

Dems Blast Township

Criticize Drake Rd. Paving

The Farmington Club has charged that the Farmington Township Board favored speculators in its decisions to pave portions of Drake Rd. The club adopted a resolution describing the paving of Drake Rd. north of Nine Mile and another portion of Drake north of Grand River as examples of favoritism. "At about the same time that the pleas of helpless residents are turned down, the same township officials voted to spend thousands of dollars to pave Drake Road at a cost to the large landowners who will benefit from the paving," the resolution says. IN FEBRUARY, the township board approved a road improvement project for

seven-tenths of a mile of Drake and Nine Mile Rds. Drake Rd. from Nine Mile north to I-96 and Nine Mile from Castlemeadow to just east of Drake Rd. will be improved. The paving will connect hard-surface Freedom Rd. with Castlemeadow, the entrance to Heather Hills subdivision. The developer of Heather Hills is Mr. Grace Richardson, also a member of the Township Planning Commission. This is not the first time that funds have been denied to residents whose roads are washed out every year while thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money are spent on projects to benefit land speculators and such wealthy firms as Thompson-Brown Co. "Last year's paving of Drake Rd. from Grand River to the Thompson-Brown Independence Common subdivision was another example of such special interest road policies," the resolution continues. THE RESOLUTION further attacked the all-Republican township board for bypassing the advisory Township Road Committee. The committee, in operation less than a year, was formed at the suggestion of the Farmington Township Road Association and promoted by trustee Margaret Schaffer. "It is our understanding that the Drake paving was never

discussed by the Road Committee," the resolution says. "If that is the case, then it is obvious that the township administration considers the committee as nothing more than window dressing." The resolution concludes: "We further recommend that if Farmington Township officials are unable to meet their responsibilities in this critical area they resign their positions and allow their places to be taken by others who are willing to make the effort on behalf of the long-suffering residents of the township."

"We further recommend that the same criterion of low road improvements are financed be applied to all roads in the township," the resolution says. The resolution concludes: "We further recommend that if Farmington Township officials are unable to meet their responsibilities in this critical area they resign their positions and allow their places to be taken by others who are willing to make the effort on behalf of the long-suffering residents of the township."

Downtown Plan

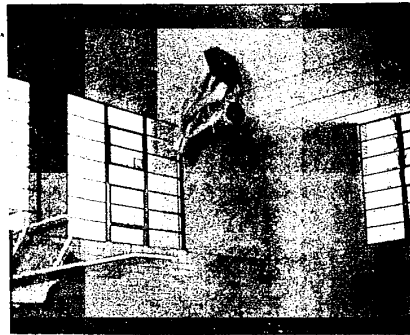
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Seibert cited a ruling made by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturning a township zoning ordinance because it totally excluded apartments from its list of permitted land uses. In its findings, the court said it could not hold valid a zoning ordinance "whose primary purpose is to prevent the entrance of newcomers in order to avoid future burdens, economic and otherwise, upon the administration of public services and facilities."

There will be a lot of ramifications if the philosophy of Pennsylvania's highest court prevails, said Seibert. Seibert declared he objected to pressures that are about to make suburban zoning ordinances suspectible. These type of planners and legal minds, added Seibert, are arguing that the large lots in the suburbs contribute to de facto segregation. "I am dead set against these pressures to outlaw local zon-

ing ordinances because of lot sizes. City attorney Robert J. Kelly commented that municipalities can only deny land use if that use is injurious to the public's health, safety and welfare. "The pressure groups say large lot sizes are designed to keep certain elements out," commented Seibert. "I don't think that's the case and I would resist strongly any outside efforts to change our zoning."

"It is the right of any community to make zoning decisions according to what size of burden that community wants to take on." Dinan observed that Farmington Township had won a lawsuit in the Michigan Supreme Court which upheld the 20,000-square-foot lot as proper for a school district. "Under the guise of providing housing for everyone, will be we forced to make decisions by others who won't have to pay?" asked Seibert.



DIVING FORM -- Pam Stultz, daughter of Col. and Mrs. H.T. Stultz Jr. of 35663 Johnstown Rd., Farmington, displays a skillfully executed dive in a rec(EN) swim meet. Miss Stultz is a physical education major at Virginia Intermont, a two-year liberal arts school for women in Bristol, Va. She is also a member of the tennis team and H2O Club of the college.

Charges Political—Hall

Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall said charges of favoritism in the use of township road funds are politically motivated. Hall replied to a resolution approved by the Farmington Democratic Club which said a paving project on Nine Mile and Drake Rds. was an example of special treatment. "I know this is strictly politically motivated. If it was another year other than an election year there wouldn't be any talk about it," Hall said. THE SUPERVISOR said the project had to be approved by the Oakland County Road Commission, which also supplied half the funds. "When the Oakland County Road Commission decides to put in \$80,000 of their money,

you know it's not favoritism," Hall commented. The commission approved the project because it is an addition to the mile road network, Hall said. He added emergency vehicles would have trouble reaching the area if the project were not undertaken. "Sometimes those people are landlocked," he commented. HALL ALSO replied to the township trustees bypassing the Township Road Committee in making the decision on the project. "At least some of the members of the road committee were aware that this project was under consideration," Hall said.

The supervisor said consideration of the project by the township board was delayed two weeks to the road committee could discuss the project. He said the road committee's meeting was canceled, however. "We had to act to get it included in the projects for this year," Hall said. Hall called the project a "necessary part of the mile road network." However, he added, some other project could have been approved if someone willing to contribute part of its cost could have been found. "If we could have found someone to put up 25 or 30 percent, we might have pushed another mile road ahead," the supervisor said.

Tours Are Now Available

The Nature Center at Lower Huron Metropolitan Park near Belleville will open for the 1970 season for school classes beginning Tuesday, May 5. This was announced by William F. Hopkins, chief naturalist for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. He stated that teachers may make appointments to bring their classes to the nature center to view the exhibits and to hear a lecture on some phase of the natural environment by a park naturalist. APPOINTMENT HOURS are 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. To schedule appointments,

teachers should contact the Nature Services Department, C. O. Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 1750 Fairbairn Building, Detroit 48226 or phone 961-8865. Groups should be limited to not more than 25 persons, and appointments should be made well in advance of the desired date. Naturalists on duty this season are Mrs. Jocelyn Baker, supervising naturalist and a science teacher in the Detroit public school system, and Miss Judith Weyer, park naturalist and a graduate student in biology at Eastern Michigan University.

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