

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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School Newsline

The old problem of children not taking notes home from school may be solved with a "newsline" being established by Farmington Schools. Parents may call numbers at their child's school for information about what's happening at that school.

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Paving & Zoning

Drake Road residents disagree with the Farmington City Council's position that plans to pave Drake and the cluster housing rezoning request are unrelated. If so, homeowners argue, why has the rezoning petitioner offered to pay the homeowners' share for paving in exchange for the rezoning?

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Board Sues Union

The Farmington Board of Education has filed a lawsuit against the teachers' union which is also suing the board. Meanwhile, the board has received news that the district's bus fleet is safe.

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Ye Who Labor

A special church service Sunday honors the men who have built the temple. Read about it in our Church Section.

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It's Catching

Art students and instructors at Oakland Community College find enthusiasm is catching. This is all part of a plan, which is working well.

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FOCUS: Suburbia



DON'T MISS NEXT WEEKEND'S OBSERVER... WHEN WE FOCUS ON FURNITURE!



'Student Advisor' Denied By Board

By MARTHA MAHAN

Students will remain without seats on the Farmington Board of Education, at least until the next election. Trustees turned down, 5-2, a proposal that one non-voting "student advisor" be added to the board from each of the three high schools.

INSTEAD, they established student-administration-board "round tables" to meet on a regular schedule for discussion of youthful concerns.

Student reaction to the round tables generally was faint-hearted.

"They (the adults) will just sit there and listen and nod their heads and do nothing," a

Harrison High senior complained. "They'll listen, but they won't pay any attention to what we say. It just won't amount to anything."

"Maybe we had better put up an 18-year-old candidate for the board at the next election," another said. "That way we'd be sure to be heard, and have a vote, too."

PETITIONS, which the young people said carried signatures of 1,420 students favoring addition of students to the board, were presented at Tuesday night's board meeting.

James Abowd, Harrison Student Council president, told the board his group "strongly supported" passage of the proposal.

Voting against seating students were Board President Richard Peters and trustees Betty Brennan, Ronald Emmitt, Kenneth Perrin and Kay Stirling.

Supporting it were trustees Aldo Vagnozzi, originator of the proposal, and Dr. Mervyn Ross.

PETERS SAID the board had discussed Vagnozzi's proposal at its private meeting Monday and "arrived at a consensus" to establish the round tables instead.

It was felt, Peters said, that Vagnozzi's suggestion was "perhaps avoiding or not making use of the district's present organization—student council, principals, central staff."

The round tables, Peters said, will "provide an excellent opportunity for students to express their ideas and concerns" with members of the board and school administration.

However, Vagnozzi termed the round tables a "buffer zone—an amorphous zone" making it difficult to come to direct facing of issues.

A motion by Vagnozzi to postpone action on the round table recommendation lost by the same vote which turned down his original proposal.

Vagnozzi sought postponement, he said, pending a study session which would include representatives of student government.

YMCA Building Now Under Way

The beginning of the national YMCA Week today (Saturday) is marked by an announcement that construction will soon begin on the Farmington Area YMCA's first permanent facility.

The announcement was made by David L. Comfort, executive director of the Farmington YMCA, who says the facility at 12 Mile and Farmington Rds. will be completed by May 1.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Jan. 12 for the administrative center building to be located on a 12-acre site, the largest YMCA site in the Detroit metropolitan area.

THE BUILDING gives permanency to the fact that the Farmington YMCA will always be a part of the community, Comfort said.

The initial building, about 1,500 square feet, will be used as an administrative center with a meeting room. It will house Comfort's program director, Fred Lindhout, and a secretary.

The meeting room, about 15 by 25 feet, will be used for

board of director meetings, counseling meetings with Indian Guide fathers, and leadership training sessions.

When the permanent YMCA center is constructed later, the administrative center will be converted for other uses such as a warming house for the skating area, for the summer kiddie camp program, or possibly as a teen drop-in center.

THE FIRST phase of construction, which will cost about \$70,000, will involve installation of a parking lot for some 50 cars.

