

## Senior Ride Program Starts In City; Anyplace In Farmington -- 50 Cents



SENIOR SPECIAL -- Farmington's senior citizens will be able to ride anyplace in town for 50 cents beginning Jan. 9 in these special cabs with the sign on the side. Driver Dick

Brown, Mayor Ralph Yoder and Vern Foster, president of Suburban Checker Cab, look over the cab. (Evert photo)

Farmington's senior citizens will get their first chance Jan. 9 to try the new "senior special."

A new concept in public transportation for the City of Farmington, the service offers a ride for seniors to anyplace in the Farmington city limits for 50 cents on Wednesdays.

Not only new to Farmington, the system is one of the first in the state, according to Tom Peterson, assistant manager of Suburban Checker Cab Co.

When the new service begins, a senior will only have to make a phone call to Suburban Checker Cab, 476-3300 to get a cab to his door.

Some proof of age, 62 or older, such as a driver's license or Medicare card, is required.

When the cab shows up at the door, it is likely to have other users. Up to four passengers will be able to use the cab at once, according to Peterson.

The driver will arrange a schedule between calls to keep the cab as busy as possible.

A cab with the "special" sign on it can either be called from a pay phone, or hailed on the street, for the return trip.

The return ride costs another 50 cents, which means a round trip of \$1.

Peterson reminded users of some limitations to the service:

Only riders within the Farmington city limits will be eligible for the ride at the reduced fare. Residents of Farmington Hills or riders wishing to go outside the city must call a regular cab.

Only senior citizen riders -- people with grandchildren, etc., who want to ride, must use the regular service.

While packages "which can fit in the trunk" can be brought along, anything bulky enough to require a passenger seat is prohibited.

Shoppers must be waiting outside the store when the cab arrives or hail the cab from the street. "Time spent waiting for shoppers is taken away from someone else," Peterson said.

There will be two cab companies participating, Checker Cab and Livonia Yellow Cab. Peterson pointed out.

This means either a yellow or green cab may be the one assigned to the program on Wednesday.

"You have to look for the sign on the side that says 'senior special,'" Peterson added.

The program was approved by the Farmington City Council in December.

Vern Foster, owner of Suburban Checker Cab, agreed to participate in the program to get cost estimates and see how much of a subsidy is needed to run the program.

Regular cab rates start at a minimum of 60 cents, plus mileage and waiting time. A trip across Farmington normally costs between \$3 and \$5.

The city agreed to contribute \$10 per day for the pilot program, which will run approximately six months.

If the demand is great enough, a decision will be made then on whether to continue.

Any subsidy above the \$10 will be absorbed by the company, during the pilot program.

## Financial Problems Seen For Schools In Coming Year

A financial crunch for the Farmington School District in 1974 was predicted by Dr. Mervyn Ross, board president, in a summary of the year's activities.

This year, spiraling inflation and the energy crunch have eroded our ability to establish firm projections for anticipated expenses," he said.

Ross made the statement in a review of progress made by the school district during 1973. Improvements in policy, administration and curriculum, as well as community and inter-governmental relations were cited.

Ross listed as significant changes in the district during the past year: new policies adopted supporting open meetings, the community education concept and a code of ethics.

Curriculum changes included developing a special education center at Cloverdale School, serving five school districts.

A new elementary testing program, under the direction of Marge Paynter, psychologist, was initiated.

Early reading programs have been expanded, three new media centers were opened and the outdoor education program was enlarged.

Learning centers have been opened in all but two of the elementary schools, and numerous pilot programs started.

Occupational advisory committees, composed of staff and members of the community were established for auto mechanics, electrical occupations and special needs program.

Administrative changes outlined by Dr. Ross for the year included the appointment of Martinus Van Ameyde as superintendent of schools, Lewis Schulman as assistant superintendent of secondary education, and Lynn Nutter principal at North Farmington High.

## Benefits Investigated

## Local United Foundation?

A committee studying services of the United Foundation (UF) in the Farmington Hills and Farmington areas is expected to present a report to the Farmington Hills Board of Trustees about Jan. 15.

Joseph Kilmer, who was appointed to chair the ad hoc committee, said the committee is studying the needs of the community and whether they are being met by the UF.

"Problem is we don't want to give the UF any bad publicity," emphasized Kilmer. "It would be bad to think we have pre-drawn conclusions that we were going to splinter off. We have made no decision."

During the first meeting of the committee, a member of the United Community Services (UCS) -- planning arm of the UF, met with the ad hoc group to present the history and services of the fund in Farmington.

"We were pretty well convinced that there are services if the people want to take advantage of them," continued Kilmer. "We know it's not in the best interest of the community to splinter off funds because that weakens the community funds."

"On the other hand, we're not convinced that our needs are being met," Kilmer said. With the help of Dr. Harold Ellens, a committee member who is pastor of University Hills Church, the group is investigating the total needs of the community," Dr. Ellens is also a member of the Farmington Community Church Board which has also been "looking into the needs of the community."

Some of the areas not currently getting funding include a senior citizens outing, youth program, rap lines and a community center.

"Six other areas get UF funds for a community center," added Kilmer. "If others get funds directed back into the community and if we have a need, I don't see why we can't get some too."

For example, homemaker services which are not recognized by the government as a real need, are given a high priority rating of one by the UF because of their importance and lack of support.

Programs for the mentally retarded, however, receive a low priority rating of four because the "state has already assumed most responsibility in this area."

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## Big Winner Expecting Few Changes



By DAN McCOSU

Mrs. Mary M. Ross, an 18-year Farmington Hills resident, said she planned few changes in her life after winning \$200,000 in Michigan's super-drawing last week.

Her winning ticket was one of four purchased regularly by her sons, who gave her the ticket.

"We haven't had too many people contact us," Ross said. "Just a lot of neighbors asking me if that really you who won the \$200,000."

"A lot of people know us. Actually it isn't that here."

JOE ZOTT spent 40 hours producing hymns for the guitar mass at St. Fabian Catholic Church to qualify for the rank of eagle scout. He is a member of Troop 48 and the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Zott of Farmington Hills.

## 16-Year-Old Is Killed At Party

A Livonia man is being held for the stabbing death of Alan Goodman, 16, of Farmington, on New Year's Day in Southfield.



Ronald Oster, 26, of Livonia, is being held without bond on an open charge of murder. The stabbing took place about 1:15 a.m. Jan. 1 during a party in the home of Fred Kohn on Jeanette St., Southfield.

The Kohns were away and a daughter was giving the party.

Southfield Police report a fight had started after the two men had words. Oster reportedly pulled a knife and stabbed Goodman two or three times in the chest.

Goodman was rushed to Providence Hospital, Southfield, for emergency surgery but died in the hospital.

Oster was arraigned Jan. 1 before Southfield District Judge Clarence Reid Jr. Preliminary examination has been set for Jan. 9.

LOUIS FINK, a resident of the Farmington area more than 30 years ago apparently once had Fink St., a short avenue east of Orchard Lake, named after him. Evelyn Gbosc, aunt of Mrs. Donna Sklar, of Farmington Hills, told her niece while visiting her from Los Angeles about the namesake and they paid a visit to the street. Although several older residents contacted by the Enterprise and Observer remembered several Fink families, none could place the origin of the street name. But as far as Mrs. Sklar is concerned it's all in the family.

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