

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Farmington, Michigan

86 Pages

Fifteen Cents

Farmington assessments increased 8 pct.

FARMINGTON—Acceptance of a factor of 1.08 by the city council Monday night will raise taxpayers' property assessment bills by an approximate eight percent.

A sales study by the Oakland County Department of Equalization indicating an eight percent property value underassessment in the city left councilmen with the option of initiating a citywide property reassessment or accepting a factor of 1.08.

Rather than incur the cost of a second assessment and run the risk of property devaluation in the event of a recession, council members opted for the acceptance of the 1.08 factor.

council voted to reschedule the school tax collection from once to twice a year.

Half the school taxes will be collected in July, and the other half in December. The collections will coincide with the city tax collections, to avoid cost in duplication.

The school board believes that by collecting taxes in this fashion, the payment of heavy interest rates against borrowed operating funds may be avoided.

Continuation of city support for the new crime suppression program, Saturation Patrol, passed by a narrow margin of three to two.

In effect for three months, the pro-

gram has resulted in the arrest of 24 people and the recovery of \$12,000 worth of stolen property.

Two councilmen voiced concern over the relationship between money spent on the program and the percentage of arrests in Farmington-related crimes.

The cost of the program to Farmington is \$1,806, or approximately one-half of one percent of the program's total operating budget.

It could be shown that only one burglary and two larceny arrests were directly related with Farmington community crime problems.

A bid for a new yellow-and-white fire pumper truck was awarded to

Fire Trucks, Inc. of Mount Clemens for \$68,975.

Specifications changes for the vehicle dropped the bid to \$68,210. Changes included were: engine power requirement reduced from 270 to 265, water tank storage changed from stainless to Cor-ten steel, aluminum outside trim changed to one-eighth steel tread plate, hose canvas body cover deleted, and 120 watt D.C. transformer changed to 3000 A.C. Power Pack Dynamote Inverter.

Although city specification requested a five-speed manual transmission, an automatic transmission was substituted.

According to city manager Robert Deadman, the substitute was made to "allow drivers to concentrate on safe driving techniques rather than on overcoming the shifting problems of a manual truck transmission."

Delivery time is slated from 12 months from the date of order. The bid for fire equipment for the new combination fire truck was awarded to Peter F. Payette Co. of Grosse Ile.

The adjusted bid will cost the city \$9,838.76.

By separating the bids for the fire truck and its equipment, the city hopes to save some \$4,000.

was appointed to fill the vacancy on the planning commission, recently created by the resignation of Don Stoddard. Moore's term expires in June 1975.

• Proclaimed Nov. 23 through Nov. 24 as Lions Club Candy Days.

• Proclaimed Nov. 24 through Dec. 1 as National Bible Week.

• Proclaimed Dec. 2 through Dec. 6 as Farmington Goodwill Week, with the last day set aside for a paper sale.

• Introduced a resolution to begin the process of vacating a six-foot easement on the west side of Lot 8, Valley Hill Subdivision (World Wide Shopping Center).

Board rents school space to gym club

FARMINGTON—An as yet unformed gymnastics club was given the go-ahead Tuesday night by the Board of Education to rent school facilities for club workouts.

The decision came in the wake of the board's recent cut of varsity gymnastics from the physical education budget.

Board members voiced concern over the possible exclusivity of the club, but received reassurances from petitioner Donald Gaines that the club would be for participants from the eighth grade on up.

Concern was also expressed that former Farmington district gymnastics coaches and other school personnel would become involved, in violation of the Farmington Education Association contract.

GAINES DESCRIBED the unincorporated club as non-profit in status, with no school affiliation. Meets with other school districts' gymnastics clubs would be scheduled in such a way as to avoid contractual difficulties, he said.

Eligibility criteria would be formulated and required, including a physical exam.

In other action, the board rescinded item 11 of the Aug. 29, 1974 minutes to allow inclusion of building and property use in the redistricting study.

