

the Farmington Enterprise & Observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Weekend of August 22-23, 1970

15c a Copy

today's
hot line

Vol. 82, No 93 46 pages, 3 sections

what's inside

Kokomo Report

The South Farmington champs have advanced further in Little League tournament play with a close 5-4 victory over a tough Chicago nine. Complete game details can be found on Observer sports pages but another bonus is being offered — a picture page on Thursday's important win.

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Harrison Not Ready

The new Harrison High School will not be ready for occupancy when school opens Sept. 9. A report on arrangements being made, including half-day schedules, is given in a news story giving other details about opening day.

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Ethan's Sweet Ethel

Ethan Allen has become a feline misnomer at the Farmington Enterprise & Observer. Daniels Den explains why on today's local editorial page which includes letters from readers defending Tom Nolan, candidate for Farmington Township treasurer.

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Visiting 4-H Fair

Our Women's Editor Margaret Miller visits the Wayne County 4-H Fair in Belleville and came out with an interesting picture story aided by Photographer Gerald Ganda.

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Aids Pollution Fight

The Wayne County Drain Commission plans to make funds available for fighting the pollution problem in Western Wayne County.

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Schools Obtain State's Edict; Must Provide Free Supplies

By EMORY DANIELS
Farmington School District administrators leading through their mail Wednesday morning found what they were looking for — the awaited guidelines from the State Board of Education on free textbooks and supplies.

The guidelines confirmed what administrators were expecting but included one unanticipated requirement. The state informed the district it must supply band instruments free for any required or elective course.

"The requirement to provide band instruments was the only thing that causes us a little bit of a shock," Business Manager William Prisk told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer after opening his mail.

THE GUIDELINES did, however, provide some possible "saving grace" regarding the band instrument dictation. A memo to the State Board of Education from Eugene Kraskicky, assistant attorney general, stated musical instruments must be provided free but "on a reasonable basis, to the extent that they are required by qualified students enrolled in curricular music courses who do not voluntarily provide their own instruments."

Kraskicky seems to be saying that the district does not have to supply instruments to those students who own their own instruments and are willing to use them in the classroom.

The extra cost to the taxpayer of providing free instruments to all students is likely to induce parents of band students to volunteer use of the family's trumpet for their child's band instruction. "I just got the official document," explained Prisk, "and have not had the chance to digest it. Our original estimate of about \$58,000 to supply texts still is good but we've got a lot of calculating to do to estimate the cost of furnishing all the supplies."

BASICALLY, the state says local districts must provide without charge all supplies and materials necessary for required or elective courses. Students will still pay for all clothing items and lunches and all expenses for extra-curricular activities.

The State Board issued its guidelines following the State Supreme Court's ruling that districts could not charge for texts and supplies.

The ruling resulted from a lawsuit filed against Ann Arbor Public Schools. The State Board issued its guidelines after receiving legal interpretation of the court's ruling from the attorney general.

The State Supreme Court held that Article VIII, Section 2 of the 1963 Michigan Constitution commanding the legislature to "maintain and support a system for free public elementary and secondary schools" included the command that local districts provide free textbooks and school supplies.

DR. JOHN PORTER, superintendent of Public Instruction, told local school districts this week that for required or elective courses there could not be any charges such as general or registration fees, course fees or materials ticket charges, textbooks or school supplies.

According to the guidelines, Farmington School District

must provide the following free for any required or elective course: pencils, paper, crayons; textbooks, regular or supplemental; band instruments; weekly readers or any other periodical required for classroom use.

The district cannot charge for the following if they are related to any required or elective course: towels; locks; lockers; shop materials; drafting supplies; home economics materials; workbooks; science materials; book rental; school educational trips required for credit; vocational or special education.

However, the district may charge students for: class and club dues; admission fees for athletic games, dances and plays; student activity cards on a voluntary basis; fees for external tests such as National Merit and college entrance; lunch; yearbooks; football shoes; gym shoes; swimming suits; and deductions for damage or loss of school-owned

books and other non-consumable supplies.

The district may also charge students for: bus transportation for non-resident students; field trips which are not required for credit; vaccinations; summer classes not a part of a scheduled year-round program; caps and gowns; and insurance fees for interscholastic athletics.

PRISK SAID the first problem the district is facing is to make sure all students have books by Sept. 9.

Books are now being issued to elementary students and will be issued to secondary students next week during registration, says Prisk.

The supplies for classes have already been purchased from the general fund, explained Prisk. Normally, students would've paid fees to use these supplies and the fee revenue collected would have gone back into the general fund.

Thus, the schools are ready to open with all supplies on hand. The problem facing the district, however, is the money spent to purchase classroom supplies will not be returned to the budget.

In the months ahead, Prisk will be making recommendations to the school board on items to trim or eliminate in the budget to cover the extra expense imposed by the court's ruling.

"There is nothing to delay opening of school," said Prisk, while evaluating the impact of the guidelines, "but the money we spent from the general fund to purchase supplies will not come back in."

"We have a whole year to trim from other budget areas to pay for these things. There may be a shortage of some books but everything else we have on hand."

