

# the farmington

## enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Weekend of November 13-14, 1971

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# Township Prodding County On I-696 Traffic Bottleneck

By EMORY DANIELS  
Every three days a traffic accident will occur at Orchard Lake and I-696. But this statistic is less than alarming to the Oakland County Road Commission.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The request for traffic signals has not yet been approved, even though county road commissioners have known for months that the traffic situation at this intersection is at best horrendous.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The request was made in writing about a month ago by Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples after the signals were recommended in a study conducted by American Automobile Assn.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The traffic tieups at Orchard Lake - I-696 - 12 Mile have been studied for more than a year by the freeway committee of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

By EMORY DANIELS  
Detroit exiting on the westbound ramp and trying to turn left (or south) onto Orchard Lake.

By EMORY DANIELS  
Lichtman reveals that the county road commission has a \$30,000 end of October balance allocated for Farmington Township that it can spend within the next two months.

By EMORY DANIELS  
At the beginning of the year, the county allocated \$150,000 to spend in Farmington Township for road improvements, maintenance, traffic signals and signs.

By EMORY DANIELS  
Each month, the county reports to the township how much money remains in the fund and in what categories money has been spent.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The county does not budget money for each category, Lichtman says.

By EMORY DANIELS  
With two months remaining, Lichtman contends, the county should be able to dip into the \$50,000 balance and install the signals at Orchard Lake - I-696.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The road commission has already spent \$18,000 for winter maintenance, he adds, and shouldn't have to spend

By EMORY DANIELS  
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FARMINGTON officials



HARRISON CLEAN UP -- The junior class of Harrison High School in Farmington decided to forego its annual activities day to raise money and, instead, provide labor to clean up the Harrison grounds as an ecology project. Students gave up their study hours and lunch periods on Nov. 8 for the clean-up. Shown from left are: Jeff Evans, Pat Terminelli and Doug O'Connell. (Evert photo)

## High Schoolers Tell Views About Bussing

By MARTHA MAHAN

With all the to-do over bussing, little has been heard from those most affected -- the kids. How do they feel about it? Dean Smith, senior class vice president and student council member at Farmington High School, carried out a private survey to find out.

His MAJOR conclusions: • The younger junior high students "who are more adventurous," are more receptive to the bussing concept than the senior highs. • Among older students, Smith found the ratio about 65 against bussing to 35 per cent willing to give it a try or actively in favor.

(Only due to adult attitudes percentage-wise is a recent Time Magazine figure of 75 per cent opposition among adults nationwide. Major opinion pollsters thus far have not reported on adult attitudes, locally or by race.)

FROM TALKING with students, Smith concluded that those on the junior high level view bussing with more equanimity because "they don't know what it's like down there" -- meaning in the Detroit black neighborhoods. They also expect they would return to their home high

school in Farmington for their final years of study, he said, "like they do in Pontiac." In Pontiac's case, however, district boundaries of high schools were redrawn a couple of years ago to achieve racial integration, a spokesman explained, so that there was no need to rearrange high school populations under the court's integration order.

The same situation likely would not prevail in an inter-district bussing order involving Detroit.

AS PART of his survey, which he worked out with teachers as a sociology experiment, Smith taped a bussing discussion among about 50 sophomores, juniors and seniors at Farmington High. Only three of the 50 favored it.

While the discussion, overall, reflected the limited experience of their years and was recognizably tinged with opinions heard at home, some of the young people had clearly done some independent thinking.

"I don't like the idea of giving up extra - curricular sports," one youth conceded, "but maybe in the long run the merits would outweigh the limitations. We would be going into and learning about a different sub-culture. Maybe it wouldn't benefit us

academically, but it would in going out into the world." Integration is "going to happen to us anyway," another young man said. "We'll be going to college where blacks are. We'd only be starting to know them earlier in life."

But the rest called bussing "unrealistic." "JUST VISITING for six hours isn't going to accomplish anything," a girl said. "There'd be no socializing after school, and everybody'd just stay in his own group."