The move was taken as a result of a request by the Cloverdale Severely Mentally Impaired (SMI) program to relocate to the Ten Mile School, because of space shortage.

Included in the redistricting study will be a task force report on the present use of all school buildings.

A REQUEST for use of another

school facility by the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) was postponed, pending the completion of the study on school building and land use.

"I don't believe we're in a position at this time to state whether this building will or will not be available," said board member William Curlliss. "But I don't think we should out-of-hand reject it at this request."

The study is expected to be completed in February or March of next year.

The board also voted to become members of the Michigan Association of School Boards Legal Trust Fund.

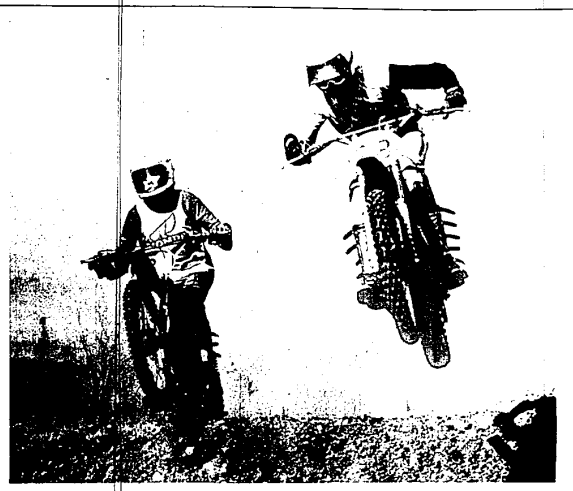
Knievel times

It has been 20 years since Marlon Brando and his troupe of motorcycle hoodlums "really hung it on the Christmas tree" in "The Wild One." That movie did a lot to popularize motorcycles in the United States — but in a distinctly negative way. For many years motorcycle clothes connoted leather jackets, chains and Hell's Angels.

Now that has changed. As the Year of Evel Knievel roars to the finish line, an entrepreneur's paradise of dolls, toys, T-shirts, television appearances and movie offers in tow, it harbingers a new age of American motorcycle mania.

This time the motorcyclist is the hero, not the anti-hero, and motorcycle racing of all sorts has been elevated from the gritty and thankless obsession of a few to the popular and often lucrative sport of many.

In this, cycling's off-season, visions of sugarcorn are pre-empted by visions of dusty tracks and revving engines in the head of more than one Christmas dreamer.



Farmington Hills police say

Youths terrorize Waldron Park area

By JUDY OWEN

FARMINGTON HILLS—Eight residents of the Waldron Park area in the southeast corner of the city turned out Tuesday night to discuss the park's development.

The residents attended a special meeting of the parks commission which had been inactive since the city's incorporation.

The 3.6-acre park area located at the southwest corner of Waldron and

Independence in Section 36 has been the scene of continuing problems with youths.

Youths are said to be responsible for destroying a stand of birch trees in the park and vandalizing neighborhood homes.

RESIDENTS complained that youths gathered in the streets as well as the park.

A 3 p.m.-1 a.m. nightly police patrol

and the cold weather cut the problems, police said.

But residents said that the problems continue in the daytime.

"This is what we are doing—harassing," one police official told the commission. Police have written tickets for violations ranging from improper conduct and improper language to violation of curfew and use of drugs and alcohol.

"I don't want this to be negative," commission chairman Herman Moehl-

man said. "We have a park. It is in existence. Plans are being made for its future."

"I ENVISION it as being primarily a neighborhood park," he said. Moehlman said that he expected some of the problems to continue.

"It's going to be a problem. Communities all around are having trouble regulating their parks," he said. "But it can be an asset. We want to do something positive."

Police say that many of the youths who have been arrested are residents of a one-mile area near the park. Plans for the park include a skating area, children's playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a handball court.

The city hopes to begin work soon on clearing the area and leveling some of the terrain.

THIS ACTION should cut down on some of the problems with the park, police said, because it will be easier to observe the park.

