

# Public Gets First View Of Charter

Volume 84 Number 29 \* Three News Sections

By DAN MCCOSH

Like any "first night," the unveiling of the proposed charter for the City of Farmington Hills had its troubles, but the small audience at North Farmington High seemed generally receptive to the idea of cityhood.

Nearly four hours of thoughtful questioning probed the work of the charter commission for weaknesses, and they found a few. Sections on secrecy and the method of council elections both drew criticism.

## New Program

A new program at one of the elementary schools in the Farmington system isn't "big news," but reflects how the community is involved. We have a story on how the schools change on

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## Like To Bowl?

The sport of bowling has come a long way since it started as a religious rite. Today we take a look at its history and its present popularity. You could see some of your neighbors making a strike.

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## Looking Back

Rare old Bibles and vintage instruments will be the attractions in special programs in two Farmington churches this weekend. Get the details in today's Church Section.

Pages 4, 5A

## Traveler

A special invitation to the presidential inauguration has taken a Farmington High School senior to Washington. Meet her on today's Women's Page.

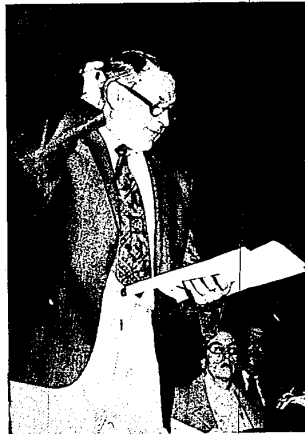
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## On Your Toes

The Suburban Concert Ballet is holding auditions this month. Might lead to an opportunity to do some traveling.

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JOSEPH MIKULA ponders the new charter. (Evert photo)



ALDO VAGNOZZI wanted a "ward system." (Evert photo)

WHILE THE audience was generally receptive, charter commissioners were reluctant to draw any conclusions from the small sampling, approximately 75 persons.

Only two seemed opposed to cityhood altogether -- on the grounds that it would hurt the "rural atmosphere" of the township.

The question of wards versus "at large" elections prompted strong criticism from both Aldo Vagnozzi and William Hatton -- both powers with the local Democratic organization.

Hatton and Vagnozzi both said they could not support the charter if it didn't elect councilmen from wards, and Hatton said he expected the Democratic Club to come up with a similar position.

The ward system was rejected, according to Commissioner Fred Lichtman "because this charter is aimed at ending the divisiveness in this community."

Wards versus "at large" split the commission during the drafting of the document, with Richard Frankel finally swayed to "at-large."

Vagnozzi and Hatton both argued wards would insure better representation of the different parts of the township -- pointing out the charter commission itself was elected mainly from one geographic area.

THEY ALSO argued against a section that apparently allows regular secret meetings of the

council, by defining "public meetings" as only those meetings during which a formal motion is made or a vote is taken.

A section on "city records" makes personnel files, records of arrests and criminal investigations public only with the approval of the council.

It also says the council may suppress any record to "protect the public health, safety or general welfare."

Several objections were heard to the wording of this section.

The tax limitation -- which allows an "escalating tax limit from six up to 10 mills over a seven-year period, was generally well received.

The next hearing of the charter is scheduled for Harrison High School, Tuesday, Jan. 23.

# School Crossing Study Planned

By STEVE BARNABY

Spurred by a request from the Ten Mile School PTA to take action on school crossing hazards, the Farmington school board has embarked on a year-long district-wide study of crossings.

After hearing recommendations from a committee composed of school administrators on the situation around Ten Mile School, trustees voted to carry out the recommendations and then to embark on the study.

STEPS TO BE taken at Ten Mile School are:

- Building a sidewalk along the north side of Ten Mile Rd. extending from "Raphael" to across the street from the school walkway.

- Prohibiting school buses traveling on Ten Mile from turning on to Raphael and buses traveling on Raphael from turning on to Ten Mile.
- Posting a 25 mph speed sign with a blinking light, operated by the principal, for utilization during peak student crossing hours.
- Hiring of a crossing guard to serve at the corner of Raphael and Ten Mile until sidewalk and light construction are completed.

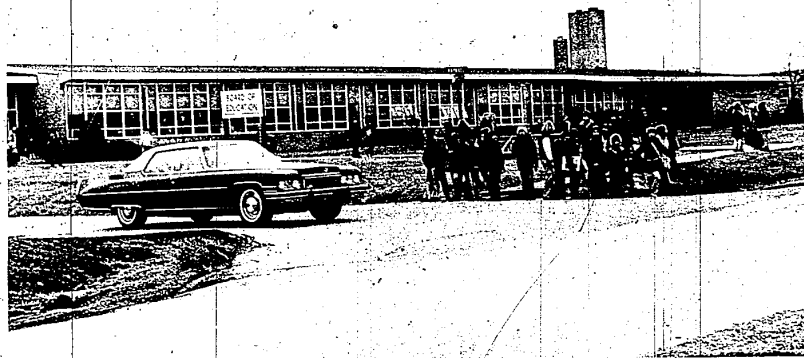
Cost for the entire project, including payment of crossing guard, will be \$2,000.

A DEBATE ensued at Tuesday's meeting on the

fairness of acting on the Ten Mile request when Alameda School has been asking for

similar action for more than four years with no results because of lack of funds.

A blinking speed light in front of the Alameda School was also approved.



10 MILE SCHOOL crossing presently looks like this, before changes approved recently by the board of education are made. (Evert photo)

## 'Moral Obligation?'

# School Funds Anti-Busing Group

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington Board of Education has chosen to donate \$4,200 to 31 of the school districts who chose to oppose Federal Judge Stephen Roth's busing order.

Board President Kenneth Perrin said the contribution is a moral matter.

"IT IS A MORAL obligation for us to contribute to those who are fighting the case for us. It is morally right

for us to continue to fight the busing endeavor."

The Farmington Board was advised by legal counsel to stay out of intervention proceedings to keep legal options open.

The contribution will be going to attorney William Saxton and the 31 suburban districts he is representing in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

This week the court agreed to rehear the Detroit case before all nine

judges. The hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 8.

On Dec. 8 a three judge panel of the Appeal Court ruled in favor of upholding Roth's cross-district busing order.

Roth had ruled that Detroit schools are segregated, and busing between Detroit and 52 suburbs is needed to end the segregation.

Saxton said the rehearing by the nine judges could result in a reversal of the busing order.

EVEN IF all the judges don't rule in favor of the anti-busing forces, all that is needed to get the case before the United States Supreme Court is one dissenting opinion.

Although the rehearing has caused Roth's busing order to be temporarily halted, the Appeals Court has ruled that plans for developing a busing program between Detroit and suburban school districts should continue.

# FOCUS: Suburbia



Winter weary? We have a treat in store in our current FOCUS: Suburbia edition. Read it for the latest and most interesting way to BEAT the winter BLAHS.