I XYZ really knows his subject too bad he can't teach. Obviously, the best case scenario is the teacher who has an indepth knowledge of his subject area and also knows how to teach.

Basically, the new certification

has an interpin anometage or answariget area and also knows how to teach.

Basically, the new certification criteria is the same as what teachers currently go through to earn feature—a commitment to students and the same commitment of the same control commitment of the same com

is jul in place by its larger date of 1933.

What are the problems?

A future teacher would not have to graduate from a college of education under this julian. A liberal arts college graduate with a major in mathwould be eligible to teach without going through the college of education. After three years of successful teaching the new teacher would be eligible for certification.

This is a slap in the face to every college of education in the United States that believes there is more to teaching children than having a major in a particular subject. For instance, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education met last fall and lis board of directors voted unanimously to reject the plant and the subject of the plant also be concerned that their classroom encolumnts could drop and result in many professor plnk-slips. Fewer students equates to fewer professors. In my view, knowledge of the content of note's major subject area is essential but teaching consists of more than simple regurgitating consists of more than simple regurgitating consists of more than simple regurgitating consists of the subject area is essential but teaching consists of more than simple regurgitating consists of the subject area is essential but teaching consists of the plant and the subject area is essential but teaching consists of the plant and the subject area is essential but teaching consists of the plant and the subject area is essential but teaching consists of the plant and the subject area is essential and the subject area

from our readers

Sever actions are appalling

To the editor:
I am appalled by the actions of Farmington Hills city councilman

Farmington Hills city councilman Terry Sever.

He is not our mayor. Jean Fox is. White Addo Vagnozzi pictures him-self as mayor in 1991, let us not und-ermine Terry Sever and his power base. In truth, Vagnozzi may get cheated.

We have seen what power can do for a person. Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit is a prime example. It's a "me first" type of scenario. When members of the city council take the oath of office, they pledge to do what's best for the city of Farmington Hills, not try to do what's best for the city of Farmington Hills, not try to do what's best for the city of Farmington Hills, not try to do what's best for themselves. They are supposed to uphold the city charter. Mr. Sever, during your private meetings, think about the oath you took and obligations you have to all of the residents.

know your government

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as

pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax information. The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Voters is a non profit organization that works to keep voters interested and informed about governmental issues.



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- monitor the fats in your diet,

- exercise regularly, learn to manage stress, and join St. Mary Hospital's

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