

# Farmington Observer

Volume 88 Number 23 Thursday, January 6, 1977 Farmington, Michigan 48 Pages Twenty-Five Cents

## Ten Mile to close at end of school year

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

After two years of on-and-off debate, members of the Farmington School Board voted unanimously to close Ten Mile Elementary School.

Throughout the three hours of the final debate, parents urged the board to consider the safety of the students and the conditions of the buildings at Ten Mile and Alameda schools. Alameda was the second choice for the one school closing slated for the end of the 1976-77 year.

In addition to their concerns, parents were anxious that the board reach a quick decision.

"Don't leave us hanging," implored Jim Glensky, president of Ten Mile's parent-teacher organization. "If you close Ten Mile, don't make it a lingering death."

His counterpart at Alameda Elementary School, Jim Hafke, reiterated the need for a quick decision.

"We have things planned. We can't wait on the board until June to do the things we want to do. We have a job to do. I'm sure parents at Ten Mile feel the same way."

"We want a decision tonight."

About 100 spectators, mostly Ten Mile parents, listened as the board reviewed the conditions of both schools.

Board members had toured both school buildings, Monday afternoon, for the last time before making a decision, according to its President Anne Struble.

"I had the distinct feeling that Alameda would be my first choice to keep open, based on its plan. One of the first things that I noticed about Ten Mile was the large amount of window space. There's almost an excess of window space in the school."

"That would surely contribute to the heating cost," she said.

"Alameda and Ten Mile are not that far apart. Any busing that would occur would essentially be over a very small distance," she said.

Leon Egrin, a dissenting member of the Task Force on Declining Enrollments, made Lichtman think twice about casting a final vote at the meeting.

Egrin proposed that Ten Mile remain open and Alameda be closed.

"I want to know in my mind that this decision is right," Lichtman said.

"I really wonder if we're leaving ourselves with some flexibility," he said.

Unlike Struble, he favored the amount of windows in Ten Mile School.

"A few years ago, when we built a school with very few windows, a school board member said that all kids needed windows to gaze out of once in a while. I disagreed with him, then. But now that I have kids in school, I agree with him."

"I like windows," Lichtman said.

Lichtman wondered what use Ten Mile's building would be to the district.

"I wouldn't want the district to spend lots of dollars to convert it," he said.

"WHAT WOULD IT cost to make Ten Mile unglomy?" he asked. "I mean a paint-up, fix-up program. Paint the walls yellow so they wouldn't look gloomy."

School Superintendent Lewis Schulman agreed with the suggestion, but reminded Lichtman that a school would have to be closed, eventually.

"There's no question that a clean-up campaign would help. The main problem would be to replace the lights in the hallways. That would cost about \$7,000."

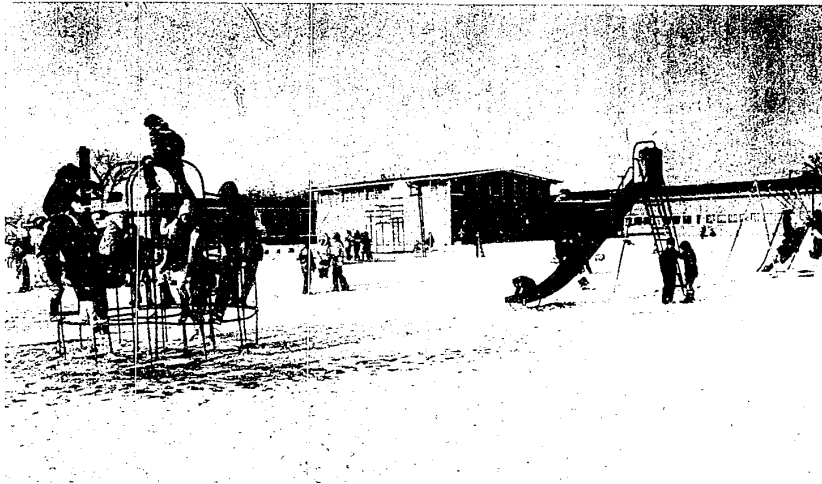
But the age of the building, the way in which it is constructed and the place where it is situated, indicate that it could be closed.

"I'm not saying it's a slum school. It's a nice school. These are difficult decisions to make. But our financial situation indicates that a school should be closed," Schulman said.

Although the board rehearsed its reasons for closing Ten Mile, administrators and officials had a half-hearted success in Ross.

When the vote was taken, Ross indicated his yes was a matter of form.

"I think that considering the sensitivity and the magnitude of the decision, I'll vote yes for the unity of the board," he said.



Next winter, these Ten Mile Elementary students will be playing in a different school yard during recess. The Farmington school board voted to close Ten Mile at the end of the 1976-77 school year. (Staff photo by Cynthia Abbott)

## In Farmington Hills

### Amori tapped for council seat

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

For years Robert Amori has been moving around the country building a career for himself and his family. But eight years ago the president of Penguin Oil Co. settled down in Farmington Hills and decided to dedicate his much valued spare time in building a better community.

This week, the 49-year-old executive was appointed to fill the city council seat vacated by Robert McConnell who was elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"Many people have put in a great deal of time to make this community meaningful and viable. Most of them have a giving spirit. I've never really had an opportunity to pay them back," says Amori.

"I've taken advantage of other people's work. Now, I have an opportunity to do something myself."

AMORI TALKS enthusiastically about his upcoming tenure on the city council which will last until at least November when he will be up for reelection.

"I've been preparing myself for this opportunity. By serving on the city's planning commission I've developed an awareness of municipal functions. I'm able to relate to the needs of the community," says Amori, who competed with 25 applicants for the council seat.

