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Money Disagreement Stalls Paving Gill Road To School

By STEVE BARNABY

Everyone agrees that muddy Gill Road, between Eight Mile and Rhoads, should be paved. The project becomes mired when financing is the topic.

This was demonstrated at the last Farmington school board meeting when trustees turned down a request by Farmington Township to finance 25 per cent of the \$80,000 paving project.

Oakland County has agreed to pay 50 per cent and the township 25 per cent. Instead, trustees voted to

pay \$2,500, leaving \$20,000 of the project unfinished.

The township board made the offer to pay for one-fourth the paving contingent on getting the remaining 25 per cent from the schools, possibly with contributions from other sources.

The township board took this position, according to McConnell, because the total funds available for local roads are so small he is not certain they will be enough to pay for road improvements petitioned by residents.

The township pays 10 per cent of most paving projects,

with 60 per cent paid by adjoining property owners and 10 per cent by the county.

The large number of senior citizens along Gill Road prompted the township to change the ratios, mainly because it was felt counter-petitions against the project were inevitable, McConnell said.

McConnell also indicated he was attempting to develop an alternate assessment program that might get the project under way this summer.

"Educational funds should not be used for other than educational purposes.

"We have made the township aware of the district's offer to participate in road improvement projects to the extent that would be expected of any property owner fronting on a given road in a special assessment district," says William Prisk, Farmington School District business manager.

Gill Road was the center of attention last month when its muddy condition forced the closing of both Gill Elementary and Power Junior High School.

"I hope that the adoption of the \$2,500 will lead to another meeting with the town-

ship. We should see if we can get movement of the project. The situation may not be as favorable next year if the gasoline tax is repealed."

Trustee Elizabeth Brennan warned against setting a precedent of paying a full 25 per cent of the project.

"We are in a position to set a dangerous precedent. I don't think we should participate any further than in contributing \$2,500," said Mrs. Brennan.

Although voting with the rest of the Board, Trustee

William Corliss talked of the district's responsibility because of its use of the road.

"The board should realize that much of the deterioration of the road is due to the school buses. Perhaps we do have the responsibility to increase our payment," said Corliss.

Late in March, the Gill School PTA sponsored a meeting on Gill Rd. paving at which time a majority of residents agreed with Farmington school administrators that district funds should not be used for road improvement projects.

Sport Columns

For the first time, Eddie Edgar's "In the Pocket" and Doc Minard's "Turf Tips and Quips" are appearing in the special Easter Focus Tab. For the latest bowling and horse racing scoop, turn to the weekend special Easter Tab.

Easter Focus, Page 7B

Golf Class

A new class is being offered at the Farmington Community Center as part of its new spring program. For something a little different, turn to:

Page 2A.

Police League

The Farmington Police League finished its season recently, and we have the final results inside.

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Art Shows

After a winter of painting, area artists are ready and anxious to show the results of their labors. You might find just the right landscape for a rainy day.

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FOCUS: Suburbia

The Easter Story



The Easter Story—for a local look at traditions, fashions and the joy of Easter...read today's FOCUS: Suburbia.



OPEN HOUSE is scheduled at all the fire barns in Farmington Township each weekend for the rest of the month. John Holko was one of the first visitors. Barns are at 21420 Wheeler, 34600 12 Mile Road; at Northwesten and 14 Mile Road, and at the Industrial Park. (Evert photo)

Fewer Seniors Take Trips Further Away

By JAN WILLIAMS

Remember when your senior trip in high school was a jaunt to the local YMCA for an all-night party?

Well, that's a thing of the past, at least for North Farmington and Harrison High Schools.

Both schools, along with three or four others from surrounding communities, will be going to Torremolinas, Spain, April 21 through 29.

Of 413 seniors at North Farmington, 40 will be going

on the trip, and of 424 seniors at Harrison, 104 will be going.

Farmington High School had joint plans to go to Jamaica for a week, but another school dropped out, leaving the rest with too few to charter a plane. As yet Farmington has nothing else scheduled.

The trip to Spain will cost each student \$252. This includes round trip transportation, breakfasts and dinners with a choice of four dining rooms, and accommodations in the Playamar

Hotel, which has its own beach and Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Groups of four students will be placed in two-bedroom suites with two baths, a living room, dining room and fully equipped kitchen.

Students will also have an opportunity to take optional tours to Africa or other cities in Spain, including Granada and Malaga, one of the oldest cities in Spain, plus bull fights, boat rides, fishing and skin diving.

Students will be under adult supervision with a 1:30 a.m. curfew. On tours they will be accompanied by an English-speaking guide.

For the past two years, North Farmington students went to the Bahamas for their senior trip. Five years ago they went to Washington, D.C. and 10 years ago they were limited within the state.

This will be the second senior trip for Harrison students, who went to the Bahamas last year for four days at a cost of \$200 each.

It looks as though Farmington High School won't have a senior trip this year, but for the last couple of years the seniors have gone to the Bahamas, after New York and Washington trips.

One Farmington High School counselor says the last local senior trip was around 1955 or '66 when students went to a ranch up north.

Students Taste Discrimination

By KATHY MORAN

Thirteen "greenies" got a bittersweet taste of discrimination when they became a minority group at Farmington High School for a week.

As part of their minorities understanding class, they volunteered to wear green armbands and subject themselves to discrimination from their peers.

Many were harassed, called names and cut off from their friends. All were restricted from using certain drinking fountains.

By the fifth day, at least one "greenie" was ready to climb the walls, several were wondering who their real friends were, and others thought it was a flup.

It started as a project to learn about discrimination from a first hand point of view, said their instructor, Bruce Brown. He patterned the project after a similar one conducted by Jeanne Walkowitz at North Farmington High School.

"Since we don't really have a minority group to treat one of our own," he said,

Brown announced the project to the 1,600 high school students asking them to treat those wearing green armbands as inferiors but to refrain from violence. He also sent messages to parents of volunteers suggesting they participate in the project, too.

The "luckiest" was Arlene Huff whose parents took Brown up on his suggestion and who had but one friend by the week's end.

In school her physics class made several "anti-green" and "Greenie go home" signs and at home she had to do her two brothers' chores as well as her own.

"It made it twice as hard," Miss Huff said. "I'd go home and want to get it off my chest and I couldn't. I would have quit if it lasted more than a week."

"It got so I kept my mouth shut and did everything twice as good so I wouldn't give anyone a chance to bug me."

Crystal Sutton said she was beginning to wonder if one girl really did hate her but generally thought the project was "fake."

"People went out of their way to be mean to you," she said. "The school doesn't

really know what a minority is. I don't think they would be treated that awful."

Arjan Snoek, an exchange student from Holland, and Joe Strand found the project amusing. The students who were insulting to them wound up feeling foolish themselves, they said.

"If a minority was here, I think the students would tend to be nice to them," Strand said.

But Karin Hulscher noted that even a "Shirley-Temple-ness" attitude toward a minority student is a subtle form of discrimination.

"It's so fake," she said. Another participant, Bev Pringle, said she knew everyone was kidding when they harassed her.

"I can't even imagine how it is to be a minority," she said. "I don't think I really learned what it feels like. From the way we did it, it wasn't clear if we were testing how we felt or how the other students would treat us."

Brown said he'll try it again next year, but he will clearly define who is to benefit from the project.



RICHARD BURRELL works out on the rings during the annual tumbling and gymnastics program in Kenbrook School, Farmington. The sixth grader was among 91 students who participated in events, for both boys and girls, which included routines on the balance beam, side horse, parallel bars, rings, trapeze, and free floor exercises. (Evert photo)