

Farmington Observer Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 83 Thursday, August 12, 1976 Farmington, Michigan 56 Pages Twenty Five Cents



Summer fun

Twelve-year-old Don Cortez, (left) and 4-year-old Kevin Herst are spending some summer time in a Bible school where all the children are asked to wear costumes. The story of "Shalom, Freedom and Christ" is told in today's Farmington Life section. (Staff photo by Harry Mauth)

Progress is visible as Hills nears goals

By RON GARENSKI

Attaining set goals is often a difficult task to accomplish and back in January, many city residents sat back to watch how their local government would handle itself during 1976.

At that time, the Farmington Hills City Council mapped out its major goals for the coming year, listing human rescue improvements as one of its prime objectives.

In the seven months that passed, the city hired a new fire chief and began to improve its emergency medical service during the daylight hours.

In addition to five newly hired full-time firefighters, who will be trained as emergency medical technicians (EMTs), the Hills Volunteer Fire Department joined forces with several other area departments and designed a program which will train 18 volunteers as EMTs.

This program is slated to begin Sept. 21 at Bedford General Hospital with emergency room specialists at the facility conducting classroom and clinical instruction.

Also on the council's priority list was maintaining local department assistance at all medical emergencies. This has been accomplished and the city also entered into an agreement with the Farmington Hills Ambulance Co. to provide around-the-clock protection when the city volunteers were either working or occupied elsewhere.

THE CITY'S CONTRACT with the ambulance company, expiring June 30, but ambulance service still is provided by the private company.

Another major factor that will improve the medical protection in the community by the department is the training of about 50 volunteers to become licensed ambulance attendants.

The city administration and council have made innuendos into the problems that have troubled officials in the area of human rescue, while at the same time resolving conflicts that existed.

One example of this was the controversy between the council and the volunteers over the hiring of the Farmington Hills Ambulance Co. Another was the internal problems within the Farmington Hills Public Safety Department that eventually resulted in the hiring of the new fire chief.

The city apparently has coped with these problems and seems to be handling the present situation adequately, yet much still remains to be considered. These matters in-

clude the possibility of hiring a full-time fire department and expanding fire-fighting equipment and facilities.

In the second major area of concern for the city council, the upgrading of the 1973 master storm drainage plan for the city is well underway.

The council passed a resolution on June 14 that levied taxes to pay for the construction of four major storm drain projects.

THESE NEW SYSTEMS will cost the city approximately \$1.3 million with construction on each beginning during the next several months.

While these new projects will ease the potential for flooding conditions and increase the rate of storm water removal, the city still has to solve problem areas such as the Westbrook and Kendallwood subdivisions where storm water overflow causes serious basement and street flooding.

The third major area of importance for (Continued on page 2A)



What a bike

A Farmington Hills police officer shows off one of the motorcycles owned by the department to Jim Pierce (seated on motorcycle) and Gilbert Higuera. (Staff photo)

A \$1,365 road tax

Residents air concern over paving

The decision is final. And whether the residents of the Springbrook Subdivision in Farmington Hills like it or not, their streets will be paved.

That means for each of the 267 homeowners in the residential community, they will be assessed \$1,365.15 plus eight per cent interest over the next 10 years for each standard size lot they own. The first payment due this year will be \$136.50 per lot.

The Hills City Council started the ball moving Tuesday evening when it approved a resolution 5-0 after a public hearing on the road improvement project attended by more than 200 concerned residents.

Council members Joanne Smith and Earl Oppenheimer were absent at Tuesday's meeting.

The resolution gives city tax collectors the okay to levy a special assessment on the Springbrook dwellers in the amount of \$267,500 for supplying the subdivision's new gravel roads.

This figure includes all costs of the project, including engineering, construction, drainage and bonding. It also has "some financial cushion included" that will cover any unexpected costs, city officials say.

AS SEVERAL RESIDENTS voiced concern over the cost of the project, assessing the subdivision's small park sparked objections from some Springbrook home owners.

This controversy was settled when the council decided to accept the city assessor's recommendation that members of the subdivision's homeowners association pick up the \$1,365 tab.

"Not everyone in the subdivision belongs to the association," said council member Joan Dudley. "Though they don't pay for the small park, they still could use it. The benefit of the lot is derived by all people in the subdivision."

While council member Dudley offered this comment to the board for discussion, Mayor Keith Deacon said: "All those who belong to the association should be assessed for the lot. Those who don't, shouldn't."

That statement was the ultimate verdict of the council as they voted to have the association pay the extra charge for the small park.

City engineers and officials claim the asphalt pavement will last at least 10 years. Should it need repairs, the city will make those repairs and charge the cost to its road improvement fund.

The new asphalt surface will be laid over the community's existing street base and will raise the pavement height 11 inches, with eight inches of new base and three inches of asphalt.

"WE CAN'T GUARANTEE how long this surface will last," City Manager George Majoros told the residents. "But based on our past experience in our city, when we say it should last about 10 years or more, that's a fair estimate on our part."