"I don't know how many of you have ever been in those schools," said another girl, "who I have, and it isn't pleasant. There are about nine racial fights every day. More time is spent in disciplining and keeping control than actually learning." "That's why we moved here and fight. It would break up our school system."

OTHER typical comments: "I can't see anybody forcing us to be friends. We'd each just stay in our own group." "It isn't black against white.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The lights would stop the north - south flow on Orchard Lake and create gaps to allow left - turn movements for auto coming off the expressway.

By EMORY DANIELS  
"It's going to take a lot of pressure to get the new interchange design and approaches improved and will take some pressure to get the traffic signals," Bowman says. The chamber is advising a letter writing campaign to the county road commission and state highway department.

By EMORY DANIELS  
The AAA report shows that during the six months ending with July 1971, a total of 41 accidents occurred on Orchard Lake Rd. between the eastbound exit ramp on the south side of I-696 and 12 Mile Rd.

By EMORY DANIELS  
Of these 41 accidents, 14 were caused by traffic from

By EMORY DANIELS  
The 41 accidents exclude the mishaps further down the road at the entrance to Orchard Ridge.

By EMORY DANIELS  
During a 24-hour period, the AAA survey teams counted 16,585 cars traveling north and south at the point of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake. Some counts indicate that between the campus and 12 Mile, a total of about 30,000 cars move in a given day.

By EMORY DANIELS  
ALTHOUGH THE freeway committee is seeking other interchanges and freeway improvements, it has given the Orchard Lake - I-696 interchange top priority and is quite concerned about the bottleneck.

By EMORY DANIELS  
Fred Lichtman, township trustee, is convinced that



WILLIAM COUSINEAU, Farmington mail carrier, receives a 25-year expert driving award from Louis F. Gay (right), assistant postmaster. (Evert photo)

## One-Leg Man Drives Safest

William J. Cousineau, mail carrier for the Farmington Post Office, has amassed a record of 25 accident-free years driving with the U.S. Post Office.

A number of persons who drive for a living reach the 25-year, no accident plateau, but few have an artificial leg as Cousineau does.

Cousineau, of 26289 Power, lost a leg in combat during World War II while serving with the U.S. Army. His driving record represents over 150,000 miles of accident-free driving as a postal employe.

The "25-Year Expert Driving" award was given him recently by Louis Gay, assistant postmaster, on behalf of the U.S. Postal Service and the National Safety Council.

The 25 years of safe driving was done in various types of vehicles and in all kinds of weather. He and wife Daisy have two children, Mark, 16, and Christy, two.

This award was presented along with other safe driving awards to these postal drivers in Farmington: Charles Larson, 22-year award; Arnold Werschinn, 22-year award; Frank Foisy, 21-year award; and John Morey, 21-year award.

Another 46 employes received various yearly awards which represent a total of 382 man-years of safe driving at the Farmington Post Office and over 3.5 million miles of accident-free driving by local postal drivers.

### today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 11 48 pages, 3 sections

### what's inside

#### Underground

All new subdivisions in Farmington Township must place electrical wiring underground. Should the same requirement be made for commercial, industrial and multiple developments? That question is now being studied by the township board.

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#### Protest That Died

Over a year ago, homeowners raised quite a fuss and threatened a referendum when the Farmington Township board adopted a zoning ordinance providing for Planned Residential Development (PRD) in the community. The first PRD development was approved Monday night, however, by the board without a single protest from homeowners.

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#### A Good Habit

Readers who don't make the Farmington Community Calendar a weekly habit are apt to miss a happening in their neighborhood. Next week's events can be found listed in today's calendar inside, along with the Local News report filed by Mrs. Marie Long.

Pages 3A, 5A

#### Dedication

Special ceremonies are planned soon for a new Farmington church. Find the story in our Church Section.

Page 6A

#### Children's Show

"Aladdin and His Magic Lamp" will be in Oberverland to entertain area youngsters next weekend. You'll find details on our Amusements page.

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