

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, May 6, 1970

15c a Copy

today's
hot line

Vol. 82, No. 63 54 pages, 5 sections

what's inside

More Earth Saving

Enthusiasm of Earth Day continues to be evident in the Farmington Area as persons of all ages in all sections are cleaning up. Clean-up reports include what a newcomer is doing in Section 36, what the students are doing, and a reprint of the Farmington Township special trash pick up map. Page 3A, 8B

Escalate War

The war is being escalated on Challenge Hill. Reports on steps taken by the City of Farmington include installation of a guard rail, rumble strips, completion of a traffic survey and accident analysis, and request to Oakland County to study rerouting Farmington Rd.

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Music Lady

One Farmington teacher never stops celebrating Music Week. She's Margaret Miller's Woman on the Go.

Page 2C

Creating A Mess?

Decorating an apartment for two erratic bachelors can present problems. But Pearl Briggs has solved them. You'll see the results of a lot of behind-the-scenes effort when Farmington Players open with "Star Spangled Girl" on Friday.

Page 7C

Political Purity

Is your congressman "liberal" or "conservative," scientifically speaking? We've compiled the ratings that different political purity organizations have assigned to Observers and compared them to nationally known figures. It will help guide you in voting this year.

Page 8C

Y Talk

The idea of talking out tensions has spread to a new class offered by the Northwest YWCA. It was an interesting one to audit.

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Observer Want Ads
422-0900



SIGNS PETITION -- Alan M. Daczlen (right) of Garden City signs a petition requesting legislative action against non-returnable containers. Michael Gorzeck (left) was one of the North Farmington students collecting signatures on petitions at Saturday's demonstration. (Evert photo)

City Hires New DPW Supervisor

The new public service director for the City of Farmington is George H. Vondrak, former Dearborn sanitation director.

Vondrak's appointment was confirmed by city council Monday night.

In his new role, Vondrak will be the administrative head of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Water and Sewers for the City of Farmington.

VONDRAK 45, is a graduate of Wayne State University with a BS in education and is currently enrolled in a masters program in college administration at University of Michigan.

He has also earned credits at Detroit College of Law and Knox College in Illinois and attended seminars in waste management and pest control.

Before he became director of sanitation in Dearborn in 1966, Vondrak spent 20 years on the Dearborn police force. He progressed through the ranks as patrolman, detective, detective sergeant and finally, detective lieutenant. He then retired and became sanitation director.

In that position, Vondrak was responsible for personal relations, supervision, promotion, budget control and equipment maintenance, among other duties.

VONDRAK is active in civic and community activities.

He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus, American Public Works Association and the Institute of Solid Wastes.

He is past-director of the Dearborn Lions Club and serves as a Democratic delegate in Dearborn.

VONDRAK HAS traveled extensively in the United States and has visited Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan while in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He is married, has eight children whose ages range from 23 to nine. The two eldest daughters are married and the oldest son is now serving in the U.S. Army. Vondrak resides with his family at 7827 Bingham in Dearborn.

Vondrak is replacing Ted DeBaene who resigned Feb. 6 as public services director. DeBaene has joined an engineering firm in Baton Rouge, La. which engages in public works and maintenance consulting work for cities throughout the country.

DeBaene had been director of the Department of Public Services since 1966.

VONDRAK WAS hired effective Monday, May 4, at a starting salary of \$13,500.

"He has an excellent experience in the field of public works which should be a great advantage to the City of Farmington," City Manager John Dinan told councilmen Monday night.

Dinan reported that Vondrak supervised more than 50 employees and handled an annual budget of more than \$1 million during his four years as director of sanitation for the City of Dearborn.

Students Picket Shopping Center

By WYLU GERDES

More than 80 North Farmington High School students demonstrated against pollution Saturday in a Farmington shopping center.

Members of an anti-pollution group at North Farmington, ENACT, and others picketed a grocery store in the shopping center at 12 Mile and Farmington Rd.

DAVID FINNEY North Farmington teacher and sponsor of the group, said they were trying to influence the store to stock returnable containers instead of throw-away bottles.

Besides the picket line, the students sold for 10 cents each about 100 form letters addressed to the Coca-Cola Co. protesting use of non-returnable bottles.

In addition, about 200 persons signed petitions requesting legislative action against non-returnable containers which Finney said will be sent to state legislators from the area.

Students also spent part of their time cleaning up of the shopping center parking lot.

The group collected enough trash to fill a dump truck.

