

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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New Horizons Farmington Center Is Losing Workshop

By JAN WILLIAMS John Denman, public relations representative for New Horizons, says the building, located at 3510 Grand River, will be demolished to make way for facilities to house them aren't found soon.

It was being rented from Thompson - Brown Realtors of Farmington. According to Peg Prentice, foreman at the Farmington center, the building was unsuitable for their operation anyway.

"The building has deteriorated to the point where we can't function any longer. It leaks when it rains and it's really inadequate for the number of people we have." There are presently 24

workers and two supervisors at the Farmington center which has been in operation about seven years.

New Horizons is a non-profit, community-oriented rehabilitation service for multiple-handicapped teenagers and adults of Oakland County. It was incorporated in 1961 by a group of parents of mentally handicapped young people, and other interested citizens.

The first work activity center opened in Royal Oak in January 1963. Two years later the Royal Oak center was closed in favor of a combined administrative and work activity center in Madison Heights and a work activity center in Farmington.

"If we don't find another place soon, this will be quite a hardship for most of our workers," Mrs. Prentice said. "Most of them live in the Farmington area, either at the Wagner House, a home for the mentally and physically handicapped, or with parents. The center or their parents transport them to and from work."

"These people will have to go to Pontiac or Madison Heights or be dropped from the program," Mrs. Prentice said. "They definitely need this program, otherwise they would be sitting around with nothing to do."

A meeting was held in the First Presbyterian Church in Farmington Wednesday night to discuss the situation.

Present at the meeting were Glen D. Smith, New Horizons executive director; President Edward Langtry,

center and principal workshop

Continued on Page 2A

today's hot line

Volume 84, Number 47 • Four News Sections

what's inside

Looking Glass

That's the name of a day-long gala scheduled March 26 in the new Adas Shalom synagogue in Farmington. You can get the details in the Church Section today.

Page 4A

Hampton Concert

Lionel Hampton is bringing his orchestra to Observerland next weekend, courtesy of the Clarenceville Entertainment Series. Details are on our Amusements page.

Page 8A

Summer Fun Stays

The Farmington school board voted to reject further study of an extended school year for the district. To find out why, turn to:

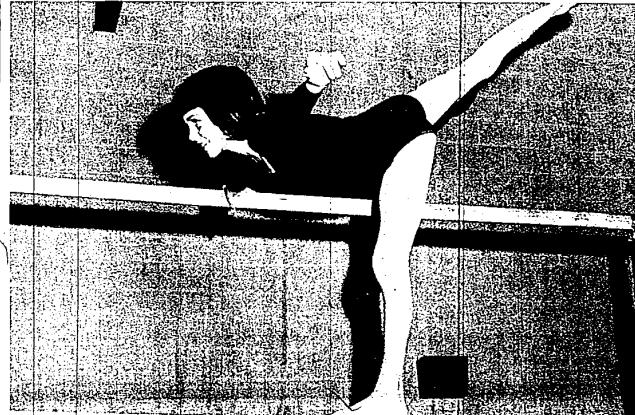
Page 3A

Drug Problems

What are the schools doing to control drug abuse? Cooperation between teachers, parents and police is part of the answer, according to officials interviewed by the Farmington Enterprise and Observer.

Page 2A

Amusements	8A
Churches in Action	4, 5A
Classified Want Ads	Sec. C
Deaths and Funerals	5A
Focus: Suburbia	Sec. B
Observing Life	6A
Sports - Prep and Pro	7A
Turf Tips and Quips	7A



KATHY TEMPLE shows her skill on the uneven bars. (Evert photo)

Gym Team Winning

Gymnastics may be taking the place of the traditional dancing lessons for Farmington girls.

The first team (ages 9-15) from the new Farmington YMCA recently won first place in the Great Lakes region, and is going on to the north-west district meet in Elyria Ohio.

They practice three days a week at Mercy Center, coached by Jim Haske.



KATHY PURCELL demonstrates her form on the balance beam. (Evert photo)

Schools Urge Special Education Center Here

By STEVE BARNABY in Oakland County next year. The action to approve Farmington as a center was taken by school trustees. The State Legislature recently passed a law making it mandatory for all retarded to be educated in the district school systems, including some who were formerly in-stitutionalized.

Mills Workers Reject Contract

By STEVE BARNABY Workers of Mills Products Inc., 33106 Eight Mile, Farmington, have rejected the latest contract offer made by management and recommended for approval by Teamster Local 614 negotiators. Mills, supplier of oven doors, windows and trim, and one of Farmington's largest industries, was struck March 5. On March 21, workers

voted 133 to 50 against the contract, objecting to the fringe benefit proposals. In a statement released to union officials urged acceptance of the offer. "This offer is strongly recommended by your committee and you are urged to accept it today. If the tentative agreement is not ratified today, the offer will be withdrawn, and we will remain on strike indefinitely."

Area of responsibility for the Farmington center will probably include Clarenceville, Novi, West Bloomfield, and Walled Lake. No final determination of plans has been made. The facility will accommodate approximately 48 students, according to a recent survey.

Prisk said an additional 14 or 15 staff members will have to be hired. They will include teachers, therapists, practical nurses and teachers' aides. One suggested location is Cloverdale School, which at present is used for grades 1-4. He said the location would be convenient because of the classroom, gymnasium, and library facilities. "It will take some renovation calling for ramps, special toilet facilities, and hand rails for some students," said Prisk. "Some of the parents whose children are presently using the facility have expressed dissatisfaction because it is operating as less than a full school. We will do all we can do to help these people by moving their children to Ten Mile or Flanders schools." He emphasized the Cloverdale location hadn't been selected, and other locations were being taken under consideration.

5 Mills On Ballot On Monday

The Farmington School District five mill renewal election will be Monday, March 26, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Four locations are available for voters.

They are: First Precinct - Farmington Junior High School, 33000 Thomas; Second Precinct - Dunckel Junior High School, 32800 12 Mile; Third Precinct - Eagle Elementary, 29410 14 Mile; Fourth Precinct - Middlebelt School, 24400 Middle Belt.

Voters will be asked to decide whether to renew a five-mill school tax for another 10 years. School officials estimate the tax generates about \$1.7 million out of a \$16.9 million school budget.

EDITORIAL

Vote 'Yes' On Millage

The Farmington Public Schools operate on a two-legged financial base of state aid, and local taxes and fees.

Efforts to expand the base by increasing the local tax rate have not been successful in recent years, but between economy measures and state aid increases, the financial picture has remained sound.

For the past 10 years, an essential portion of the local tax package has been five mills first voted in 1963.

Last year, the five mills accounted for \$1.69 million of a \$16.9 million budget. Next year, it is expected to generate about \$1.8 million.

The school board has unanimously asked for an extension of this five mills for another 10 years. Many portions of next year's school budget are still fuzzy. State aid is still a "guesstimate," as it always is this time of year. Even local revenue is not known exactly, until assessment rolls are finalized.

Regardless, there is no way a stable financial base can be maintained for the schools without this millage renewal, which is about 10 per cent of the budget.

We urge a "yes" vote on the millage renewal March 26.

--Farmington Enterprise and Observer

FOCUS: Suburbia SPRINGTIME INDEPENDENT

Let us tell you the right way to get your home in shape... read FOCUS: Suburbia in today's Observer!