

today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 67 18 Pages, 2 Sections

what's inside

One Of Ours

Pat Nowak of Farmington remains a strong contender for national Jaycee president as he enters the last phase of his campaign which ends with the Portland, Ore., convention beginning June 13. A campaign report inside also includes an opportunity for Farmington residents to help elect one of their own to this position of national prominence.

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Home Search

A search is on for some very special homes in Farmington and all of this area. Find out if yours is one of them by reading our Women's Page.

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Observer employees will spend Memorial Day with their families.

The Observer central offices and switchboard will close the evening of Friday, May 28. We will resume business as usual Tuesday, June 1, at 8:30 a.m. Due to the shortened business week, your Wednesday Observer will be published Thursday, June 3. Deadlines for this post holiday edition are:

CLASSIFIED WANT ADS	11:30 a.m. Wednesday
CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS	5 p.m. Tuesday
DISPLAY ADVERTISING	5 p.m. Tuesday
CHURCH-WOMEN'S NEWS	12 noon Tuesday
ALL OTHER NEWS	6 p.m. Tuesday

The Observer circulation staff will be available for calls concerning delivery of your hometown newspaper from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, May 29 261-3800



When your Observer carrier stops his bike at your doorstep this month and says, "Collect," be sure you ask for a receipt. It's worth its face value toward an Observer Want Ad. Or if you collect three consecutive receipts you are entitled to a free Observer Want Ad. Happy collecting!

Major Transmission Line Going Underground Here

Detroit Edison Co. will begin laying a major transmission line underground in Farmington Township next week.

The line will cut through the middle of the township, and the decision to lay the wiring underground insures the landscape will not be cluttered by a number of large transmission towers.

Work will begin next week at 11 Mile and Inkster and will proceed through June. When completed, the system will run on 11 Mile from Inkster to Farmington Rd., north to 12 Mile and west on 12 Mile past Haggerty Rd. into Novi.

FRED BRAYTON, manager of the Farmington Edison branch office, says the system is being expanded because of the rapidly growing populations in Southfield, Farmington and Novi.

A new substation is now under construction in Southfield at the Northeast corner of 11 Mile and Inkster. The transmission line will connect the new substation with an existing station in Novi and relieve overloading of existing substations.

The cost of running in the transmission line on overhead equipment became quite expensive, Brayton explains, because Edison does not own

the necessary right-of-way for the towers.

Normally it is more expensive to locate wiring underground; he adds, but the cost of acquiring right-of-way for this transmission line made it cheaper to go underground.

The 120,000 volt wire will be placed in pipes of 47-foot lengths and placed along the roadway within the 120-foot road right-of-way, Brayton says.

CONSTRUCTION will not result in any traffic stoppages, and crews should not be in front of any individual residence for more than a day in most cases.

Township Supervisor Earl Peoples says he is pleased Edison has decided to lay the transmission lines underground because it will help keep Farmington a beautiful community.

Edison will draw up a plan for underground wiring within six months after voters approve the franchise.

A special election will be held soon in the township, probably this fall, with voters being asked to approve the franchise. Edison will be paying the election costs.

THE TOWNSHIP board and Edison recently reached an agreement on an Edison franchise for electrical service to be furnished to residents.

The franchise had expired

and the township delayed approving a new agreement in order to negotiate plans for placing all electrical wires underground.

The franchise provides Edison will draw up a plan for underground wiring within six months after voters approve the franchise.

A special election will be held soon in the township, probably this fall, with voters being asked to approve the franchise. Edison will be paying the election costs.

The plan will include a schedule on when existing overhead lines can be placed underground and when, if ever, the township can expect

all wiring to be underground.

Township officials recognize complete underground wiring will be very difficult to realize but feel the new franchise will be an important beginning.

In recent years, Farmington Township has required electrical wiring to be placed underground in new subdivisions.

"This is a move in the right direction, and I hope we get a good plan for underground wiring," Mrs. Margaret Schaeffer said of the Edison franchise. She is a township trustee and member of the Township of Farmington Beautification Committee.

Wood Creek A School That's Unprecedented

School was never like this! Gone are traditional classrooms; silence in the schoolrooms; timed recesses, 40-minute lessons and rigid discipline. Gone is the strict authoritarian at the head of the class and set textbooks and librarians.

In their place is "trust," part of a new "open concept" in teaching in experimental stages this year at the Farmington Public School's new Wood Creek Elementary School at 28350 Danvers Dr.

WOOD CREEK IS unique among the nation's schools and indeed has been featured many times in national and state educational publications.

The "open concept" seems to be working well here, according to principal Larry Freedman. Student teachers vie for a chance to do some of their pre-graduate teaching there and members of the present staff say that if budget cuts force them to move on, they'll remember Wood Creek

as "one of the best experiences" of their lives.

If you're curious at all so far, you don't even have to read any further. Freedman says he'll be glad to have coffee with you anytime and take you on a tour of the school. He says parents come in all the time, some just to say "hi."

It's that informal.

Kindergartners through sixth graders are so used to seeing visitors throughout their school they take them for granted now and continue doing whatever they're doing.

Some may be listening to one of the team teachers giving a science lesson while others may be lying on the floor finishing up a math assignment, and still others may be down in the media center checking out their own books.

"Our philosophy is trust," Freedman explains. "Our program is geared toward developing independence and responsibility in the youngsters, even our kindergartners. When and how

they complete daily lessons and how they budget time for each one is up to them, as long as they fulfill their assignments.

"This way, the restless kid who couldn't sit for 35 minutes at a time working on math can change his attention to some other subject whenever he wants to, as long as he fulfills his assignments."

WOOD CREEK'S success story begins and ends with student and teacher attitudes. Students are treated with trust so that each child grows individually and develops inner controls on his own. "If you expect a student to perform a certain way, he usually won't let you down," Freedman says. "The whole idea is for kids to learn because they want to learn."

In line with this theory, students are able to use any piece of educational or recreational equipment found

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"HEY, MR. FWEEDMAN!" brings a quick response from Wood Creek principal Larry Freedman. William Shoults, a kindergartner from the Sarah Fisher Home in Farmington, had no qualms about asking Freedman for help with a broken zipper. (Evert photo)



LEARNING TO SAY "football" is a major triumph for kindergartners like Evan Dsch who is one of Mrs. Nancy DuBois's deaf students at Wood Creek Elementary. Here, Evan tries to make the "f" sound that will move the kleenex Mrs. DuBois holds in front of his mouth. (Evert photo)



EVERYBODY WANTS A RIDE in the kindergartners' see-saw boat. Rocking the boat is just one of many things deaf children like John Norton (left) do together with children who have no hearing difficulties, like Jody Rice (right). Meanwhile, Charles Pausi looks like his turn isn't coming up fast enough. (Evert photo)