

the farmington enterprise & observer

Wednesday, August 18, 1971

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

15¢ a Copy

today's
hot line

Vol. 83, No. 90 44 pages, 4 sections

bulletin

A "Truth Line" phone number, where Farmington voters can receive accurate answers to their questions regarding the Aug. 23 millage election, will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school administrative offices. The telephone number is 477-1306.

CP Strikers Asked To Return

Consumers Power Co. late Tuesday urged all of its 5,400 striking workers, members of the Utility Workers Union of America, to return to work on wage scales based on their contract which expired in the spring.

The 99-day old strike could end if the union accepted the gas firm's proposal. The company said its proposal was the direct result of President Nixon's wage and price freeze.

All but a handful of men terminated over charges involving assaults and vandalism during the strike would be recalled under the company offer. Talks would continue on major issues, but "it would be impossible to increase wages for the next 90 days," the company said in a letter to union officials.

Locally, it would mean about 200 employees would be back on the job. The company serves Plymouth, Farmington, Livonia and other area suburbs, with central offices on Farmington Rd. in Livonia.

what's inside

Just 5 Days Left

Only five days are left before Farmington residents go to the polls to decide the fate of the Farmington Schools request for 3.5 mills. With a week left, a couple of board members have personal comments on why they feel the new operating millage must be approved.

Page 5B

Amusements	18D
Classified Want Ads	1-17D
Deaths and Funerals	8B
Editorial Viewpoints	16B
Home and Garden	4B, 7B
Observing Sports	2B
Readers' Forum	17B
Regional Affairs	8B
Sports -- Prep and Pro	1-3B
Spotlight on Women	1-4C



A BEAUTIFUL IDEA...

Women and want ads go together. The ladies love the money they can make with Observer Want Ads. That's why we want to remind them to save the Observer carrier collection receipt their husbands get when they pay the new 60¢ a month on the Carrier Subscription Plan. The receipt is also a coupon worth 80¢ toward an Observer Want Ad. Beautiful idea! We think so.

Does Freeze Affect Local School, Twp. Wage Talks?



BARN ART — Douglas Tyler, of Farmington Township, painted his version of the Mona Lisa on the side of a barn on his property at 30540 Peardree near 14 Mile Rd. Tyler used one gallon of white paint and a gallon of black paint for the painting. News of the barn art has been carried on the national news wire and this paper has received several comments about Tyler's Mona Lisa, including some from Canada and Texas. (Fran Evert photo)



TOO CLOSE to the stream bed. That's what Fred Harrison thinks about landfill operations going on near his property. Photographer Fran Evert tramped several hundred yards along a stream bed and through underbrush to capture this picture. Harrison is standing near a place of concrete which he says will ruin the stream running through his property.

One Man Wages Own Battle To Save Rouge

With massive plans under way to clean up Rouge River sections in Farmington, some smaller ecological problems may go unnoticed.

But at Farmington Township man, Fred Harrison, has been waging a one-man battle to preserve the natural valley created by a tiny tributary of the Rouge running through his property.

Harrison, of 22588 Whittington (just off Nine Mile), is upset over plans for filling a portion of the creek, by the owners of an adjacent trailer court.

TOWNSHIP ZONING officers have visited the court, the Flamingo Trailer Court on Middle Belt Rd. and have received promises that the land filling and grading had stopped, even though it has all been done on trailer court property.

Harrison is concerned that the grading and filling will ruin the stream that meanders through a small valley behind his home.

Harrison, who deals in quiet, gracious man and is no late arrival on the ecology bandwagon.

HE MOVED to his eight acres in 1939 and ever since has tried to keep the land and the valley in their natural state. He hopes someday to develop full fledged natural trails and to have a naturalist mark the trees along the footpaths.

"We have got to stop the landfill process and look at it carefully. The developers want to level and fill every crevice," Harrison says, with mild anger.

Harrison can cite the law chapter and verse on the streams.

"The banks can be no closer than 20 feet, and must be a two-to-one grade, or a 45 degree angle," he said.

Harrison will show the valley to anyone who wants to see it now covered with a rich blanket of some blue-purple wild flowers. He is most unhappy about the more recent fill, which he says destroyed the nesting place of a family of cedar waxwings, a small bird. Also, he says that large chunks of concrete have spilled into the stream bed.

AS OF THURSDAY he had been promised by township zoning officers that the filling would stop.

He calls his eight acres "Harrison Park No. 3."

"The state already has a number one and a number two," he says.

