

# Christy blasts housing board conduct

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

Farmington Hills Housing Commissioner Bernard Christy has accused that board's chairman, Tom Czubiak, of running a one-man show and cutting off members who disagree with Czubiak's view on senior citizen zoning.

Christy made the accusation this week after seeing a coupon in the June 23 edition of the Farmington Observer asking residents to respond to senior citizen housing needs.

"The first time I saw that questionnaire was in the newspaper. That's been the problem, I'm a member of the Housing Commission yet I'm finding out what the commission is doing through the newspaper like everyone else," said Christy.

He also accused Czubiak of holding a session with Housing Commissioner Jan Dolan and Assistant to the City Manager Mike Dornn to revise a questionnaire sent to senior citizens without notifying him.

"The questionnaire mailed out to the senior citizens wasn't anything like the one we had agreed upon in the housing commission meeting," said Christy.

CHRISTY ALSO charged Czubiak with telling him to keep quiet his opposition to the majority opinion of the housing commission when Commissioners appeared before the Planning Commission.

"I was practically told to keep my mouth shut. As a matter of fact I was told to keep my mouth shut," said Christy.

**"The Housing Commission is highly ineffective. The interest of the entire city isn't being taken into consideration. We have a two-factor commission."**

—Bernard Christy

Czubiak disagreed with Christy's interpretation of events over the last few months, saying he welcomes dissent and that Christy has been informed of all meetings to be conducted by the Housing Commission.

"It's absolutely untrue that I'm shutting him out. Differing opinions don't bother me," said Czubiak.

"Anybody can express his opinion," said Czubiak.

Presenting a united front before the Planning Commission was the point he was trying to get across to Christy, said Czubiak.

"We shouldn't go in and make jackasses of ourselves. We didn't want to go in with a couple of members opposed to the majority plan. We would be much more effective as a body," said Czubiak.

The disagreement came when the

Housing Commission presented its study of senior citizen housing zoning, RCE-1 and RCE. Under the RCE proposal senior citizen housing would be allowed to be built with a maximum height of 30 feet. The RCE-1 called for a maximum of 60 feet. Christy, while in favor of senior citizen housing, says he wants to keep out what he considers highrise, RCE-1.

"I'm all in favor of senior citizen housing. But I'm opposed to highrise. I want to see the best type of housing available for the senior citizens," said Christy.

But recent actions by Czubiak has discouraged Christy and he says he is about ready to "throw in the towel."

"The Housing Commission is highly ineffective. The interest of the entire

city isn't being taken into consideration. We have a two-factor commission," said Christy.

Christy says the majority of the commission is attempting to establish "unrealistic" requirements for senior citizen housing.

ALTHOUGH the Housing Commission is set to meet with the Planning Commission on July 7 to discuss the results of the two questionnaires, Christy says he hadn't been notified of the meeting and questioned why a meeting hadn't been scheduled for the Housing Commission before that time to discuss the questionnaire results.

Czubiak, who was contacted Tuesday evening, said a meeting has been set for next week and that Christy would be notified.

# Farmington Observer

Volume 83 Number 71 Thursday, June 23, 1977 Farmington, Michigan 64 Pages Twenty-Five Cents

## School closes after 28 years

# Fond farewell bid to Ten Mile

By LYNN ORR

Ten Mile Elementary School lost its personality this week.

The structure is still there at 32789 Ten Mile near Farmington Road, but classrooms look a lot bigger and bareer when they're missing the essential elements—kids, teachers, desks and all the paraphernalia that accompanies learning and teaching.

Because of declining enrollment, the Farmington Board of Education closed Ten Mile's doors. And although staff members admit they were well prepared for the finale, it was still a melancholy time.

"It's a much sadder experience than I imagined," says Principal Wallace Prince, who completed his eighth year at the 28-year-old school.

"We've had so many visitors the last few weeks—people who had gone to the school and wanted one last look. And many of the people had children here for 20 years or so."

For Julie Hawlik, a teacher at Ten Mile for the last nine years, the sight of piled desks and chairs and halls littered with boxes and equipment was a sad one.

"This is just terrible seeing it like this," she says.

BUT THE disintegration of a staff is a more traumatic experience than the sight of a bare-bones building, she adds.

"Everyone knew each other here, and a lot of the teachers were personal friends," she explains. "By far, this is the most cohesive staff that I've worked with," she adds. And her teaching experience extends to four states.

