

Township Considering Action For Senior Citizen Housing

What's New Here

Farmington Public Schools has a new elementary school and a new report card for elementary pupils. It takes a lot of space to just keep up on what's new in your schools. Page 3A

Great Debate Today

The four governmental units of the Farmington Area have selected spokesmen for the great debate today (Wednesday) before the State Boundary Commission. Details on the state's meeting on the question of incorporating the township are given inside. Page 4A

War & The Draft

National controversies are raging over the war and the draft. But these controversies are also raging in Farmington, and the Enterprise & Observer tells you what's going on locally with the national debates. Page 5A

A Sell Out

The Farmington Players open a new season this Friday, and tickets to the nine performances are all sold. How did it happen? Sue Shaughnessy has the story on Page 6C

The Region

Its budget is doubled, but the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments is weak in the membership department. Even Observerland members were poorly represented in last weekend's decision-making. Dennis Pajot learned.

Congressmen Split

Observerland has three congressmen, and they're all taking different points of view about the peace demonstrations in Washington later this week. There's also a story out of Scholcraft College about travel plans to Capitol Hill. Page 8C

Saving The Lakes

Local folks often bemoan the condition and lack of facilities on Phoenix, Wilcox and Newburgh lakes. But the Wayne County Board of Supervisors is giving them top priority in asking for recreation money from the state. Page 12A

Farmington Township is taking steps which could eventually result in low rental housing for senior citizens. Monday night, the board authorized the township attorney to draft an ordinance to create a housing commission which could then apply for federal study funds.

The suggestion came from Trustee Tom Nolan who has been serving as chairman of the planning commission's Senior Citizen Housing Committee.

NOLAN'S REPORT carried with it the support of the planning commission which also urged the board to create a housing commission.

The commission, Nolan explained, would consist of five members. A temporary commission could be formed by having five township trustees make up the commission, added Nolan, with a permanent commission created at a later date.

The commission, with the aid of the township's planning consultants, would then apply to the federal government for advancement of funds for planning.

With planning funds, the commission could then sketch out a housing program, set a unit cost and take bids, and apply to the federal government for project funding.

The government would pay for the construction cost as well as planning expenses, providing the unit cost was in line with federal standards.

There would be no out-of-pocket cost at all to the township, Nolan explained. If the township decided to back out of the project during the planning phase, Nolan added, it could do so at no expense to the township.

ONCE THE housing is constructed, the federal government recoups its investment from rental fees. Under the plan, Nolan said, a rental charge is fixed and maintenance and other expenses deducted. The amount left over can then be paid to the government on the principal.

Nolan explained the project could be either remodeling of existing housing units or construction of new housing. An urban renewal approach would result in too high of a unit cost to obtain federal funding, Nolan explained.

"I don't think there is any doubt that there is a need for senior citizen housing in Farmington Township," said Nolan while urging creation of the commission.

Supervisor Curtis Hall said the project would serve a real

useful purpose to older residents in the township who own homes valued at between \$12-\$16,000 but whose income is limited to social security.

Hall added that some municipalities have found it possible to provide senior citizens with two-bedroom efficiency apartments for \$65 a month rent.

Trustee Margaret Schaffer moved that Terry Brennan be authorized to draft an ordinance to establish a housing commission. After being seconded by Trustee Elise Avery, the motion passed 6-0.

BRENNAN SAID he will try to have the ordinance prepared for the Nov. 24 meeting of the township board.

Nolan explained the project would be handled on a "turn-key" basis. Under this opera-

tion, the commission would set the per-unit cost and builders would bid on the whole project on the basis of that estimate. Once the project is built,

the contractor would then "turn the keys over" to the township which would then be owners, or landlords, of the rental units.

When Shall Elementary Bells Toll?

Starting time for children attending Farmington elementary schools may be earlier next semester.

School board members, teachers and parents supported an earlier starting time for elementary school students at Monday's regular Farmington Board of Education meeting.

The board approved the formation of a committee of teachers, parents, bus drivers and administrators to study starting times and bus schedules.

REVISION OF bus schedules in the district forced administrators to delay the start of classes in elementary schools until 9:30 a.m. each day, compared to last year's starting time of 9 a.m.

The board authorized the committee at the suggestion of Roger Allen, president of the Farmington Education Association (FEA). Allen presented a petition requesting earlier starting times to the school board. Over 90 per cent of the Farmington district's approximately 400 elementary teachers signed the petition, he said.

The FEA president said first, second and third graders "report to school more interested in taking a nap than in learning."

Allen said studies have shown students perform better in the morning hours than in the afternoon.

In Farmington schools, however, "the vast majority of structured class time is after 12 noon," he commented.

By revising starting times, Allen said, the board "creates a problem of more serious consequence than the one they attempted to eliminate."

Transportation should not dictate Farmington's education program, Allen argued. Last year's schedule was "far superior" to the present schedule, he said.

Richard Peters, board of education president, added funding drivers for more buses would be harder than finding the money for the vehicles.

Trustee Gary Lichtman mentioned a longer class period for the students. He suggested 1 1/2 hours of class instead of the present six hours.

Administrators agreed a longer period would ease the pressure on buses after school, but a teacher in the audience pointed out the contract with the teachers would have to be changed.

Allen said the idea is one which should be discussed by the committee.

Scouts Cite Mrs. Hines For Decade Of Service

It was a great surprise and Mrs. Russell J. Hines was thrilled when her husband stepped up to present her with a pin awarded for 10 years service in Girl Scouting at the Farmington-Nov Area Association recent meeting in Nardin Methodist Church in Farmington.

Hines of 22288 Albion, Farmington, spoke briefly of his wife's activities in Scouting. She is currently a troop leader and has served as local cookie sales chairman, day camp director of Camp Arapaho in Farmington, Brownie Pow Wow chairman and troop committee member.

This followed a talk by Fred Monroy of 33611 State, Farmington, on "Why I Am A Girl Scout Leader." Monroy has led Troop 317 for four years and related that one of his rewards is the girls' smiles at campfire gatherings. A highlight of his troop's activities is an annual father-daughter canoe trip.

Girls from Troop 448, headed by Mrs. Larry Sharpe of 31819 Markland, Farmington, concluded the opening flag ceremony and closing candle light service. Mrs. Wallace Barringer of 30026 Pipers Lane, Farmington, area association chairman, was in charge of the evening's events.



PLANTING BEGINS -- The trees ordered by the Farmington Township Beautification Committee have arrived and last weekend planting began in Canterbury Commons. Janet Bassford of 29943 Valleyview lends a hand while workers plant her tree. It was the first tree planting attempt for the township. (Evert photo)



BEFORE -- Before workmen straightened them, the telephone poles along the front of the Valley View Apartments on Grand River tottered like falling 10 pins. (Evert photo)



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AND AFTER -- Appearing straight and sturdy, this is the way the telephone poles looked after they were fixed. Responsible for their being straightened were Bob Kilpatrick of the Michigan Bell Telephone Co., the City of Farmington Beautification Committee and the Farmington Board of Commerce. (Evert photo)

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THE FINEST high school football players in Observerland will be honored next Wednesday when Sports Editor George Maslin with the help of the coaches picks three suburban all-star squads. Watch the Sports Section.