

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 5

Monday, November 3, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty Five Cents

Combined parks supported by recreation commission

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission, the intercommunity group coordinating recreation activities for Farmington and Farmington Hills, last week endorsed Proposal D of the parks advisory referendum, recommending a combination of small neighborhood parks and a large municipal park.

In its statement endorsing the proposal, the commission said, "The planning of future recreation facilities is an integral part of the service demanded by the taxpayers of a municipality."

"After careful evaluation of existing facilities and projected growth, the Farmington Area Recreation Commission feels that a well-balanced approach to Parks and Recreation planning is needed to keep Farmington Hills a dynamic and desirable community in which to live."

In explaining the endorsement, John Richardson, chairman of the recreation commission and its Farmington representative, said, "It is my hope

that the people of Farmington Hills will select a park system similar to the one in Farmington.

"Farmington has established a neighborhood park concept through the neighborhood schools," he said, building "magic squares" which consist of two tennis courts and one basketball court.

"IN MATERIAL prepared for the October public hearings on the park question the commission outlined a park system which went a little further however, than the "magic square" concept.

"It included proposals for neighborhood parks, schools, neighborhood parks and a large district park.

The neighborhood park school was still the primary unit in the system, serving approximately 8,000 people. The minimum area recommended for this was 20 acres with three acres used for school building and parking lot, one acre for a playlot and apparatus and five and one-half acres for field games. Five and one-half acres would

be park area, including space for drama and quiet activities, two and one-half acres for hard-surface game courts and a multiple use area, two acres for buffer zones and circulation, two-tenths for a recreation service building and three-tenths for senior citizens.

The commission also recommended that the school be located at the edge of the park area to provide for maximum growth and that the playground equipment be located far enough from the building to keep noise from interfering with the classrooms.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD parks, to be built when school facilities were inadequate, would be designed to primarily serve children under 14 but would be able to provide for adults and teenagers. They should be built on a minimum eight acres.

The particular facilities required would depend on the nature of the neighborhood, with space allocated according to needs. On a preliminary

plan the commission suggested three acres be used for turf area and the rest divided for open space, quiet space, senior citizens and others.

"These parks would be designed for "neighborhoods," but Richardson admitted defining a "neighborhood" in the suburb was difficult.

"Most subdivisions have their own facilities," he notes. The neighborhood park would reflect the character of the neighborhood and play an important role in community aesthetics. For that reason the commission recommended it include open lawn areas, plantings and walks.

THE DISTRICT-WIDE park is, as its name suggests, a park serving the needs of a total community, serving a population of from 50,000 to 100,000.

Its location would be close to the center of the population, but the commission said, available land would largely determine where it would be placed. The recommended size was between 30 and 100 acres, but this should be based on population density and total city area.

The facilities would depend on natural topography and features, and available acreage. It could include fields for baseball, football, soccer and softball, a tennis court, winter sports facilities, a day-camp, nature trails or outdoor theater.

All of these facilities should be separated by large turf areas and landscaped buffers.

Funding of parks will probably be a big question for the Farmington Hills voters on Tuesday. The commission noted that a wide variety of methods have been used to finance the acquisition and operation of recreation areas.

Methods which could be used are:

- Bonds: general obligation bonds, approved by vote, or revenue bonds, paid for by user fees.
- Creation of a building authority to construct and lease the recreational facilities with financing through sale of bonds.
- Taxes on such items as real property, sales, personal property, or gasoline, perhaps with legislation designating certain taxes be used for recreation.
- Sale of licenses and permits for hunting, boating, fishing, boat ownership, use of tennis facilities, beaches or parks;
- Levy of fees and charges for entrance, parking or membership.
- Concession stands permitting private operators to provide services.
- Using the federal programs available.



Next spring the tulip bulb Kristi Kushner is planting will be a tall, colorful bloom in front of William Grace School. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthey)

Tulip bulb ritual intrigues students

In an effort to personalize the American Bicentennial, William Grace elementary school students celebrated Mrs. Centennial.

The school's celebration began this week with the planting of 100 tulip bulbs around the edges of the flower beds in the school's front and side yards.

Principal Nicholas Abel says he had \$20 to spend and got the bulbs for a nickel each at a midnight market sale. Sixth grade boys, he said, came through as efficient bulb diggers, and each child planted one bulb.

Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Edith Cloutier, beautification committee representative, coordinated the planting which took place last week on a clear, crisp afternoon. Fifth and sixth graders worked on preparing the soil.

The tulip planting is only one phase of a total plan developed by Abel and Jim Stacey of the Oakland County Conservation Department.

Next spring, 200 trees and shrubs from the Soil Conservation Department will be added with the final phase planned for a year from now.

