

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 86

Thursday, August 14, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Fifteen Cents



Vandals took their toll on this bus owned by a Farmington Explorer group. The scouts used the bus to travel to concerts throughout the country. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Public wants open hearing on Pernick

By STEVE BARNABY
The Farmington Hills City Council has agreed to hear arguments on the controversial Pernick Drain being considered for construction in the City of Southfield, and parts of Franklin Village and Farmington Hills.

The city leaders were persuaded to hold a future hearing after a dramatic plea at this week's meeting made by Jody Soronen, secretary of the Council of Homeowners Association of Farmington Hills.

She asked the council to oppose formally the \$6.25 million project. Her group has joined with others in the area in protesting the drain, which, they say, will ruin the natural environment and alter the face of the city.

The council agreed to invite both opponents and proponents of the plan to a meeting at an unspecified date in the future.

The group claims the drain is being built solely for the economic benefit of Southfield's development, with only headaches for surrounding communities. The Pernick drain would start at the Franklin-Southfield boundary and end at 11 Mile and Telegraph. It will be tunneled to a 50-foot depth under Telegraph and will empty into the main branch of the Rouge River.

"THE DANGER IS in the near future," she told the council.

"It all seems to be a vicious circle. A road is built, a regional center planned or built. This makes water problems through flooding or runoff that create a need for drains that further aggravate the natural system, but allow more re-zoning and construction, which cause more water problems."

The controversy, which has been raging since the plan was first proposed in 1968, revolves around a business district in Southfield called the Silver Triangle, bounded by Telegraph, Northwestern, and 12 Mile. Opponents of the drain say the project is being built solely for business benefit, because large multi-story buildings are unable to handle their own drainage.

They also maintain that area property owners will suffer damages from increased flooding, changes in the flood plain, erosion and pollution affecting homes, trees, park lands and insurance rates.

To allow Southfield to use more land for multi-story high-density construction and to ask Farmington Hills and Franklin to share in the cost appears to be taxation without representation," said Mrs. Soronen.

"I submit that these developments are causing their own problems and are forcing us to contribute to our own destruction by creating the need for more and more drains in the communities by surrounding them by closing off the natural waterways in pipes."

The homeowners would like to see alternative methods considered besides enclosed drains. One consideration would be retention systems. It wants a study made on feasibility of a system by a Michigan State University professor who has made similar studies in other districts.

In a retention system, water collects in a pond and percolates into the ground. Proponents of the drain say the commercial districts in Southfield are too large to use such a system.

THE FARMINGTON HILLS group has been before the Michigan Environmental Review Board asking the board to intercede against tributaries being built into the Pernick system.

The homeowners have taken issue with a study made by Southfield's consulting engineers, Hubbel, Roth and Clark. The firm recommended the Pernick system.

Mrs. Soronen pointed to several "discrepancies" in the report.

While the report says the drain will cause minimum impact, it also says Pernick construction will enable construction of other drains. The study, she said, doesn't include the impact on open space, recreational facilities, wildlife habitats and educational opportunities.

Farmington Hills has some lovely undeveloped land. Some of this is flood plain area. I don't think any of us is foolish enough to believe this land will remain unchanged.

"However, I do feel it is imperative that we now assess our wetlands and do all we can to preserve them, to require those that build on or near them retain their necessary function and to plan, wherever possible, alternative means to enclosed pipe as a method of controlling our water."

Bus vandalized

Explorer troop band is foiled

By STEVE BARNABY

Lin Chalmers and his Explorer Troop 389 have spent a lot of time traveling around the country entertaining through their marching band and orchestra.

To make things a little easier they recently obtained an old bus from the Walled Lake school system. But vandals have ruined all that.

Last Saturday vandals broke out the side windows, the windshield and damaged the doors. Chalmers estimates damage to be somewhere around \$700.

The bus was parked in the Nardin Park Methodist Church parking lot.

"We just don't have that kind of money to get it fixed," said Chalmers about the bus obtained a year ago. "I sure made things a lot easier for us when we had the bus. We didn't have to worry about car pools and enough parents to drive."