Prince echoes her sentiments. "The staff had been together for a long time," he says, adding that the teacher with the least amount of tenure had been at Ten Mile for eight years.

"It's a real relief to get it over."

The transition for both students and staff members has been eased by administrative preparation, Mrs. Hawlik adds.

"The administration this year really did a better job in making the move smooth for all of us," she says. "They listed positions as well as grade levels, and all of us selected from the list. Mr. Coleman (Personnel Director Robert Coleman) made us aware that he was considering all of our feelings."

All the Ten Mile staff members have been reassigned to schools for the fall, which eliminated an uncertain summer. Mrs. Hawlik explains. She will be moving to Middlebelt Elementary along with Principal who will serve as Middlebelt's principal.

Surveying her piles of boxes, Carolyn McQuiggen, fourth grade teacher, says "It's grim," but she's looking forward to her assignment at Larkshire Elementary.

"I've been thinking I should open a museum," she said, as she scanned the crate-filled classroom.

THE DISTRICT'S reading services offices, formerly housed at Ten Mile, will also be moved—to the second floor of the old Farmington Junior High, according to secretary Betty Hebel, a four-year Ten Mile staffer.

Ms. Hebel agreed that the moving had been smoothly handled, but she expressed the sentiments of many that she would have liked the district to supply boxes.

"We've been begging for them," Mrs. Hawlik says.

Flanders, Larkshire, Alameda, and Middlebelt Elementary Schools will be absorbing former Ten Mile students next fall. Those students visited their new schools over the last month in specially scheduled night visits so parents and students could have an opportunity to see next fall's classrooms.

"The transition for the students was very smooth," Prince says.

As the district's maintenance employees clear out the last of the school's equipment this week, the structure's future remains questionable.



Ten Mile Elementary School staff Carolyn McQuiggen (left) and Julie Hawlik pack up supplies for the last time. The school was closed at the end of this school year. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Farmington wins insurance break

City of Farmington residents will get an average 10 to 12 per cent reduction in their homeowners' and fire insurance premiums because of an upgrading in the city's insurance classification, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

The good news came this week after the Michigan Insurance Services Office completed its inspection of the community's fire protection services. Before the inspection, the city had a Class Seven rating. The rating has been upgraded to a Class Five.

Only one other city in Michigan with a public safety department, Oak Park, has the same rating. In both communities personnel have both police and fire duties.

"The rate sheet indicates that homeowners policies may be reduced by 6.4 per cent, and fire insurance on dwelling units may be reduced by 18.1 per cent. We believe we may expect an average rate reduction for most homeowners of ten to twelve per cent," said Deadman at this week's city council session.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS expect that a typical \$30,000 home with a \$50 deductible policy which cost \$105 annually under the old class, will have a premium of \$93, or an 11.4 per cent saving, under the new rating.

"Based on our estimates of the insured value of residential buildings in our city, the savings premiums would be approximately \$50,000 a year. We believe this is a substantial saving for city property owners," said Deadman.

He urged homeowners to contact their insurance agents to see that poli-

cies are updated to reflect the decrease in rates.

"The improved fire rating was a direct result of special attention to the fire fighting needs of the public safety department by the city council by providing improved equipment, additional manpower and proper enforcement codes."

"We believe that the expenditures necessary to bring about this improvement will be offset by the reduced fire insurance rates," he said.

The report issued by the Insurance Services Office says that the city has made major changes since the last inspection in March 1963.

The city's water supply system has been improved by the booster pump capacity provided by the Detroit Metro Water System. Also, the western portion of the city is now supplied by the Oakland County System, adding more fire protection.

The Public Safety Department has been improved with the addition of a new 1,250-gallon triple-combination pumper, an elevated stream device and an improved reserve fire fighters organization, said Deadman.

"Our communications system has been improved by equipping each public safety officer and reserve fire fighter with a radio monitor at home. Our fire safety control has been improved by the adoption of new building, electrical and fire prevention codes."

Deadman lauded Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes and Building Inspector Jay Harrison for contributing to the upgrading of the rating which is now better than many larger cities with full-time fire departments.

## Commuter counters Alaskan myths

By LYNN ORR

Anthony Matzdorf may have the longest commute to work of any Farmington resident.