City officials also reassured residents concerned about future resurfacing and potential problems that the city has discussed the Ten Mile drainage ditch near the subdivision with county officials. Something will be done to correct any problems at the site before pavement construction begins, officials said.

Farmington Hills plans to advertise for bids on the project soon and hopes to begin construction by the last week of September or the first week of October. If the project can't be completed before adverse weather sets in, the city will postpone the paving until next spring.

If resurfacing of any residential street in Farmington Hills is required, the city picks up 20 per cent of the bill with the home owners footing the remaining 80 per cent.

They're fuming

Residents of the Canterbury and Oakland Subdivisions in Farmington Hills claim it's "another classic case of city government ignoring the desires of its citizens."

That's the reaction of more than 20 homeowners in both subdivisions over city council's move to pave Bond Boulevard, making it a major access street into the residential area.

Bond Boulevard leads into the subdivision. A recent survey reveals 97 per cent of the residents oppose paving.

The Hills City Council has scheduled a public hearing Aug. 18 and homeowners' association representative Ron Aho says for the residents' opposition to fight for their right to keep the street in its present state.

Residents from both the adjoining subdivisions fear extending the street from Orchard Lake, north of Thirteen Mile, will create more problems than it will solve.

Generosity brings widow new solace

By RON GARENSKI

Three weeks ago, Mrs. Elsie Sutton was left without a penny to her name.

In a fateful Sunday afternoon, a middle-aged woman posing as a preacher bid her way into Mrs. Sutton's home and left moments later with \$25 the 65-year-old Farmington resident had stashed away to pay her winter bill.

That was Mrs. Sutton's life savings. "But the Lord was on my side," claims the 60-year-old resident of a small white house on Powell Street.

"The good Lord's taken care of me in the past. He's just looking after me now. Everyone's been just so nice."

On Monday afternoon, Farmington police officers presented the elderly widow with a \$25 check made up of donations by concerned citizens, city employees and policemen.

This collection of donations was in addition to a \$100 check the Farmington Police Officers Association gave Mrs. Sutton two days following her robbery.

Officers and city employees had been so



ELSIE SUTTON

OTI instills a new life in FHS

By CORINNE ARATT

The doors were hardly shut on Farmington Junior High School last June when a second life was being planned for the yellow brick building. The school will be the first floor of the building will be the fourth Oakland Training Institute (OTI) center in the county for trainable, mentally impaired young people, 14-21.

"At this point," said Graham Lewis, director of all special education programs for the Farmington district, "there will be 115 attending, but we have no idea of the extent it may expand."

The center will serve the Clarensville, Farmington, Birmingham, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Huron Valley districts.

Many of those coming to the Farmington center were formerly at the OTI center in Berkeley, which has since been closed.

There are five basic integrated programs in the curriculum for the trainable, mentally impaired—social adaptability, physical education, manipulative skills, vocational adjustment and language.

"THESE BASIC FIVE," said Lewis, "all lead to development of vocational skills to train the students for employment in the community or a sheltered workshop. Many of them will go to New Horizons."

Not only will the junior high building provide more space than the previous facility in Berkeley, there is room for expansion and a very important plus—the building

will give the new program a needed secondary school atmosphere. It will also be possible to offer a hot lunch program in the new quarters, something this program did not have in the past.

"While parents of the students have been somewhat apprehensive about the change, Lewis said, it will provide a more natural transition than before. Children who start

in special education classes in the area will continue in the same area instead of being bussed out to other facilities in their middle years.

The OTI programs are totally funded by the county and state, but now will be administered by the districts in which they are located. This doesn't, however, mean total carte blanche.

"It will still be operated within the framework of the county plan," Lewis said, explaining that the plan is drawn up after input from many local consultants. "This does become Farmington's program and although funded, we have autonomy as long as we stay within the framework."

WHILE THE PROGRAM for severely mentally impaired youngsters at the Choverdale School operates practically year around, the one at Farmington Junior High will coincide with the district's school calendar. There also will be special programs for the blind, the deaf and the multiply impaired within this OTI framework so that needs of all those in attendance are well served.

Lewis still has not decided who will administer the program at the junior high. He has several options within the county framework—whether to have a building principal per se, or another arrangement. Finding teachers and aids is no problem. Many of those being hired were part of the Berkeley setup.

Although this is another responsibility for Lewis, who has had Boys Republic education programs recently added to his list, he said of the OTI center: "I think it adds a dimension to our school district. We now have the full range of educational services society must have for its people."

The furniture and supplies are already moved in. The staff has been hired. Farmington Junior High is on its way to a new and exciting existence.

inside

News	Section A
Farmington Entrepreneurs	3
Freewheeling	3
Observation Point	14
Eccentricities	14
The Richards	14
Suburban Life	Section B
Club Circuit	3
Community Calendar	11
Sports	Section C
Amusements	4
Classified	4

"I would recommend it to anyone!"

Mrs. Seignoure will tell anyone about her successful Observer & Eccentric classified ad.

"We've never had such results from any other paper!"

PINTO 1171 Wagon top condition, 4 speed, \$1100 or less offer. Call after 5 p.m.

DIAL DIRECT
644-1070