

Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 63

Thursday, May 24, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

86 Pages

Twenty-five cents

©1979 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

State approves senior housing for Freedom Rd.

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Farmington Hills has won state approval for a senior citizen-low income housing project.

The project, to be built at the corner of Freedom and Drake roads, will contain 120 low-rise units, divided 50-50 between senior citizen units and low-income family units, according to city officials.

This was a decrease of 80 units which the city had planned to build. But officials from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) weren't entirely satisfied with the site. But to encourage further senior citizen units within Farmington Hills, officials are examining the Bond School site on Thirteen Mile.

MSHDA has said they would approve an additional 150 senior units on such a site.

Farmington Hills Mayor Earl Oppenheuser expressed satisfaction over the compromise plan and noted that the modifications should go a long way toward healing the rift between residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills who objected to the plan.

In the last few months residents have protested the plan because of its proposed height, six stories, and because of the low-income family stipulation. "We are not disappointed with the condition imposed by MSHDA that these 120 units be low-rise," said Oppenheuser.

"We have had discussions with the City of Farmington administration and have received their assurances that our citizens who have ambulatory prob-

lems will get special consideration for renting units in their soon-to-be-constructed midrise senior apartments which are more appropriate for those partially handicapped seniors," he continued.

The city of Farmington council, under pressure from irate residents, had written a letter to MSHDA officials protesting the Freedom Road site, saying it didn't live up to state regulations.

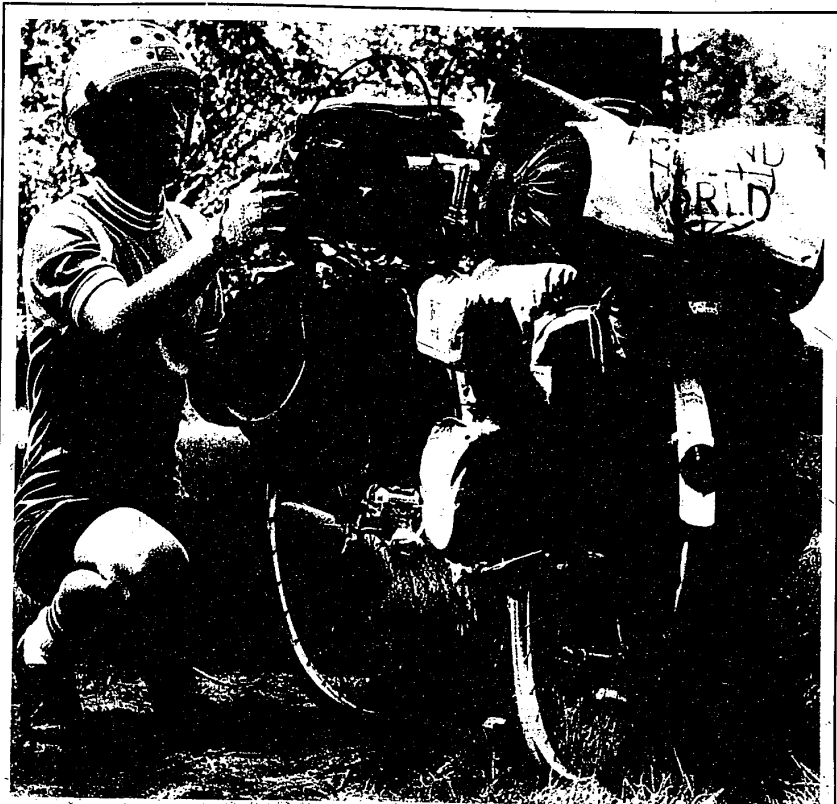
MSHDA did note that transportation and shopping were lacking in the area and consequently reduced the number of units.

Oppenheuser sees great hope for the Bond School site located west of Orchard Lake.

"We have already had discussions with the Farmington School administration for the possible purchase of Bond and are optimistic that with the cooperation of the school board we will be able to provide additional elderly housing for 150 or more of our senior citizens."