A committee of area residents was appointed to suggest regulations and possible solutions for problems in the park. Some of the residents attending the meeting said that they did not wish to serve on the committee because they feared repercussions from the youths.

Some said that even after the park is developed they will not allow their children to go there.

Clearing is expected to be undertaken before the end of the year.

Correction 'Rich kid has running start'—Garagiola

Somebody shortchanged Joe Garagiola with the hair on his head and the opportunity for baseball stardom, but he has made up for it with an ungainly ability of public speaking.

Garagiola, former major league baseball player and current television personality, visited Andover and Lahser last Friday as part of the 1974-75 Career Lyceum Program at the two schools.

"While a poor kid today might have a chance towards a career, the affluent kid has a running start," Garagiola told the students at both schools.

"WHAT EVER you do, be willing to pay the price and do your own thing. Don't be afraid to flip. Your career is up to you."

Garagiola's life story resembles a Horatio Alger of the sports world. He grew up in a predominantly Italian section of St. Louis with former baseball star and New York Met manager Yogi Berra. The son of an immigrant bricklayer, Garagiola realized a dream of playing major league baseball, but ironically fame and fortune

caught up with him after his playing days were over.

His TV career earned him spots on the NBC "Today" show, the NBC "Baseball Game of the Week," and a

list of credits which has made his name as well known as anyone on the tube.

GARAGIOLA SPICED his remarks to the students with a variety of funny stories about his distinctive bald head and life in the big leagues.

But Joe Garagiola the clown proved very adept at becoming Joe Garagiola a human being and philosopher.

You know, he said, former St. Louis Cardinal team owner Branch Rickey once told me that life will always have a fork in the road.

"One side of the fork will be bright

and lighted, but the other side will be dark and full of pot holes," Garagiola said. "If you always take the easy way out in life, you might find it going to get monotonous."

The television sportscaster told the students to be versatile in whatever careers they choose, and to get along with people.

"IF I COULD give any one gift to people, I would want people to learn to accept the other guy for his ability," he said, "you don't have to like everybody, but you will have to work with others."

Bell closes Farmington office

Michigan Bell's Farmington office, 2816 Farmington Road, will be closed after business hours Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The office will be closed as part of Michigan Bell's continuing austerity program, which began in late June.

However, Farmington customers may pay telephone bills in person at any of 18 local locations, or may mail payments directly to the company. Telephone customers may pay their bills at: American Savings Association at 3138 Orchard Lake road; Ar-

nold's Farmington Drugs at 3322 Twelve Mile Road; BelAire Drugs at 2909 Orchard Lake Road; City National Bank at 31500 Ten Mile Road; Standard Federal Savings & Loan Association at 2995 Middlebelt Road or Smith, Rexall Drugs at 2702 Eight Mile Road.

Bills may also be paid at any of the 12 local branch offices of Detroit Bank & Trust, Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington, Manufacturers National Bank, or National Bank of

Discipline is something we all need."

Garagiola, married and the father of three, repeatedly urged the students to select their own careers and not to be discouraged by setbacks.

"You can't steal second base if you still get one foot on first," he said.

THE NATIVE of Missouri indicated youths shouldn't be forced into a career, but free to choose.

"I told my son Joe Jr. if he ever decided to go into broadcasting, he would have to change his name," he said.

After delivering an informally written speech, Garagiola answered the questions from the student body and later met with smaller sessions of pupils.

Holiday deadlines

The Thanksgiving issue of the Observer & Eccentric will be published one day early, Wednesday, Nov. 27, in order to be delivered to readers before the holiday.

To accomplish this it will be necessary to move advertising and news deadlines up one day.

News items for Suburban Life, Business and Creative Living must be submitted no later than noon, Friday, Nov. 22. Information for the news section should be received by noon, Monday, Nov. 25.

The advertising deadlines for the Thanksgiving issue will be: Suburban Life, and Creative Living—noon, Friday, Nov. 22; all other sections—noon, Monday, Nov. 25.

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