THE GUIDELINES explicitly state schools must provide free any materials needed to

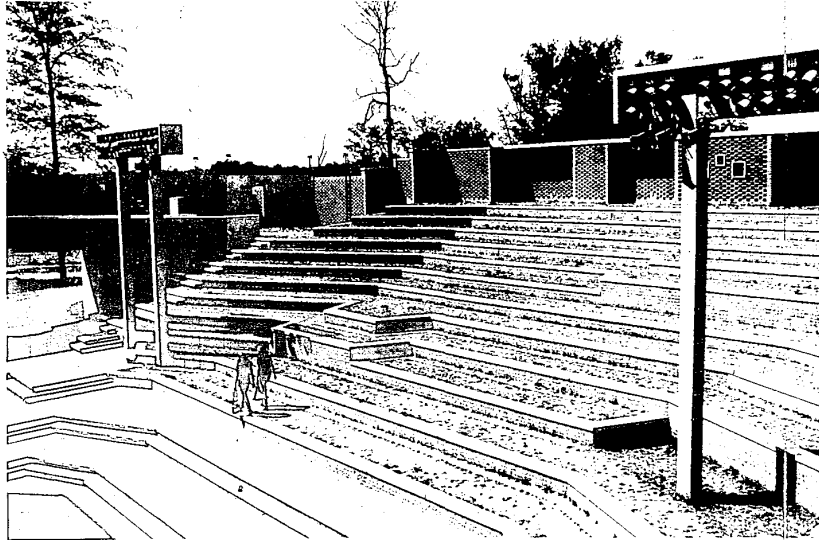
make whatever projects are necessary to meet requirements in such classes as shop, industrial education, home economics, art and drafting. Charges may be made for any school activities "outside the scope of the regular curriculum that carry no academic credit."

The guidelines clearly give the district the right to enforce rules for the preservation of school property, including regulations insuring the careful use and return of textbooks.

The attorney general's office stressed school boards may charge students for damage to books and supplies, over and above normal wear, and for loss of books and supplies.

School boards will also be allowed to charge "reasonable refundable" book deposits to cover any abnormal wear on the books.

The guidelines also provide that any student who wishes to use his own school supplies may do so.



EMPTY NOW — The amphitheater of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College stands empty now except for campus strollers, but the beautiful outdoor arena will be filled Tuesday, Aug. 25. The Farmington Community Concert Band will end its 1970-71

season with a free, 60-minute concert. Fittingly enough, a tune called "Outdoor Overture" has been selected for the concert by Director Paul Barber. (Evert photo)

Over 75 Attend Hearing

Urge Joint Venture On Arena

By VICTOR OMELCZENKO
A possible joint venture between Farmington city and township over building a \$1 million civic arena is now under consideration after city representatives met recently with officials and residents in an open study session held by the board of education.

Present hopes call for building the arena on six acres of school owned property located at Orchard Lake and Shiawassee.

THE SCHOOL BOARD has to approve the land use first, but trustees wondered about the traffic situation in the area and the legality of turning the land over to the city.

White Board Treasurer Richard H. Peters called for "further study." Mrs. Kay Stirling, secretary, said the idea of "3,000 persons in that arena frightens me a little bit" with the traffic congestion.

Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi felt "the only question seems to be whether we can give a way that land as a school board," and Trustee Gary L. Lietzman wanted to know "what is a non-resident and what is a resident." Plans had called for letting City of Farmington residents pay less to use the arena.

"All residents of the school district should be allowed to use the facilities," said City Councilman John Richardson, who along with Russ Ellis, a hockey buff, presented the arena plans.

If this rule were followed, residents in Farmington Twp. and a section of West Bloomfield Twp. would pay the same price as those in the City of Farmington to use the arena.

RICHARDSON ALSO pointed out that the board of education had set a precedent for giving land to the city when "magic squares" for city recreation programs were built on school property.

The councilman felt the arena was an oversized program for the City of Farmington and that it would be "much more comfortable" to work with the township.

"We were first of the impression that Farmington Township wasn't able to enter into joint cooperation with a building authority," said Richardson "but now we're going to pursue this idea all the way."

One township official at the meeting, Trustee Earl Opperhauser, did speak, saying: "It would be well to explore the question of whether traffic relief will be obtained in the area before we create more."

CITY OF FARMINGTON Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton said: "The city had the feeling this land was available, so we went to see about it first. I just don't want to leave the board with the impression that it's a cut-and-dried matter."

The mayor said: "I haven't made up my mind yet about a venture of this type that puts the city into a business."

But Brotherton did say, "The plan has my endorsement as an exploratory proposition."

Besides several public officials, over 75 residents attended the meeting. H. L. Pickett, representing that section of West Bloomfield Township in the Farmington school district, said: "Our tax dollars have gone to pay for this land and we feel we won't get our just rights."

Pickett said that about 120 signatures have been gathered for a petition asking the school board to reject anything involving the arena project.

He believed that after vacations are over all 290 families or so in the section will sign the petition. "I think we could get you a 100 per cent response," said Pickett.

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