The council made its decision to appoint at this week's council session Amori. A formal vote will be taken on Jan. 10.

The trim gray-haired businessman has been active in the Farmington Hills commission in preparation for his council seat.

Besides being a member of the planning commission, he is past president of the Independence Commons Homeowners Association and past president and currently board member of the Farmington Community Center.

He also is a past president and former board member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church Council.

Land development, he says, is a pri-



ROBERT AMORI

mary issue facing the city council.

"We've got a lot of land yet to be developed. Right now we have 35 percent of our land undeveloped. This puts us in a beautiful position," he says.

Although enthused about the land development possibilities, Amori believes city leaders must stay within the guidelines set by residents' view of how their city should grow.

"I believe the people of Farmington have given an expression for their community to remain residential. But in order to keep a sound residential community the city has to have a blend of commercial aspects. You just can't have all residential," he says.

AMORI ALSO BELIEVES that Farmington Hills must attract young and old to the community.

"While we need housing for senior citizens, we also need facilities to keep the young in the community. What kind of community will we have if we attract only the upper age bracket?" he asks.

Senior citizen housing has been the center of attention at city hall over the last year because of proposals by various church groups to build high-rise facilities for senior citizens.

"I'm not sure that senior citizen

high-rise facilities are the way to go. Undoubtedly, we need homes for senior citizens. But we must look to see if high rise really is the way to go," he says.

Park facilities, also an issue facing the council in the next nine months, is an issue of which the council must weigh all the alternatives, according to Amori.

"A lot of subdivisions already have park facilities which are self-supporting. You don't want to throw parks all around," he says.

The city should look at the school facilities being vacated to determine its park's program, according to Amori. He would like to see facilities developed which would develop more than athletic skills.

"Recreation means more than just active sports. We should look at the private sector which already is providing programs. The city should work with it," says Amori, who, as an active member of the Farmington Community Center Board, believes the private sector is an important aspect in developing a recreation program.

While looking forward to the next 10 months in office, he says he will run for office in the November election.

IN ADDITION TO the age of part of the school, which was built in 1949, the atmosphere of the Ten Mile building was included among the reasons for its closing.

"It looks gloomy," Mrs. Struble said. "That's not the main reason that we're closing the school. That's secondary."

"I'm prepared to vote to close Ten Mile, tonight," she announced.

"Alameda has a fine media center. Ten Mile does not," said Trustee Michael Stupice.

"I'm inclined to close Ten Mile," he added.

Trustees Gary Lichtman and Dr. Mervyn Ross balked at following the opinion of fellow board members.

The minority report submitted by

DURING THE DEBATE, he hesitated at transferring some Ten Mile students to Longacre, where they would be housed in portable classrooms.

"It took a long time for the district to get its students out of portables. I

(Continued on page 12A)

## Farmington will add 2 roads from county

Farmington added two roads to its jurisdiction and \$3,700 in annual gas and weight tax revenues when the Oakland County Road Commission gave it jurisdiction over Nine Mile and Freedom from Halstead east to the city limits.

Part of the addition to the city's roadways resulted from a misunderstanding between the city and the road commission.

"We believed at the time of the agreement that the only road in question was Freedom. Upon receipt of a formal agreement drafted by the Oakland County Road Commission, we find that they have included that portion of Freedom south of Grand River to the 146 expressway exit ramp on Halstead," said City Mgr. Robert Deadman.

"In discussing this additional section of Halstead with the county, we find that they were of the opinion that

the city was willing to assume jurisdiction of this roadway if the improvements were made to Freedom," he said.

The city will assume responsibility for Halstead to the Farmington limits.

Nine Mile and Farmington Road to the city limits was taken from county jurisdiction, also.

Although the city accepted both roads, there was some hesitation about taking Halstead.

"If it were not for the fact that there are serious intersection capacity problems at the corner of Halstead and Grand River, we would have no objections to the proposed transfer of jurisdiction as recommended by the city," Deadman said. "We believe that in the future, this intersection could require reconstruction."

## Coffee lovers drink less, but pay more for their brew

Farmington's coffee drinkers are beginning to rally against the skyrocketing prices of their favorite beverage.

And a local branch of a supermarket chain is trying to make it a little easier for coffee addicts to wean themselves away from the drink by reducing the prices of substitute beverages.

"To encourage customers to drink less coffee, we're cutting the prices down by three cents to 22 cents on nine of the most popular alternatives," explained Dan Carpenter, vice president of Borman's, Incorporated, which owns Farmer Jack's Supermarkets.

The market is dropping the prices of some types of tea, cocoa and pow-

dered soft drinks, according to Carpenter.

The store will continue to stock coffee although the top brand is now selling for \$2.59 a pound. Eighteen months ago, the brand's wholesale price was \$1.73 a pound.

Carpenter explains the rise in prices are the result of a frost in Bra-

(Continued on page 12A)

## Hoop Shoot set at NFHS

Farmington Lodge of BPO Elks will conduct its annual Hoop Shoot contest in North Farmington High School, on Twelve Mile Road, this year.

The contests begin at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7, and is open to all boys and girls from 8 to 13 years.

There are three age brackets in both the boys and girls division, so six winners will emerge from the local contest.

The winners of the Farmington contests will compete in the Michigan Southeast District Contest, set in Dearborn on Jan. 8. Winners from this competition will progress to state, regional and national contests.

The contest is similar in concept to the pass, punt and kick competition, with the exception that it includes girl contestants.

In the four years it has been in being, it has expanded to more than 2,750,000 participants this past year, and is expected to exceed three million this year.



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