"I believe that these developments demonstrate clearly that our city, working with our sister city, Farmington, and our local school board have found an acceptable solution which will meet the needs of our seniors and gain support of the vast majority of all our citizens," he said.

The senior citizen housing controversy has been with the city for more than two years. Last September the Hills pulled out of a housing plan which would have been supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) after much resident opposition.



Dan Harrison prepares his bicycle for his around-the-world, fantasy-come-true trip. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Librarian realizes fantasy

He'll bike around the world

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

The lure of the open road and the swag of adventure possessed Dan Harrison about a year ago.

A chance encounter with a bicyclist, spinning stories of wandering around the world, seized Harrison's imagination.

"For two cents, I'd do it," he remembers saying to some friends. One gave him a nickel and told him to keep the change.

Last week, he took off from his family's Farmington Hills home, bound to see the world on a 15-speed bicycle. Fourteen months have passed since Harrison, then a librarian at Texas A & M University, was fascinated by the tales of the world-traveling cyclist.

Harrison decided to make the trek, too.

He spent 14 months plotting his itinerary, collecting maps and scheming to cross oceans by working odd jobs to assure his passage — and that of his bicycle.

A map began to take the shape of "a connect-the-dots puzzle of all my wildest fantasies," Harrison said.

He pinned string to a map of the world and connected it to all the places he wanted to see.

His cycling should make reality from dreams of visiting the climbers' camp at the base of Mt. Everest, Peru, Inca ruins, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, India and Nairobi.

He told his father, Fred Harrison, of his plans by phone. "I put it as gently as I could," Harrison remembers.

"There was a long silence on the phone. Then he said, 'I'll never speak to you again if you don't do it.'" The elder Harrison didn't see Dan shove off from their Farmington Hills home. He was traveling in the western United States in a van. The night before Dan left home, his father telephoned from somewhere in Arizona. "It runs in the family," said Dan's brother, Mike. Dan and his father's paths will cross in New Zealand, according to their travel plans.

HARRISON WILL seek passage to Australia, Thailand, India, Nepal, South

Africa, Capetown, Nairobi and Europe during the next three years.

For those years, Harrison's material possessions will weigh about 90 pounds.

Compactness is the key word in his new lifestyle. Addresses are written in a small notebook. Maps have been cut and spliced to take a minimal amount of space. His pack carries a lightweight tent and spare bike parts. Harrison figures the trip should cost about \$3,000 a year.

Last week Harrison was ready to tackle life on the road.

"I wish I could have left two months ago," he said. "I wish I could have left an hour ago."

Labor Dept. cites construction firm

By MARY GNIEWEK

A Farmington construction firm has been named in a complaint filed by the U.S. Department of Labor in Michigan Federal District Court.

Able Foundations, Inc., at 25155 Haggerty, was charged last week with violations of the overtime pay and record-keeping provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which is the federal wage-hour law.

Henry White, regional administrator

for the Labor Department's Employment Standards Administration, said the department is seeking a permanent injunction to stop the alleged violations.

The court also was asked to award back pay, as found to be due, for discrimination among the employees involved. No amounts were specified in the complaint.

Legal action followed an investigation of the business by the Labor Department's wage-hour office in Troy under the direction of area supervisor Arthur Buchman.

According to Labor spokeswoman Kim McLynn in Chicago, the company was charged with violations committed since April 4, 1978. Labor attorney John Nangle was scheduled to meet with representatives of the firm yesterday (Wednesday). Details of the meeting were unknown at press time.

"The court complaint was filed by the Labor Department," Nangle said. "The labor law requires businesses to keep a record of workers hours as prescribed in the code of regulations."

"OVERTIME REQUIRES that employees be paid time and one half pay above their regular salary for over 40 hours a week."

Nangle said the case might be settled out of court. The company is given that alternative in lieu of legal proceedings.

McLynn said investigations are usually prompted by complaints from employees of the target firm. The information is kept confidential by the Department of Labor to protect its sources.

A spokesman for Able Foundations said the company employs a dozen workers. The construction firm specializes in foundations, basement walls and blockwork. No one was available to comment on the alleged violations.