He has planted nearly 10,000 evergreen and pine trees since he moved there. He and his wife live in a home near the edge of a small ravine, downstream from the gently rolling meadow and valley.

"They talk about cleaning up the Rouge. I think I've

By EMORY DANIELS

The Farmington community, like the nation, adopted a "what does it mean" attitude Monday toward the wage-price freeze announcement made Sunday night by President Nixon.

Local government officials were searching for answers about the emergency measure's effect on recently negotiated and unsettled wage pacts with employes.

ALTHOUGH THE specifics were unknown Monday, the general assumption of Farmington government leaders was that any pay hike not paid within the past 30 days could not be paid during the 90-day freeze.

No governmental agency will be allowed to implement any negotiated increases during the 90 days. The big unanswered question appears to be whether any negotiated pay hike after the freeze will be allowed to be retroactive.

The initial reaction from Farmington School District was that the freeze would not have any significant effect on the district's total budget for 1971-72.

"The answers, obviously, within the first 24 hours of President Nixon's announcement are varied along the line," said Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of Farmington schools.

THE DISTRICT'S labor attorney, Charles Fine, is researching the situation to determine the ramifications on the local negotiations with the faculty. Administrators are also waiting word from the State Department of Education and attorney general's office.

"The presidential order has the effect of law and will be considered as such," Dr. Smith stated Monday.

"Common opinion does indicate that the order is temporary and that no significant change will be manifested in the total 1971-72 school budget."

"Interpretations by state officials and legal advisors will help to clarify the positions."

"Since the school board must set the tax levy by Sept.

1, 1971," Smith added, "it is mandatory that the millage election be conducted."

SMITH CONCLUDED that the 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) on the ballot Aug. 23 is still necessary to reinstate the programs deleted during the past school year.

School administrators commented that the freeze will not be a windfall significantly reducing expenditures because at the end of the 90 days the district must return to the task of negotiating a contract with teachers to cover an entire school year.

Roger Allen, executive director of the Farmington Education Association (FEA), agreed Monday the freeze probably would not result in a significant change in the district's budget.

Allen was in negotiations all Monday morning and left in the afternoon for Lansing to attend an emergency meeting called by the Michigan Education Association, presumably to discuss the president's emergency order to cool the nation's economy.

A FARMINGTON Township spokesman commented that it was unknown at this point what would happen con-

cerning the recent settlement with patrolmen.

The township board approved the contract with the Police Officers Association at its last meeting, pending agreement on sections providing for longevity pay.

The board has gone on record as making the pay hike retroactive to the April 1, the date the 1970-71 contract expired. Township officials now are awaiting word from the federal government whether retroactive payments can be made for the 90-day period.

It is being assumed, however, that the pay hike cannot be given until the expiration of the wage-price freeze period.

FARMINGTON CITY Manager John Dinan said Monday that only the city's DPW employes would be affected by the wage freeze.

The DPW is still in negotiations and have not settled which means nothing can be implemented until after the 90 days, Dinan said.

The city's public safety department signed a two-year contract a year ago and so will not be affected by the freeze.

The second year of the contract started July 1 which is

Continued on Page 8B

4 Charter Changes On Fall Ballot

The City of Farmington election in November will include a vote on proposals to revise four sections of the city charter.

The sections involve appointment of department heads, number of persons on the zoning board of appeals, and residency requirement to hold office.

THE CITY council voted Monday night to place the four proposed revisions on the November ballot.

The major proposed change is to reduce from three to one year the residency requirement for holding city offices. The council did not propose any charter revision concerning minimum age for holding office, which means qualified electors 18-21 years may hold office.

Another charter revision suggested was to give the city manager authority to appoint the city clerk, treasurer and assessor with confirmation by the council.

The council presently appoints the clerk, treasurer and assessor while the city manager can appoint the directors of public safety and public services.

A THIRD proposed change, if approved by voters, would allow department heads to appoint deputy administrators with confirmation given by the city manager. Presently, the city manager appoints the assistants for each department.

The fourth proposed revision is merely a technical change in the wording of the charter to allow the zoning board of appeal's membership to be increased from five to six.

Actually, the board now has six members under a state law, which takes precedence over local municipal charters. The change is being suggested merely to have the charter conform to state law, City Manager John Dinan explained.

The four proposed revisions will be listed and voted upon separately, Dinan said. The revisions are being submitted to the state attorney general's office for review before being sent to the Oakland County clerk's office to be placed on the November ballot.

Motion to place the four amendments on the ballot was made by John Richardson, supported by Ralph Yoder, and passed 4-0 with Councilman John Allen absent.