

Farmington Observer

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Group to hire wetlands consultant

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The Peltz-MDOT ad hoc committee just isn't ready to give a thumbs up or down on a proposed plan to replace wetlands from the 12 Mile Road boulevard project on about 16-18 acres of the city-owned Peltz-MDOT.

"We would be making a decision in ignorance," said ad hoc chairman Mark Davis Thursday.

So the committee will seek proposals from consultants who can help members understand what the acreage, south of I-696, west of Farmington Road, offers as well as an evaluation of the proposed wetlands replacement plan.

"I think the worst thing we can make tonight is a decision," said Farmington Hills assistant city manager David Call. "I think we need to take some time. Time pressures don't hit us until February."

THE CITY has been awarded a \$3.6 million grant to help build the second estimated 37 million one-mile boulevard stretch from Halsted to Haggerty Roads. Wetlands also extend into the third mile-long stretch between Drake and Halsted roads slated for construction later.

Before the boulevard project can be bid — with construction targeted for March — the city must obtain a permit to replace the wetlands, which comprise about 4.5 acres along the thoroughfare.

"If we don't obtain a permit in December, we're probably dead in the water," Call said. The permit, he said, is expected to come through within two weeks.

The plan can be changed by sending an amendment to the permit. But it must be done by February in order to keep the 12 Mile project on schedule.

I personally will not be intimidated, rushed into or cajoled into making a decision on that property," said member Roy Lindhardt.

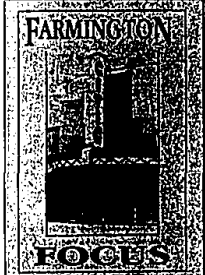
AN ENVIRONMENTAL planner, Todd Holloway of Pleasant Ridge, told the committee Thursday — after taking a 1 1/2-hour walk of the property — that the wetlands could have a positive impact on Peltz-MDOT if they

are done properly.

"It's a fairly good plan on face value," Holloway said of the city's proposed wetlands replacement plan. But Holloway warned that the committee — based on information gathered about Peltz-MDOT — would have to decide whether the wetlands are good for the property.

He also disagreed with other city consultants who said the proposed wetlands on Peltz-MDOT would be ponds. Holloway said they would be ponds for about 1 1/2 years. The wetlands would become marshes filled with cattails, Holloway said.

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YOUTH CENTER
The youth center will be on display in the Oak Room of the library, 23401 Liberty, Farmington, through Dec. 2.

A member of many local and national clubs and societies, numerous awards. She also has a one-woman show at Mario's Restaurant in Ann Arbor.

Benda's Farmington Hills residents teach watercolor painting day nights in the City Hall Gallery in Dearborn. She will be teaching a similar class at Livonia's Bentley High School as part of the adult education program.

EVER WONDER
about William W. Jones' class on 12 Mile Road and W. 12 Mile Road? The class will be held on Dec. 2, at the campus, 20700 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. The class is presented by the North Central Association, offers degrees in 20 majors, including Biblical Studies, business administration, counseling psychology, cross-cultural studies, early childhood care and education studies.

For more information, call the college at 553-7300.



Snakes alive!

Barb Abrahamian, a fourth-grade teacher at Eagle Elementary School in the Farmington District, sits in the corner — far away from the python snake being admired by students, including Katherin Leik (foreground). Some animals you necessarily wouldn't want as pets were big hits with the Eagle youngsters Thursday. For a story and more photos, please see page 3A.

Fox ousted from panel

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Former Farmington Hills councilwoman Jean Fox wanted to continue serving on the ad hoc Peltz-MDOT committee. But it's not going to happen.

Mayer Aldo Vagnozzi, who recommended her appointment to the committee as a non-voting member, and councilman Terry Sever stood alone against the remaining five council members who would not support a motion to consider her appointment.

"I am withdrawing this motion. I'm not going to give the five of you a chance to vote it down," Vagnozzi said.

Councilman Ben Marks led the opposition to Fox's appointment to the 15-member committee on which she served as council liaison before her term expired earlier this month. She did not seek re-election to the council.

Marks made it clear he was not pleased with Fox's comments about city officials' role in how a plan to replace wetlands from the 12 Mile boulevard to the MDOT property came about in closed council meetings.

"I was appalled by the unfounded allegations and innuendos that came forward from Mrs. Fox. I was appalled by the unprovoked attack on Mr. Costick and the attack on his integrity," Marks said.

I'm not going to give the five of you a chance to vote it down!
— Aldo Vagnozzi

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Postal probe aided by Harris

By Susan Buck
staff writer

As early as six months ago, Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris, on an extended sick leave for work-related stress, had been assisting U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion, in investigating the U.S. Postal Service, according to a Broomfield aide.

"He's been helpful in getting us clues and tips about where to look," said Jack Sinclair, Broomfield's administrative aide.

But Harris has been reluctant to talk publicly about post office problems, Sinclair said.

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Post office problems came to light after Tom McIlvane, a distraught former mail carrier, shot dead five people and injured several others Nov. 15 in the Royal Oak Post Office.

Interested residents are invited to attend a 7:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday in Farmington Hills City Council chambers to meet with Detroit Edison representatives about power outages.

"They are kind of representing the customers," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi about the 15-member committee of residents who will meet to discuss concerns with the utility.

The committee was formed following an open meeting with the city council, residents and Detroit Edison representatives in September. The September meeting followed a Michigan Public Service Commission public hearing after a July 7

Edison airs power outage problems

thunderstorm that caused power outages — some for almost a week — in the community.

In preparation for Tuesday's meeting, Maurice Vermeulen, manager of the Detroit Edison Oakland division, presented the city with a report containing responses to questions asked by the city council and residents.

TOPICS IN Vermeulen's response cover Edison's priority system for hospitals and nursing homes — during power outages — utility crews response times, underground wiring, and a system for notifying the city when power outages occur.

"One of the first items discussed

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Happy couple

Harry and Helen Greenlee of Farmington are all smiles after discussing their 67 years of marriage with a reporter recently. Both are 88 years of age. For a story about the Greenlees and more photos, please turn to Page 6A.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

MEMORY LANE — From the Nov. 29, 1991, Farmington Enterprise.

From the Around the Block column: "Deer stories are coming thick and fast as more and more hunters return from the fall timbers with tall stories. Not that we dispute a one of them, not on your life. We take them as we get them and don't even raise an eyebrow. The only thing that bothers us a little is that we haven't seen as many draped over car fenders as usual."

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 2150 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan 48334, or dropped off at the paper office.