The Fair Labor Standards Act requires payment of minimum wage rates (\$2.90 an hour since Jan. 1), time and one-half pay for overtime unless a specific exemption applies; equal pay for equal work for both sexes; the keeping of adequate records of employee wages and hours; and restricts the employment of child labor.

Workers who think their employer may be in violation of the law should call the Labor Department's Troy office at 226-9335. Companies must have annual gross sales of at least \$250,000 to be covered by the law.

Miss Farmington entries are due

If becoming Miss America is your dream, the path to Atlantic City begins at home.

In this case, the path may begin at the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant. The event will be held July 25 at Vladimir's restaurant during the annual Founders' Day Festival.

It was just two years ago that Holly Ann Schmidt, Miss Farmington of 1976, won the state title and went on to compete in the 1977 Miss America Pageant.

Miss Farmington of 1978, Pamela Allison Prichard, will relinquish her crown at this year's pageant and will represent Farmington in the state pageant on June 16 in Muskegon.

Entrants in the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant must be between the ages of 17 and 26, residents of Farmington or Farmington Hills since Jan. 1.

Contest rules prohibit married or previously married entrants.

Contestants will be judged on personality, poise, swimsuit and evening gown presentations, and talent. The talent category is worth 50 percent of the total points.

Talent performances in previous pageants have ranged from ballet and gymnastic routines to violin solos, magic acts, dramatic readings and displays of artwork.

Several former Miss Farmingtons will offer personal advice and participate in workshops and seminars offering special instruction in grooming, talent performance, and modeling and interviewing techniques.

The entry deadline is Friday, June 1. Entry forms are available at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, 23175 Farmington Rd., at Grand River. If you have any questions, call 474-3440.

Parade is highlight of Memorial Day

Clowns, marching bands and floats, flowing one after another down a street lined with appreciative people — all this combines to make a parade one of the pleasures of life.

But there is one ingredient missing in the formula listed above. A purpose, a reason to celebrate or to stage the parade in the first place.

The Farmington Memorial Day parade probably has the best reason of all to have a parade — to honor the Farm-

ington citizens who died while defending their country.

Reasons for parades sometimes get lost in the festivities. Thanksgiving Day parades, Rose Bowl parades both seem to honor a day rather than anything else.

But, dating back as far as ancient Egypt and Rome, parades were for military heroes, conquerors returning in victory from the battlefield or leaving on a courageous quest.

That definition makes the Farmington Memorial Day parade even more meaningful. It will honor all those that didn't return from battle, who never heard the heroes' welcome others received.

The Memorial Day parade begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 28, and will start at the Grand River Drive-in theater. Awards will be presented in 11 different categories, with each award named after a Farmington resident (or a member of his family) who lost his

life defending his country.

All parade participants under the age of 18 years will receive miniature American flags as gifts from the VFW Broadhead Post No. 2269 and the Farmington Groves Walker Legion Post No. 346.

Included in the events will be a pre-Memorial Day banquet, sponsored by the parade committee, which will be held at the Farmington American Legion Hall, 31775 Grand River, on Sunday, May 27, starting at 6:30 p.m.



W. Bloomfield doctor named

Dr. Donald Boxman of West Bloomfield became president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) on May 16.

The Farmington general practitioner is a graduate of the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine, and interned at Flint General Hospital. Boxman was a staff member of Northwest General Hospital, Martin Place Hospital, Detroit Osteopathic and Botstrock-Zieger Osteopathic Hospitals.

In 1975, Boxman served as Botstrock's chief of staff. As a member of the MAOPS Board of Trustees, he has served as chairman of the Department of Continuing Education and editor of the Michigan Osteopathic Journal.

inside

Editorials	18A
Inside Angles	3A
Obituaries	2A
Business	Section D
Entertainment	Section D
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section C

In the enjoyment of your holiday weekend, don't forget that your newspaper carrier will be by this week. Be sure to save your receipt; it's worth a discount on the next classified ad you place in your hometown newspaper.