

'Park-watchers' endorse Hills tax proposal

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 dent of the Quaker Valley Homeowners Association.
 Like Derek and Lindhardt, Yockey doesn't plan to rest on his laurels if voters give their blessings to the tax request. He wants to make sure that a part of the Pelz acreage reserved April 8 for a new library doesn't fall to some other type of facility if voters in the future won't pay for a new, larger library.
 Lindhardt calls the city's intentions to buy a more than 90-acre sod farm on Eight Mile for ball and soccer fields as "the safety valve" that removed pressure to develop sports fields on Pelz-MDOT.

"If they follow the essence of their resolution and are committed to it, I would support the millage," Lindhardt said. "There's too many things in the millage that are good. I would feel guilty not voting on it."
 THE TURNAROUND of the three residents reaps high marks with city and parks officials, some who believe the residents' vocal concerns have taken too much of a high priority or been sensationalized by the Observer.
 Lindhardt and Derek are expected to join city officials at a press briefing on the parks and recreation tax 2 p.m. Monday, April 29 at the Visitors Center in Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile.

Mark Davis, immediate past president of Quaker Valley subdivision, west of Farmington Road, also has given his support for the tax proposal.
 "A former critic says go vote 'yes,'" Davis said. "There's been a lot of squabbles and a lot of compromises. They've reached a compromise over Pelz-MDOT. I hope people aren't swayed (in the election) by old news."
 While Lindhardt will support the tax proposal, he freely admits he still has some concerns about parks and recreation expenditures. That's particularly the case with Heritage

Park development and most recently with the renovation of the park's sheep barn into a day camp.
 Lindhardt has questioned the cost of some items such as stone wall repairs, outdoor sprinkling system at the visitors center and the purchase of vehicles with revenues from the previous five-year half-mill tax that expired July 1990.
 City manager William Costick and special services director Dan Potter

defended the expenses this week. "We've got bid documents for all of these," Costick said. Bids must be taken on anything that costs more than \$3,000.
 THE PURCHASE of vehicles were necessary to maintain the parks as well as improve sports fields and it's not inappropriate to use parks and recreation millage money, a ballfields, Costick and Potter said.
 "Rather than have taxpayers pay for these things through the general fund, it's appropriate to fund it with parks and recreation millage," Potter said.
 That's also going to be the case for maintenance costs for new ball and

soccer fields developed in the next eight years if voters approve the tax.
 "The expense of maintenance will be part of the millage money," Costick said.
 Potter and Costick also defended the cost of renovating the former Eleanor Spicer house, now the visitors center, and taking care of the asbestos problem in the house.
 "We took the low bidder on the restoration and abatement contracts," Potter said. "I don't think people realize how complicated that work (asbestos abatement) was. The restoration of the building includes new walls, new rooms, new carpeting, new plumbing and new electrical work."

City not rock-solid on purpose of concrete slab

By Joanne Mallezewski staff writer

Some call a slab of concrete in Heritage Park not far from Farmington Road an outdoor classroom. Some call it an amphitheater or a stage. What to call the eight-foot-wide slab has been a bone of contention.
 "It will function as both an outdoor classroom and a stage," said Dan Potter, Farmington Hills special services director. And he says

that's the bottom line. Residents at presentations by city officials and members of the Say Yes to Parks committee say they have been confused over the purpose of the concrete slab.
 Committee chairman Mike Horner, a parks and recreation commissioner, assured the Observer the concrete was solely for an outdoor classroom and never to be used for concerts. But Potter Monday said that's not the case.
 The concrete slab that some residents claim is three feet deep but

which city officials say is only six inches deep, will be used as an assembly area for day campers, outdoor education classes, concerts,

dance recitals and even puppet shows.
 "We've never had any complaints about our concerts," Potter said.

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