

City Council Suggests Millage Proposal For Recreation Plan

By W. W. EDGAR

In an unusual move to ward off requests for what was termed "piecemeal handouts" members of the Farmington City Council have suggested that athletic-minded individuals in the area launch a drive to place a millage proposal for recreation on an early ballot.

to 15 years of age.

The request struck a discordant note when Councilman John Richardson reminded his colleagues that a similar request was made a year ago with the promise that it would be the last one. "Now you're back again," he said, "and it looks like it is to be an annual affair."

"I am opposed to it. I'll contribute on my own, but I won't agree to sending taxpayers' money for these handouts."

He then made the unusual move by suggesting that the interested parties initiate a recreation millage proposal on an early ballot.

"If we grant this request to you fellows," he said, "there's nothing to stop foot

ball teams, hockey teams and all others from asking us for a handout and we haven't made any provision in the budget," Richardson added. City Manager Robert Deadman informed the council that contributions had been made on two previous occasions. The first was when a South

Farmington team won the state championship and lacked funds to attend national playoffs.

The second was made when the Little League baseball program ran into a deficit.

Finally, with Councilman Richardson dissenting, a grant of \$300 was made with

the proviso from other members of the council that a drive for a recreation millage proposal be started.

Ironically, the suggestion came a few minutes after the council had accepted the resignation of Mark Sitts who had served as president of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) for a quarter of a century.

In his resignation, Sitts made a fervent plea for support and suggested that the council review its membership and appoint delegates. He claimed the organization had dwindled to two members—himself and Mrs. Annabelle Hoegland, who served as secretary and treasurer.

Finally, with Councilman Richardson dissenting, a grant of \$300 was made with

suggestion that millage would be the better way to support a recreation program.

Going into detail on his suggestion, Richardson explained that even a fraction of a mill would not sufficient funds to finance the area recreation program and also provide for a full time director.

Inasmuch as the recreation commission serves the entire community, it was suggested that a similar request be made to Farmington Hills for a ballot proposal.

"With the item on the ballot," Richardson concluded, "we'll find out from the taxpayers what their stand is on the entire recreation program."

"I won't agree to spending the taxpayers' money for these piecemeal handouts."

--John Richardson

today's hot line

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what's inside

Scout Jamboree

If you've been wondering how the boy scouts are getting along at the big eastern jamboree in Pennsylvania, you can see them at work in a photo series on

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Safety Boost

To strengthen its public safety department, the City of Farmington has started a move for the employment of a fire marshal. The new job is outlined on

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What's Going On?

There is always something interesting going on in Farmington, and if you are looking for an entertaining evening, the events are listed in the calendar.

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New School

A Farmington church is playing host to a new day school with a "God and country" philosophy. The details are in our church section.

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Pins Are Falling

What's new in the Observerland bowling scene? Check Eddie Edgar's In The Pocket column in today's sport section.

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Revolutionary?

It's a way that Jesus has been described in recent writings, and our religion columnist has some strong objections. See Religion Update.

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LOOKING? Let Us Help You!

FOCUS: Suburbia
 Apartment hunting MADE EASY

apartment living



BRIAN STEFFEN (right) and his buddy, Steve Zero, do their scout duty by cleaning up cemetery.

Observer Picture Inspires Boy To Earn Scout Badge

For weeks Brian Steffen, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Steffen of 28955 Lynford Drive, had been wondering what he could do to earn a merit badge in his Boy Scout troop.

Through his mind ran all sorts of ideas. But, somehow, none of them struck his fancy. Then he and his mother spotted a picture in the En-

terprise and Observer of the badly neglected cemetery on 12 Mile Road.

"There's your chance," his mother said, "to do a real service for the community, and it will go a long way toward earning the badge for you. Why don't you go over and clean up the cemetery?" That was enough of an incentive. Before long young Brian

enlisted the aid of one of his friends, 12-year-old Steve Zero, and took the family lawn mower to the bed of weeds that was dotted here and there with tombstones.

Together they have cut a wide swath through the unsightly surroundings, and the place is now beginning to look well kept. "It looks like they'll be

working at the cemetery for about two weeks," Mrs. Steffen said rather proudly. "And they'll do a good job."

Mrs. Steffen comes by her interest in scout activities naturally. At one time she was a girl scout leader. At the moment she is using this means of helping a deaf daughter, and she is in-

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U.S. Marine Band Tops Sesqui Plan

By MARTHA MAHAN

The U.S. Marine Corps Band will lead the parade at Farmington's sesquicentennial Founders Festival next year.

There'll be a Founders Day Ball "for the whole community" and a sit down dinner for 800 at Vladimir's.

Negotiations are on for a "really big name" speaker, according to Festival Chairman William J. Flattery. He hints at a Washington figure higher in status than even a U.S. Senator.

What's more, these are only preliminary plans, Flattery said.

The sesquicentennial committee, made up of representatives from all types of organizations, will hold a September "skull session" to decide on other events to make the 150th birthday celebration outstanding.

"We intend to gear the festival to both Michigan Week and Memorial Day," said Flattery, who also serves as president of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

"We expect to set up a budget in the neighborhood of \$50,000," Flattery said. That's a big jump from the \$10,000 to \$15,000 spent for the last festival and the \$5,000 allotted the year before.

It also reflects festival's anticipated grandeur.

Represented on the sesquicentennial committee in addition to the Festival committee itself are the Beautification Committee, Historical Society, schools, and city governments of both Farmington and Farmington Hills, civic and service organizations, Oakland Community

College and the Farmington Community Center.

Each has its own committee at work dreaming up projects to make the celebration a truly big affair.

Organizations unrepresented on the committee which would like to join in the effort are invited to contact Flattery.

He'd like to see the school stage pageants and perhaps even the composition of a special song to honor the historic day. A publication about Farmington history, expanded from the one issued a couple of years ago, will be printed.

John Anhalt, chairman of the sesquicentennial committee, is planning special

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School Packets Now Ready

The packets prepared for the students at the high schools and junior highs are now available.

All junior high students are asked to report to their respective schools to pick up the schedules on Aug. 27-28-29. The schools will be open from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

All senior high school students are asked to pick up packets of registration material at their respective schools between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The material that is not picked up will be mailed to the students.

Schools Study Special Math Tests

By STEVE BARNABY

In an attempt to shore-up math deficiencies among senior high school students, the Farmington School District administration has recommended a competency test be taken by all sophomores in the school system.

The recommendation was made during last week's

school board meeting by Lewis Schulman, assistant superintendent of secondary education.

Action wasn't taken by the board.

"Under the present testing systems, problems have arisen which make it difficult for students to competently take the test and to participate in the refresher course," says Schulman.

Under present board of education policy students are required to take the competency test in the end of the 11th grade. If they fail they must take a refresher math course.

Because of jobs and vocational training taken on by most 12th graders, Schulman says it is difficult for them to find the time to take a refresher class.

He also mentioned that many who were required to take the test didn't really need the refresher course and could avoid failing by taking a practice test.

"Many students aren't used to working with fractions and other mathematical procedures. Because they are rusty, they fail the test, but pick it up again after only a few days in the re-

fresher course," says Schulman.

To alleviate these problems Schulman recommended that practice tests should be distributed to all participants prior to the final test administration, and that tests be given in the tenth grade so the one semester refresher course can be taken in the 11th grade.

If implemented, the raw

scores would be determined separately in the three Farmington high schools. The correction of tests would be handled by the math dept. in the individual schools with help from counselors and other teachers.

The duration of the refresher math course and the amount of credit to be given would also be determined in the individual high school.