As the general manager of Venture Services, Ltd., a Southfield-based group of companies, he's spent the past 1 1/2 years in Valdez, Alaska. And in that capacity, he's been commuting

the nearly 3,000 air mile trip between Metropolitan Airport and the ice-free port of Valdez, where the 800 mile, \$7.7 billion Alaskan pipeline will deposit black gold to awaiting oil tankers.

For the 37-year-old native New Yorker, managing the housing and services Valdez operations has been a challenge, which is why he agreed to take the job in the first place.

"It wasn't the call of the wild," says Matzdorf, who moved to the Detroit area 10 years ago to work for Ford Motor Company.

"It was a unique business and management challenge."

Venture Services was formed basically to provide housing prior to the pipeline's start-up, but the workload was so strong the company became a housing and catering contractor to Alyeska, the pipeline conglomerate of eight oil companies.

MATZDORF doesn't particularly like getting involved with the controversy swirling around the expense and environmental questions of the pipeline, but he disagrees with some of the critics.

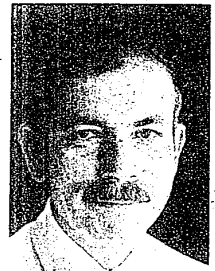
"You've got to put inefficiencies and costs in proportion," he says. "They'd never build anything like this across a wilderness with incredible environmental pressures. It's my opinion that there will be no inherent rift in the prices when the oil reaches California."

Because his company houses many Valdez residents in addition to pipeline workers, Matzdorf had the opportunity seldom afforded to other persons to get acquainted with local and native Alaskans, a distinction he pointedly emphasizes.

"Native Alaskans consist of Eskimos and Indians, while I refer to local Alaskans as those from the lower 48 who've made the state their home," he explains. "They are inherently cautious of people that came just to earn a fortune and leave; but if you develop respect for their way of life, they'll respect you."

Misconceptions about the Alaskan way of life have multiplied in the media since the pipeline's beginnings, Matzdorf says, and he is annoyed with persons who visit for a few days and draw erroneous conclusions.

"Alaska is a very civilized place," he contends. "It's inhabited on a long-term basis by people who really didn't want to or couldn't deal with society in the lower 48. That's how they refer



ANTHONY MATZDORF

to the rest of the U.S., and they feel very independent."

Alcoholism is a state-wide problem, he says, for two reasons. The native Alaskans have been thrown into a white society with white vices; and the isolation in the interior—no TV and erratic mail delivery—result in a turn to drink.

For the average Alaskan, however, alcoholism problems parallel those in the states—high, but not the over-pouring figures often cited, Matzdorf says.

One of the few frustrations he encountered was taped news, usually a two-week delay from Seattle. "The association with the lower 48 is delayed, and that's a frustration. I don't like getting my news that late."

He wasn't able to indulge in some of his favorite pastimes—sailing and watching hockey—but he settled into a normal existence with ease, he says.

Since Valdez is surrounded by mountains and the sea and pilots must navigate a course through a mountain pass, getting snowed in sometimes (Continued on page 7A)

## Bike mishap kills Farmington youth

Relatives and friends gathered yesterday at the funeral of Linda Marie Kitch of Farmington Hills, who was fatally injured in a bike accident Sunday evening.

Miss Kitch, 12, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kitch of 3630 Hidden Valley Ct., died early Monday morning in Charles Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor as a result of the accident.

Miss Kitch, who would have celebrated her 13th birthday in August, was a Dunek Junior High School student.

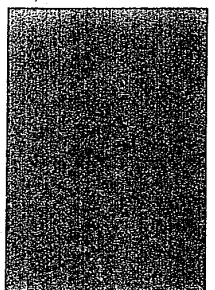
The Kitch family was attending a graduation party in Ann Arbor at the time of the accident, according to her sister Michelle.

Miss Kitch and three of her cousins were attempting to cross the Eisenhower Parkway at the State School Rd. intersection on bicycles when the accident occurred.

The driver of the car and seven witnesses said the youngsters were crossing the street against the traffic light. The driver was able to avoid all the bicyclists except Miss Kitch, officers said.

She was taken to University Hospital and transferred to Walter Reuther Hospital where she died at 4:15 a.m., June 20, according to police.

An 11:30 a.m. mass was said yes-



LINDA MARIE KITCH

terday at St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills and arrangements were made by McCabe Funeral Home.

Surviving are her parents Richard and Marcie; sisters Michelle, 19, and Marcia, 16; brother Paul, 11; paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kitch of Detroit; and maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spring of Detroit.

**inside**

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