

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 85, Number 44

Thursday, March 21, 1974

Farmington, Michigan

64 pages

Fifteen Cents

Hills Police audit confirms shortage

By DAN McCOSH

A state auditor has confirmed the findings of the Farmington Hills finance department, indicating an embezzlement of approximately \$1,900 in funds handled by the Farmington Hills police dept. "I would have been surprised if he had found anything else," City Manager George Majoros said.

Other developments in the case, which shook the department with a series of firings in the wake of the report of the missing funds, include:

- Lt. William Kelly, who originally took the case to the city finance department, has received a letter from Public Safety Director

Ronald Holko, of his dismissal, apparently for Kelly's action in taking the investigation to the state police.

- Hearings are being scheduled for both Kelly and Deborah Roberts, the secretary who says she was fired by Holko for reporting the embezzlement.

- Guidelines for the hearings, one before the newly-appointed police review board, the other before a personnel committee, are being discussed by the city officials.

- The Oakland County prosecutor is reportedly waiting for the state audit findings to issue warrants on the embezzlement.

THE ALLEGED embezzlement was a shortage in the receipts of fees paid to the department, mainly for copies of reports and some license fees.

The money was taken in at the records bureau, and transferred to the city finance department through the director's office.

Shortly after the embezzlement was discovered, a change in procedure was initiated at city hall to take in all money directly at the finance department cash register.

Lt. Kelly, recently transferred to head the records department, apparently investigated a tip originating with Mrs. Roberts on the cash shortage, several weeks ago.

Kelly reportedly tallied department receipts, then checked them with city finance director Charles Rosch.

Kelly's attempt to file a formal police report on the missing money was met with a suspension notice by Holko.

Following his suspension, Kelly and his attorney took the information to the state police department, resulting in a wave of publicity on the embezzlement.

HOLKO CHARGED Kelly with "violation of department rules" concerning a confidential police investigation in suspending the Kelly, and cited similar grounds in a later notice of dismissal.

Mrs. Roberts said she was fired mainly for her role in discovering the shortage. Holko maintains she quit voluntarily.

Both employees have filed union grievances on the matter.

Parents want Colfax route

By NANCY STEIN

Better than 20 parents from Farmington Meadows and Farmington Oaks Subdivisions waited for last place on the Farmington School Board agenda to complain about muddy Colfax Rd.

The parents said there is so much mud, trash and rats on Colfax that their kids can't get to Power Junior High some days. The issue was discussed for over an hour, beginning at 11:30 p.m. and lasting until 12:40 a.m.

At that time, by a vote of 5-2, it was decided to do nothing at the present time.

Voting no were Dr. Burton Knighton, Dr. Mervyn Ross, William Corliss, Mrs. Lillian Allen and Mrs. Emma Makinen.

Yes votes were from Gary Lichtman and Hugh Stewart to do nothing at the present time.

Lichtman's motion had called for the temporary use of a shuttle bus to pick up children from both sides of Farmington Road in the effected area.

taken at Tuesday's meeting.

William Prisk, school business manager, said that Colfax Rd. is filthy, with garbage and debris. He felt that the walkway the schools built there earlier was passable most of the year, but that the route was an extremely unpleasant experience.

Speaking against the parents wish for a bus in the area, Van Ameyde said, "I am increasingly alarmed at the pleas of citizens to have the schools do other than instruct."

At that time, by a vote of 5-2, it was decided to do nothing at the present time.

SCHOOL BOARD President Dr. Mervyn Ross made an impassioned plea to the people present to "give this board a chance."

"We are trying to make an honest effort to work it out with the best yet, one year old city of Farmington Hills.

"In the past we were at the mercy of the county, but now there is a city who is responsible."

Ross described it as, "The good guys fighting the good guys."

It was pointed out that Farmington Hills is just now in the process of buying equipment which can correct the problems on Colfax road and on many other roads in Farmington Hills including the water on the playground of the Bond School.

Lichtman's motion was made because "we have to get these kids to school now."

PARENTS THREATENED to file a class action suit asserting discrimination if no action was



SHADES OF THE 1950s
Dave Garbacz, Linda Milosch, Jeff Thorne and Laurie Fletcher try an athletic dance routine

Harrison high band shell

By NANCY STEIN

The band shell was almost a bomb shell at Tuesday's Farmington school board meeting.

A straight forward seemingly routine request by the principal of Harrison High School, James Geiger to purchase a "Rollaway Acoustical Shell" for the stage of the school auditorium raised unexpected matters of principle.

Because of an expanded music program in the school, the vocal music room is too small for the school's concert choir.

As a result it must meet in the auditorium which is inadequate acoustically.

It was decided by the staff and administrators of the school that a

portable shell in the auditorium would correct the problem and serve not only the vocal music department, but the instrumental music department as well.

The Music Boosters, a parent group agreed to share the cost of the shell with the district.

Total cost is \$2,267. The boosters raised \$1,067. That leaves \$1,200 for the district to pay. Money is available from the school's building and site funds.

The request seemed about to pass when school board member, Gary Lichtman asked, "What happens to the principle of free and public education?"

"We will and already do have, different schools in the district,



JITTERBUG ROUTINE
Mike Bowden and Joan Winslow swing out

Shades of 1950

By NANCY STEIN

They called it a 1950s dance, but the costumes were straight out of "American Graffiti," circa 1962.

But nobody cared.

The spirit was groovy at East Junior High's dance after school Friday.

The girls wore bobby sox, circle skirts and saddle shoes, while the guys came in greased down hair, loafers, leather jackets and "shades."

"We did it to see what it would feel like to be a teen of the 1950s," said student council representative Mike Bowden.

An on-stage demonstration of 1950s dancing included the jitterbug and "all that cheek to cheek stuff." It was enthusiastically watched by the audience and not badly imitated afterwards.

Participating in the demonstration were Mike Bowden, Joan Wenson, Mary McCaughey, Mark Purcell, Dave Garbacz, Linda Milosch, Jeff Thorne and Laurie Fletcher.

The dance was sponsored by the student council.



DANCING?
Mary McCaughey and Mark Purcell invent a new step

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