

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents

## Republicans forming formal organization

By DAN McCOSH  
Farmington Republicans, traditionally strong at the polls but light on organization, are trying to put together a new club.  
A group of about 30 interested Republicans met Tuesday evening at the Botsford Inn and appointed Mayor Ralph Yoder, of the city of Farmington and Robert McConnell, mayor of Farmington Hills, co-chairmen.  
McConnell said he hoped the Farmington Republican Club would be organized by September.

"There was lot of interest in the idea," Yoder said.  
"THE EFFORT to begin the new Republican club began during the rush to file for seats left vacant by the announced retirement of State Rep. Raymond Baker.  
Baker's announcement touched off renewed interests in that seat by several current office holders and some newcomers, most notably County Commissioner Wilber Brotherton, Roger Walker and later William Ortmann, Farmington Hills councilman.

Brotherton's announced candidacy left his seat at Oakland County an attraction to political hopefuls. Reliable sources indicate Robert Smith, who filed for the seat, was originally interested in a State Senate slot later filled unopposed by Lee Coppack.  
At the time of the club's beginnings, there were obvious clashes developing within the party.  
McConnell and Yoder called the first meeting to discuss the formation of a club.  
One observer described it as an

effort of "sort out" the primary candidates, although McConnell says now the first meeting at the Botsford Inn was an effort to get all the announced candidates together to discuss the coming elections.  
McConnell and Yoder both hold non-partisan offices, although McConnell was originally elected township supervisor on the Republican ticket.  
This prompted Yoder to object to using his non-partisan title on

letters sent out to invite Republicans to Tuesday's meeting.  
"We are concentrating on the party at the county and state levels," McConnell said, adding it would not be the purpose of the club to be active in non-partisan races.  
"WHY FORM a Republican club now? The question brought a variety of responses from those involved.  
Brotherton said it was the "first

election since the new city has been formed—people are becoming more aware of the weaknesses of the party. Some felt the local people were getting a little too complacent."  
Robert Smith, currently running for county commissioner to fill Brotherton's old seat, said local Republicans were seriously concerned about the effect of Watergate. "We expect to kind of group our resources together, to see where we stand," he said.

## Gill paving is resolved

By DIANE HUBEL  
FARMINGTON HILLS — Gill Rd. will be paved from eight Mile to Colfax without setting up a special assessment District.  
The Farmington Hills Council voted to pave the road without charging the abutting property owners following lengthy debate at the Monday night meeting.

Gill Rd. services Gill Elementary school and Power Junior High school. School buses often had difficulty gaining access to the schools during muddy or snowy weather.

The debate focused on the definition of a local road, and whether Gill was a local, subdivision road, or a main or secondary road.

THE CITY cannot pay for more than 20 per cent of the cost of paving a local road.

John Ashton, attorney for the residents of Gill Road said, "It is clear that Gill Rd. is not going to continue to be used as a local road, that is, a road which is used primarily by the residents living along it."

"If it is paved it will be used as a main thoroughfare. It runs the full mile between Eight and Nine Mile

Roads and is intersected at many points.  
"If you check the master plan for this city you will see that the master plan for the city shows Gill Rd. as other than a local road."

Councilman Frederick Lichtman also cited the master plan which he said defined Gill Rd. as a secondary thoroughfare.

The council decided to pave the road to meet residential standards and to impose and enforce weight limits on the road.

City manager George Majoros said the residential paving would not be as costly as the thicker paving and that the additional thickness could be added later if it became necessary or desirable.

The project will cost approximately \$160,000. The county will pay for 50 per cent of the cost.

DURING THE initial stages of planning the paving project the Farmington School Board agreed to pay 16 per cent of the costs, but not more than \$14,500.

The council resolved to continue negotiations with the school board to see if they were still willing to bear a portion of the costs.

The city would be responsible for the rest of the funds.

## Courts to test local tax rebate

By DAN McCOSH  
FARMINGTON HILLS — A decision on whether a Farmington Hills apartment owner will get a \$9,000 rebate on taxes paid under protest of a millage levied by the school board is due next week.

Judge Michael Hand of the 47th district court is expected to rule on the case between Estates Inc., parent company of several local apartment complexes, Farmington Hills and the Farmington school board.

The case could result in a court decision on the so-called "variable millage" being levied in Oakland County, as well as deciding whether the local taxpayers who paid under protest of the policy will get a rebate.

Estates Inc. is arguing money paid to the Farmington School district collected under an increase levied last year is unconstitutional.

THE SCHOOLS levied 1.2 mills formerly levied by Farmington Township before incorporation. At issue is the difference between what West-Bloomfield Township

residents pay in school taxes and what Farmington and Farmington Hills residents pay.

With the increase, the difference between the two areas rose to approximately 1.6 mills. Under Oakland County policy, townships are allocated a portion of the total county tax collection, as are schools. The township allocation is generally deducted from the school allocation.

The result is that when school district lines overlap cities and townships, the two pay different tax rates to the same school district.

Farmington Hills council originally challenged the action of the school board in raising the millage last year, acting on the advice of attorney Joseph T. Brennan. Brennan

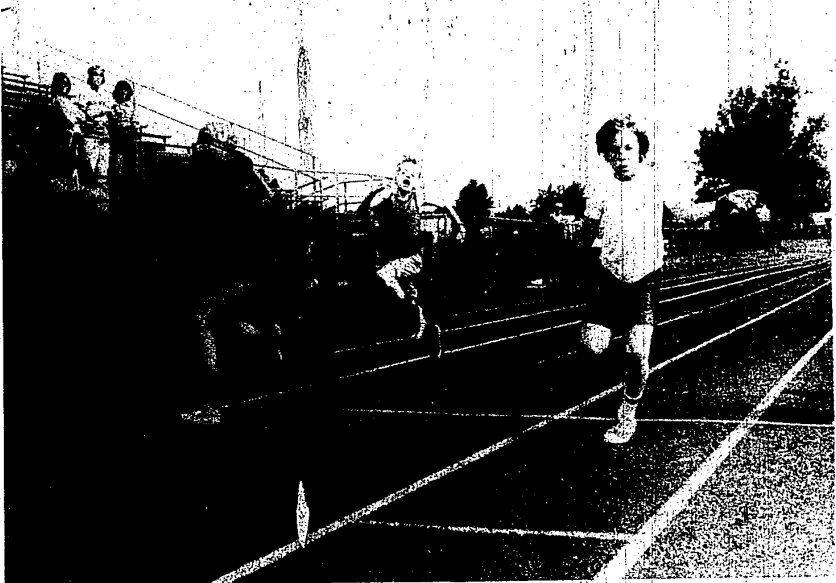
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Nine year old Richard Gouine (left) was the winner of the 100 yard dash.



The other contest participants watch as Mary Kozick win the broad jump contest.

## Jaycees give kids a chance to compete

The Farmington area Jaycees Junior Champ contest was held on two consecutive Saturdays this year when rain forced the contest to stop before it was completed.

The contest was open to Farmington area residents between the ages of seven and 13 years. There were four divisions based on the entrants age.

There were eight events in which they could participate. Two of the events, the rope jumping contest and the kick the shoe contest were held in conjunction with the Farmington schools as part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

Co-chairmen of the event were Bob Lamb and Steve Fleming. The contest was held at Farmington High School.

Fleming said, "The contest was held to give children who are not normally involved in competitive field and track programs a chance to participate in a meet. We also hoped that it would help bring the community together."

The events sponsored were, long jump, high jump, 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash and 40 yard dash, as well as the kick the shoe and jump rope contests.



The shoe kick contest was held in conjunction with the Farmington schools.