

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

## School board ups price in land deal

By LYNN ORR

The Farmington School District soon may be unloading 20 acres of property—if a prospective buyer accepts the school board's counteroffer. Although the board rejected a purchase offer at last week's meeting, the building and sites committee was directed to prepare a counteroffer for prospective buyer Jay Ross, who represents Herman Ross Associates, a real estate development firm in Farmington Hills.

The property under consideration consists of 20 acres west of Franklin Hills Country Club and bordered by Northwestern, Inster, Middlebelt and Fourteen Mile. The property was purchased in 1968 for \$200,000 as a site for a junior high. The site proved too expensive to level as a school site, and Warner Junior High was eventually built on Fourteen Mile, east of Northwestern, according to Business Mgr. William Prisk.

School officials would not reveal the present selling price of the land, but Trustee Gary Lichtman told the board he thought Ross' offer was a good one to reject offers." Lichtman said. "This property is not productive to the Farmington School District." Trustee Michael Spicce agreed with Lichtman and proposed an amendment to the rejection proposal directing the building and sites com-

mittee to prepare a counteroffer before June 21. Some of the clauses in Ross' offer, notably a zoning approval clause, must be cleared up before the sale can be negotiated, Spicce said. The purchase offer was contingent on a zoning approval clause which can be negotiated, according to Herman Ross, father of the prospective buyer. "We own 600 feet of frontage on Northwestern, and we're going ahead

with development," Ross said. "The buyer wants to rezone the property from single dwelling to a combination of office and multiple housing. "You're losing \$2,000 a month in interest," Herman Ross told the board at last week's meeting. He was willing to negotiate the sale at the meeting. Lichtman told Ross the sale could not be negotiated without legal advice. Prisk warned that the sale of land could not be used to restore or imple-

ment new curriculum changes. Because the property was purchased in 1968 with bonded money (funds raised through the sale of bonds), any funds generated by the sale must be restored to the building and maintenance accounts, according to Prisk. "This money cannot be used for operations by law," Prisk said. The money could be used for capital improvements such as repairing roofs or to pay off bonds acquired over the years for building purposes.

## Student scholar reaps top academic accolade

By LYNN ORR

Presidential Scholar Stewart Henderson of Farmington Hills recently completed a 20-page study of the Detroit gang problem because he wanted to know why kids got into the situation. "I don't wonder anymore—everything is against them. For me, I've had all the breaks," says the 18-year-old Detroit Country Day School senior.

"Like in fifth grade, I wrote some funny stories and read them to the class," he explains. "The kids laughed, and that's all I needed to get me going."

Henderson has been writing ever since—short stories and poems that won the Detroit Country Day School Spring Memorial award for best English student in 1976; an honorable mention from the National Council of Teachers of English; and certificates of commendation, merit and honorable mention from the Detroit News Scholastic awards.

His academic achievements have captured the 1977 certificate of recognition for outstanding academic achievement for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship program; a \$1,000 scholarship from Chrysler Corp. as a National Merit Scholarship finalist; a certificate award for high school students from the Detroit Association of Phi Beta Kappa; and the most recent honor of being named one of 121 Presidential Scholars in the nation.

Established in 1964, the Presidential Scholars Program honors students who have been nominated on the strength of college admission test scores. The winners are selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars who require essays from the nominated students.



STEWART HENDERSON

The list of the senior's achievements is mind-boggling, but they don't seem to impress Henderson, who could step into Robert Redford's role in "The Way We Were" on appearance alone.

"Studying has always come easy to me so I don't talk about my grades," says the tall teenager. His athletic achievements draw considerably more comment. "I was a little brain in seventh and eighth grade—everything I did was right, and I thought I was wonderful," he reminisces. Soccer was his commonplace.

"That was the first time I failed at anything and I was crushed—but it was an important blow and taught me a lot."

Describing himself as a clumsy youngster, CDCS staff encouraged him to get involved in athletics.

"I really had to work for track," he says, and his efforts placed him third in the high and low hurdles in regional competition last year. He's also been a three-year varsity letterman on the soccer team.