THE STUDENTS met at North Farmington High and marched two abreast from the high school near 13 Mile and Farmington Rd. to the shopping center.

Seven faculty members and at least three parents participated in the demonstration.

Finney called the demonstration fairly successful and said it created a "positive impression" on the people who witnessed the demonstration.

The North Farmington instructor said the store is attempting to stock the returnable bottles and other products which produce fewer pollution problems.

Finney said a resident who lives near the shopping center also thanked the students for their efforts.

"He said 'Gee, you're doing something I haven't been able to get done for years,'" Finney reported.

ALTHOUGH the teacher said results were positive overall, he noted some shop-

pers weren't happy about the demonstration.

One shopper, Finney said, told a student she would sign his petition as soon as he cut his hair. Another shopper told a student that the demonstration was disruptive and that the group was "rioting" for no reason.

"I was just really proud of their conduct," Finney said of the students.

FINNEY NOTED the students had copies of the Farmington Township fostering ordinance before the demonstration and that student controllers helped control the demonstration.

The group plans a follow-up next week at the shopping center, their sponsor said. Students will pass out literature discussing pollution.

The group will also try joint activities with anti-pollution clubs from other high schools, Finney added.

One of the most popular handouts at Saturday's demonstration was a list of 25 actions to cut pollution which could be taken in the home. Finney said.



STUDENTS HIT THE BOTTLE -- North Farmington High School students demonstrated against the use of non-returnable bottles Saturday in a Farmington shopping center.

About 80 students and a few faculty members and parents participated. (Evert photo)

Campaigns For Board

Piatt Eyes School Post

Jim Piatt has resigned from the City of Farmington Planning Commission and announced his decision to campaign for a four-year position on the Farmington Board of Education.

Piatt, 35, of 2109 Meadowlark, had served on the planning commission five years and was vice-chairman this year.

HE SUBMITTED his letter of resignation April 27, explaining the campaign would be time-consuming and he would have to resign anyhow if elected.

Piatt told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer he learned while serving on the planning commission that it is difficult to attract developers to a community with an unstable tax base.

"An unstable tax base is detrimental to development," he added. "The schools must provide relief to the property owners and I believe relief can be provided."

"There is not enough recognition among present board members of the seriousness of the problem. I don't believe the economic factors of taxation and how it affects a community is understood by the school board."

IN HIS LETTER of resignation, Piatt stated: "Over the past three years, the distress of Farmington taxpayers in facing ever-increasing valuations of taxable property without relief in millage rate on the part of certain

taxing units has reached the point of no longer being tolerable."

"The insatiable thirst of the Farmington School District for ever-increasing quantities of locally derived property tax must be stemmed."



JIM PIATT

"The Farmington Board of Education can no longer fail to deal in the interests of its taxpayers as it has done in recent times."

PIATT expressed his regrets in giving up his planning responsibilities. "This decision does not come easily."

"The important work presently being conducted by this commission and the fine personal associations which I

have enjoyed here for the past five years are difficult to leave."

Piatt said he felt there is also a need for better communication between the school board and public.

He said he is against holding closed sessions and added there has been a lot of unnecessary personality clashes between board members and parents.

These clashes have caused "a lot of unwarranted dissension in the community," Piatt said.

District, FEA Begin Talks

The Farmington Education Association's (FEA) negotiating team met with the Board of Education's representatives this week to negotiate the terms of the 1970-71 teaching contract.

The teachers' negotiating team was elected by its executive board, and it is composed of six members. Roger K. Allen, FEA president, will act as spokesman for the teachers' proposals with Mrs. Marion G. Spencer, Mrs. Carolyn J. Mahalik, Robert Neuhouser, Gerald Kaplan and Thomas J. McConaghe representing the areas of education within the district.

PIATT SAID he felt the board tries to "flyspeck" a lot of things it shouldn't spend time on and neglects some important broad policy areas.

Piatt, who is married and has two children is employed as a sales engineer. Born in Ferrisdale, he has lived in Farmington since August 1969.

He received an associate engineering degree in 1955 from Highland Park Junior College. In 1968, Piatt received the "sound citizen award" from the Farmington Area Jaycees.

On the Board of education's side of the table, LeRoy Bartman will preside as spokesman with Joseph Neita and James J. Langan sitting with him to aid in the negotiating of proposals.

This year is the fifth year of teacher-board negotiations since the inception of the state law which gives public employees the right to bargain with their employers.

In the past, both teams have had successful negotiations before the opening of school and no labor disputes have interrupted the school year.