The 40-member band has won a number of awards while traveling. They have performed at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Canada.

The disgruntled Chalmers expresses

dismay over such vandalism.

"This vandalism seems to be getting real bad out here. Kids are running riot, and nothing is being done about it. There has got to be some kind of discipline or things are going to get even worse," he says.

The bus is a source of pride for the group. After obtaining it, the Explorer's Dads Club fixed it up, and the Farmington Jaycees bought a set of tires. Now it sits on the lot, prey to other vandals.

"I think this is typical of the kinds of things that are happening in our

community. I know it isn't any of our kids, but it must be kids that live in the area."

Chalmers now fears vandals will get inside the vehicle and tear it apart.

Although the bus is insured, Chalmers fears it may be cancelled if too many claims are filed.

"We've had kids break in before, but never has the vandalism been so fantastic. We have enough problems paying for music and instruments. We really can't afford this kind of thing."

Life-long dream comes true for school district worker

By STEVE BARNABY

Lee Bartman thinks the military is great.

He thinks so much of it, as a matter of fact, that he has been actively involved since high school. The 45-year-old personnel director in the Farmington School District recently was promoted to full colonel in the Air Force National Guard.

"Being promoted to colonel is like a Walter Mitty dream. It's a heck of a nice feeling," mused the school administrator as he contentedly sat back in his desk chair.

ESPECIALLY SATISFYING to Bartman is the fact that he made the promotional grade on the first recommen-

dation. Fewer than 50 per cent of those recommended make it the first time, he says.

Those being considered for promotion to colonel go through a strict screening process, the results of which end up on the president's desk. The chief executive, in turn, makes his recommendations to the U.S. Senate.

The screening process is so thorough, says Bartman, because colonel is the next step to becoming a general officer. Bartman admits to having aspirations in that direction.

Bartman believes that young persons are again favoring the military after the protest years during the Vietnam War era.

"I think kids are starting to come back to ROTC programs. They've always been strong in the urban areas. Now, some of the suburban areas are starting their own programs," he says.

The Farmington School District is without an ROTC program.

"The thing that made it bad for the military during Vietnam was that it was being used as a political instrument. But now that the war is over, more people are coming to realize that the military is necessary for defense."

BARTMAN'S MILITARY career began in the ROTC program at Chadsey High School in Detroit, where he became cadet commander for the entire city. He continued his ROTC training in college and was commissioned a second lieutenant in

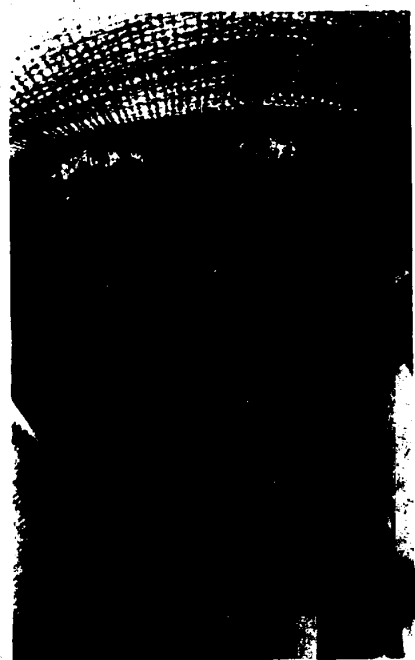
1953. After serving two years active duty, Bartman joined the reserves and transferred to the guard in 1962.

Presently, he is the deputy commander of the 127th Tactical Fighter Wing at Selfridge Air Force Base. He also is an active lobbyist in Lansing and Washington for the military.

"Right now we're working on improving the retirement benefits. As it now stands, a retired person can't collect any benefits until he is 60 years old, although retirement can come as early as 38.

"There have been some cases where guys die a few months before they turn 60 and never get a chance to collect anything," he says.

The military, says Bartman, is a good way for young persons to learn a skill, with 400 different skills being offered in the Air Force alone. Education has become an important facet of the military, says Bartman, who has a Ph.D.



Far from the naked ape, Kokomo Jr. modestly puts on a Mickey Mouse t-shirt when relaxing at home. See page 3 for the story. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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