"I'll never be an individual athletic star, but I can help the team," he says.

And teamwork marks some of his other interests including the drama club, chorus and yearbook staff.

"Country Day encourages you to do a lot of things," he says. And although he has no public school comparison, he's satisfied overall with his private school education.

"It's hard not to do well at Country Day. The kids care about learning and the teachers care about the students. If you're going to stay there for

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## New look on main street

The northeast corner of Grand River and Farmington Road had a facelift recently when the

corner's shop received a once over. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Waack on the wild side at the old pub

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Waack's Bar sits near the fork in Grand River that offers drivers a choice between going through the center of Farmington or breezing down the freeway to Lansing. For 44 years, it's been attracting drivers who want that last cold drink before hitting the road.

Its tattered brick and glass facade also has been a gathering place for the neighborhood to trade jokes and gossip between drinks served by bartender James Spencer Holland.

Between the neighborhood trader, travelers and an occasional customer with a quick and violent temper, Waack's has managed to accrue a mottled reputation in a town that prides itself on neat-as-a-pin subdivisions and rambling old homes. To its regulars, Waacks is the home away from home of its manager Louis "Beaver" Waack, 23.

Beaver is at home in the bar that his father established in 1933. His mother spent 23 years managing the business. During his last years at Harrison High School, he split his time between school, football and helping out at the bar.

"I LOVE THE bar business," he said, as he sat among the regulars and nursed one of his six daily cans of Coca-Cola.

"You meet a lot of down-to-earth people. You get your suit and tie people in here, construction workers, all sorts. There aren't any fakes here. If we're a close knit club here, if someone's low on bucks, we give them a couple of bucks," he said.

## Police give tips on home protection

Slides, tapes and demonstrations of different types of locks and methods of self defense will be part of an evening with the Farmington Hills Police at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. Twelve Mile, May 25.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. with a demonstration and slide show about burglary prevention by Lt. Richard Niemi of the Farmington Hills Police.

Officer Linda Harris of the juvenile and investigative sections will give a slide and tape presentation on personal protection for women.

Pt. Richard Murphy of the juvenile and investigative staff will talk about child predators. There will be a question and answer period.

"There aren't any fakes here. We're a close-knit clique. If someone's low on bucks, we give them a couple of bucks."

—Louis 'Beaver' Waack

Evenings will find Leslie, Barbara and John Chaston enjoying the drinks and the jokes at the corner of the oval-shaped bar that dominates the interior. Country-western or rock music drones out of the jukebox against the wall while a pool table sits silent until the next time someone reaches for a cue stick.

"It's all jokes, here. That's all it is—jokes," said Leslie Chaston as she gave her father a daughterly punch in the ribs.

The crew around the bar urges Beaver to give them a free round. He leans against the serving counter near the stoves and considers the requests with an amused grin. Everyone at the bar knows he'll give in before the evening's over.

"You always give a free round on Thursday," came a persuasive voice. Beaver chuckles and remains silent while Spence collects money from a new man at the bar.

"HE'S REAL nice," said Barbara Chaston, almost over her shoulder. Her blonde hair remains motionless as she continues. "One time at Christmas when I was a barmaid here, Beaver took me out for dinner. He let John give me a hand while I was gone. She nods toward Chaston, who is the mildest of carrying on a private joke between the regulars in the cool, dimly lit bar.

Some evenings are less peaceful than others at the place, but Beaver insists that the bar's poor reputation is undeserved.

"We shouldn't have a bad reputation. We have run our mill guys here. There are some hard guys but mostly the people are here to have a good time," he said.

For a while, the bar was a hangout for motorcycle clubs. The bikers helped to give the place a bad name, Beaver contends.

"The clubs never looked for trouble but when a guy went up to a biker after the day's ride and said he didn't like the club's colors, well, they'd get into a fight," he said.

"We still get lone bikers in here. They're fine." After putting up with fights, watchful police eyes and a shouting incident, the Waacks are getting out of the bar business.

"I'm 23 and this is all I know—the bar business," said Beaver, a maverick

print shirt hanging out over his blue polyester pants. "I WANT to try something else. Maybe establish a child care center," he said.