This lot will be used for basketball games and other outdoor activities. When the permanent center is completed, there will be parking areas to handle 100 cars.

Comfort explained that the local Y's building program is sponsored by community donations, United Fund and by class fees and YMCA memberships.

The community contributes about 20 per cent to the YMCA's total budgets. United Fund adds another 20 per cent, and 60 per cent is provided by

class fees and memberships paid by participants in the YMCA's many programs.

Part of the \$70,000 to be spent for initial development has been donated by Farmington residents during the annual financial drive held by the YMCA.

This year's drive, which will begin next month, will stress the theme "Invest in Youth" with donors receiving stock certificates. The 1972 community fund-raising goal is \$15,000.

THE 12-ACRE site is located east of Farmington Rd., south of East Tulipwood Rd., west of Kendallwood Dr. and the Dunckel Junior High property, and north of Demery Center.

The site was rezoned by Farmington Township Board in November 1968, and closing on purchase of the site was on April 25, 1969.

In December, 1969, the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit selected William P. Lindhout as architect for the first phase of development. Last month, Orr Brothers Builders of

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YMCA GROUND BREAKING — Present at recent groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Farmington YMCA administrative center were (from left): Robert Hall, present board chairman; William Lindhout, architect; Jack Cotton, past board chairman; Robert Chesley, past board chairman; Edward Orr, contractor; Richard Frey, president, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit; and David Comfort, executive director, Farmington Area YMCA. (Evert photo)

Villagers Protesting Reversal Of Council

Some village residents are questioning the right of the Wood Creek Farms Village Council to approve a rezoning previously denied without holding a second public hearing.

At issue is the council's 3-2 vote on Jan. 11 to rezone Outlot D on Northwestern Highway between Valley and Wellington Rds. from residential to office.

An outspoken critic of the council's action is Dan Abbott, village building supervisor and past road commissioner, who claims to have attended more council meetings in the past five years than anyone else in the village.

Another person disturbed by the rezoning decision is William Toth, husband of the village clerk, who lives across the street from the rezoned property.

THE COUNCIL last May had voted 3-1 against rezoning the parcel as requested by petitioner Roger Wardle of a Detroit law firm.

Wardle's firm wants to share the proposed two-story office building with Inman Associates of Wood Creek. Mrs. June Inman now has an option on the property.

A lawsuit was threatened last November by the petitioner and filed with Pinecone Realty as plaintiff. Notice was served on the village on Jan. 10.

In December, Abbott says, the rezoning was approved, but that action was declared null because the council was meeting as the village zoning board of appeals and the matter was under the zoning board's jurisdiction.

THEN ON Jan. 11, the item came up for discussion when Councilman William Ortmann asked what was going to be done about the lawsuit.

The motion to approve the rezoning passed 3-2 with Ortmann, President William Smolek and Dr. Richard Quevy voting yes and Alvin Alberison and David Martin opposed. Quevy was the councilman who changed his vote from last May.

The developers were not present at the Jan. 11 meeting when the approval was given, over the advice of Village Attorney David Goldman who advised a delay so he could investigate whether a second public hearing was needed.

TOTH, who is organizing anti-rezoning forces, questions whether the rezoning can be reconsidered so soon after being rejected and asks whether another public hearing is required.

He feels the action represents "spot-zoning in a residential neighborhood and will have a precedent-setting effect upon adjoining

properties and will affect rezoning in the future along Northwestern, 13 Mile, Inker, 12 Mile and Middle Belt Rds.

Abbott points out that in 1964 the State Supreme Court issued a decision upholding the village's position that Outlot D remain residential. He feels the parcel has been rezoned because of ineptness by the council.

"How can residents have confidence in the government that supposedly represents them," asks Goldman, "when the council rezones property opposed by residents at the first public hearing without holding a second hearing?"

At Thursday night's village hearing on a road improvement proposal, Abbott asked councilmen whether they intended to follow the dictates of the electorate as evidenced by the first public hearing or go their own way.

Abbott points out that the village has also defended its zoning in court at 13 Mile and Northwestern and at 13 Mile and Middle Belt and has maintained its residential zoning.