Other activities in the Bicentennial, My Centennial include an open house



Edith Cloutier of William Grace school is coordinator of the tulip planting project.

and a school reunion at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18.

The recreation "Our Country, Thy Choice" will be given by Girella Nazy's fifth grade class.

Recreation program is being offered

Registration for the after school recreation program at Gill and Flanders Elementary school.

Those interested may register on Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. The classes will be for six weeks.

Classes at Flanders, 2500 Flanders are beginning art for grades kindergarten through third grade at 3:30 p.m., gymnastics and tumbling for grades three through six at 4:30 p.m. and arts and crafts for fourth through sixth graders.

At 5:30 p.m. open gym will be for those in fourth through sixth grade. Open gym for grades seven through nine will be at 6:30 p.m. Teen and adult drawing will be at 6:30 p.m. At

7:30 p.m. women's slimnastics and pet and plants for teens and adults will be offered.

Classes at Gill, 2115 Gill, will begin at 3:30 p.m. with cheerleading clinics for students in the third and fourth grades. At 4:30 p.m. gymnastics and tumbling will be offered for grades three through six. A cheerleading clinic will be at that time for grades five and six.

Open gym for students in grades four through six will be at 5:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. open gym will be for grades seven through nine, while arts and crafts will be offered for grades four through six.

The program will be rounded out at 7:30 p.m. with adult volleyball and micramer for teens and adults.

PATTERSON SPEAKS

Oakland County Prosecutor had some harsh words for the state's parole system when he spoke before the Farmington Republicans to see what he had to say. Turn to page 7A.

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Beautification effort wins state recognition

The more than three years of work put in by the Farmington Beautification Committee in improving the appearance of Farmington has finally been recognized by the state.

Farmington was chosen to receive one of five awards at the recent Keep Michigan Beautiful convention in Lansing.

Other awards were given to Wayne State University, the Garden Clubs of Michigan, the Glorious Freedom Mission in Detroit and the Saginaw School District.

But as the only city to receive an award, Farmington was singled out for distinction, thanks mostly to the untiring efforts of the Beautification Committee, now headed by Mrs. Betty Holmes.

Mrs. Holmes, who accepted the award in Lansing, will present the plaque to the city at the council meeting tonight.

Although the city has competed for one of the state beautification awards before, it was never honored until this year. A presentation compiled in book form by Joan Barbick and Charlotte Bruce must have convinced the judges that this year Farmington was worthy.

park, working in the rain, to get ready for this year's Founder's Festival.

The flower beds there at the Farmington Center shopping mall and around the city were all maintained by the Beautification Committee this summer.

The Beautification Committee works on projects with other area civic groups like the Jaycees or the Friends of the Beautification Committee, persons who do not want to be appointed by the city extend to the committee but do want to help on pet projects.

INDIVIDUAL MERCHANTS are not as cooperative, Mrs. Holmes said. Some merchants, she said, were very disappointed when the committee installed flower boxes along the sidewalks on Grand River, near the curb.

Complaining because the boxes cut down parking spaces, the merchants were removed. As a compromise the committee has planted petunias around each tree on the sidewalk. Group projects, such as "Keep

Farmington Beautiful Month" in May of each year, an awards program honoring those who have contributed to the overall beauty of Farmington and a contest for youths to pick an area within the city and draw suggestions to improve it, are used to stimulate more interest in projects.

Although the committee has concentrated most of their activity on Grand River, Mrs. Holmes said, it hopes to reach all parts of the city. Sixteen residents serve on the Beautification Committee, three in an ex-officio status, offering suggestions and guidelines.

Anything the committee wants to do must first be approved by the city council, which supplies the funding. Some merchants, like the Steenkopf Nursery, have been extremely generous in donating materials, Mrs. Holmes said.

The list of buildings partially or completely restored in the city goes on and on. But even with all it has accomplished, the Beautification Committee goes on, striving to keep Farmington a thriving, viable community.



Breaking in

The city's new postmaster, Ken Harris, is still smiling and talking enthusiastically after his first week on the job. He has been wading through papers and statistics, getting acquainted with employes and trying to get an

overview of the total operation in Farmington. Harris, formerly a financial troubleshooter for district, was installed as postmaster last week. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthey).

Teenage rights are topic at library

Teenagers' legal rights and responsibilities will be the topic of a program presented by the Young Adult department of the Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills branch, 3237 West Twelve Mile Road.

The program, which includes a short film depicting a civil rights case entitled "Marijuana," will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6. It is designed for teenagers and parents.

Michael H. R. Buckles, a local attorney, will speak on the law and teenagers, what you can and cannot do, and how to handle an encounter with the police, whether you are in the wrong or not. A question and answer period will follow.