He realizes the regulars will miss him. "One of our regulars used to say that if we go out of business, they'd have to close down Farmington. But I imagine that the police will be glad to see us go out of business."

One of the occupational hazards he'll leave behind in August when the family sells the bar is the challenge of

figuring out if some of his young patrons are presenting a legitimate identification card.

"Fake ID is easy to come by," he admits. "You look at the hair on the drivers license and the name and if it looks like the person, you serve him. That's all you can do."

He knows most of the residents in the bar's neighborhood and knows the parents of some of his younger customers.

He looks around the bar as the song on the juke box changes. Leslie Chaston slips off her bar stool and they begin their imitation of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dancing around the small kitchen area.

"I'm a 230-pound Fred Astaire," Beaver chuckles.

"Then looking up he calls to Spence, who has yet to smile that evening. "HEY, SPENCE give them a round," he orders, grinning while he tries to put on a smiling voice.

## Legislature mandates '77 school census

In compliance with a new procedure in the Michigan State School Code, the Farmington School District will begin the district-wide census this month at a cost of \$5,000.

The recording of the name, age and address of every child under 16 years of age and every handicapped person under 26 years of age.

The census will attempt to determine the name, age and address of every child under 16 years old and every handicapped person under 26.

The census will be developed through kindergarten round-up surveys—surveys sent home with stu-

dents in all schools as well as parochial and private schools located in the district; and a telephone survey follow-up, according to Supt. Lewis Schulman.

The census must be taken every two years in odd-numbered years, according to the recent legislative mandate. School district officials had hoped the census could be postponed but were "informally notified" that such postponement would not be allowed.

Trustee Gary Lichtman suggested that a letter be sent to the legislature asking for funding of mandated requirements in the future.

## Reddy to manage O&E Newspapers

John W. Reddy, formerly executive editor of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has been promoted to general manager of the 12-newspaper group.

Announcement of the promotion was made by Richard D. Agnina, executive vice-president and chief executive officer of the parent company, Suburban Communications Corp.

John Reddy is one of the country's outstanding talents in the suburban and community newspaper field," Agnina said. "His commitments to community service, to editorial excellence and to rigorous managerial integrity make him the ideal choice to lead our newspapers in the metropolitan Detroit area."

In his new role, Reddy will assume overall management direction of the twice-weekly newspapers as well as the group's commercial and typesetting operations.

REPORTING TO Reddy will be Steve Barnaby, editor of the Observer, and his staff located at 22170 W. Nine Mile, Southfield. Their responsibilities will continue to be to put out the best newspaper possible to meet the needs of the Farmington community and its residents, Agnina said. They can be reached at 352-5400.

Also reporting to Reddy will be O&E Advertising Director Arthur Langer, Circulation Director Fred J. Wright, Manufacturing Manager Alex Dawalt and Controller Ron Corbin.

Reddy was editor of the Birmingham Eccentric from 1966-72, when he became publisher of SOCC's newspaper group in Cincinnati, Ohio. Queen City Suburban Press. He returned to metropolitan Detroit in 1975 to become exec-

utive editor of the Observer & Eccentric group.

A resident of Bloomfield Township with his wife, Joan, and their four children.



JOHN W. REDDY  
O&E general manager

Reddy was born in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois, graduating in 1960 with a degree in communications.

HE IS ACTIVE in community groups in the Birmingham area and is a former member of the board of directors of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.

"My major objective is to continue to keep these newspapers at the service of their communities, to keep them relevant and important in the every day lives of their readers, and to maintain an environment in which each community's editor and staff can respond directly to the needs of their communities," Reddy said.

### inside

Community Calendar 6B  
Editorial Opinion, News, Sports, Suburban Life Classifieds Section A

HOLIDAY DEADLINES  
Due to the Memorial Day Weekend, deadlines for the Monday, May 30 issue of the paper will be earlier than usual. Display advertising and news copy must be in by Thursday, May 26, and Classified Ads can be placed until 4 p.m., Friday. Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, and your paper will be delivered Tuesday, May 31. Have a happy and safe holiday.

Section A  
Section B  
Section C