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Twenty Five Cents

Shiawassee easement cost is debated

Children from Shiawassee Elementary School may soon have a new walkway and crosswalk to use at Nine Mile and Shiawassee roads instead of the path a local parents group has cr-

icized as being dangerous, muddy and slag-strewn. "We didn't like the situation of our kids having to cross this field on their way to school. It was not safe," said

John Laliberte, 21616 Albon, a concerned parent who started a campaign to develop safer walkways for students attending Shiawassee. "When we didn't get any response

to our letters from local city and school officials, we (the local parents group) mailed a copy of the letter we sent to the city and school officials to 11 other officials. All we wanted to do

was get something done so the kids could have a safe way to cross on their way to school. I'm happy that something is finally happening."

The Farmington School Board will meet Tuesday night to decide whether it will approve an expenditure authorizing the easement agreements school board attorney Robert Kelly has reached with three local property owners.

The proposal to be presented to the board will provide walking easements from the Grand River subdivision to Nine Mile for students attending Shiawassee.

Farmington schools business manager William Prisk, in a written memo to the school board, said the district has reached an agreement with John Randolph of the Randolph Fence Co. for the temporary use of the proposed walkway across his property on Nine Mile.

Prisk also said the district has reached an agreement with Larry Wiseman and Mr. Wattsman for an easement along their property line, which is part of the controversial field students cross to get to school. Wiseman has offered to provide an easement at the rear of his property for a walkway from Albon and Fairchild Streets.

THIS EASEMENT WOULD join the existing easement along the Wiseman-Wattsman property line for the cost of relocating the fence now located along the property line. The cost of relocating this fence would be \$1,155, down from Wiseman's original consideration of approximately \$1,960.

This has been a controversial area since the end of September when Laliberte and the local parents group began their campaign to get safer walkways.

During the controversy, students

have been using a temporary route instead of using a walk straddling the fence and a ditch on Shiawassee. Students cross Nine Mile with a guard at the west easement and head 100 feet to a sidewalk which leads to a bowling alley frontage.

Laliberte said he sent letters to city and school officials detailing the problem the school children faced every day on their way to school. He said he never was satisfied with their response and thought something must be done.

So early in October, he sent a copy of his original letter (previously sent to local city and school officials) to 11 other officials. He only received two acknowledgments.

BUT FRIDAY, he received a letter from State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) confirming that the school children would get their new walkways.

Brotherton had called Laliberte earlier this month and the two discussed the problem. And after talking with city and school officials, Brotherton now feels the city is taking the proper steps to start work on the easement.

Laliberte also said Brotherton told him that all is proceeding well and the problem should be resolved soon. He said Brotherton talked with Prisk and that Prisk is confident the easement agreements will be completed within two weeks.

"The decision will be left up to the school and city officials," said Laliberte. "As a concerned parent who wants to see his kids have a safe route to walk to school, I will continue prodding to get something done for these children. Right now, our parents group is waiting for some positive reply from Prisk."

"When I do receive some word from him or the city, that's when I'll be happy. But first the city must do something about this problem."



Winter magic

John King was one of the many Farmington area kids who enjoyed the first big snow of the year by getting out his sled and

taking to the hills. To see how other children enjoyed the snow turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Mauth)

Injured Hills skater wins ice competition

Two days before she was to participate in the skating competition in Dearborn, Nancy Hale, 16, of Farmington Hills sprained her wrist in practice.

Certain it was the end of her free style performance, she dropped out. Then, as she watched others practice she had second thoughts and re-entered—bandaged wrist and all.

Someone else might have read the signals and anticipated failure. Nancy fell again during the warmup.

I goofed that completely," she

says, and continues, telling how the rest of the day went. "I guess I'm a lam. I like to skate in front of people. I had been sitting around all day getting nervous, but when my turn came I started smiling as I went out on the ice."

The result? She was awarded the first place medal.

The competition was sponsored by the U.S.A. Ice Skating Instructors of America. It attracted many young

skaters from all over the metropolitan Detroit area.

With her medal from the Nov. 23 competition in hand, Nancy says she wants to enter more at the same level and go to the Jr. state meet sponsored by the USFSA (United States Figure Skating Association) in Bowling Green, Ohio, next spring.

Since she watched a friend skate at the Novi rink two years ago and "fell in love with it," Nancy has been studying with pro Janice Fiddler. Almost every day she is there for two or more hours, and weekends whenever there is figure skating time.

Although she has lots of morale and transportation type support from her parents, the Harold Hales, her mother has never seen her daughter in competition.

"It makes me too nervous," Nancy says.

So her mother willingly drives, at least one way, each afternoon to the Novi rink. "I made an afternoon while waiting for her last year," she comments.

Nancy, who just turned 16 this week, is a junior at North Farmington High.

"I'd like to be a skating teacher and go into art," she says.

But, until all that comes about, the young lady from Farmington Hills may do some serious competitive skating.

For openers, she thoroughly enjoys it.



NANCY HALE

School chiefs get raises

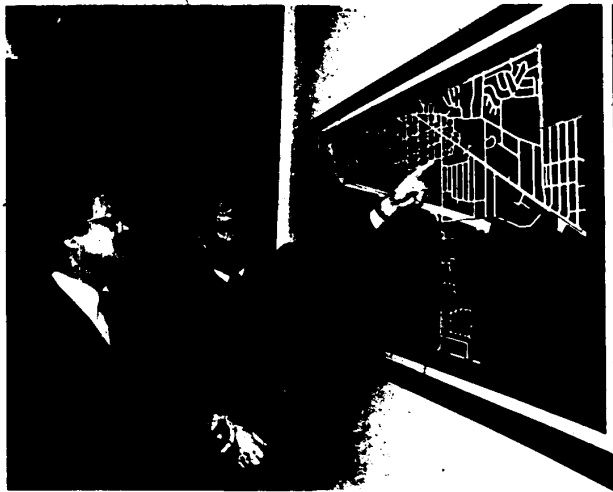
An average six per cent salary increase for five non-union school administrators recently was approved by the Farmington School Board.

The salary increases for the two assistant superintendents and the business manager are based on a 52-week salary schedule that ranges from \$25,000 to \$31,400 with 20 days of paid vacation.

The salary increases for the labor, personnel and special education directors are based on a seven-step sched-

ule for 52 weeks with rates ranging from \$25,000 to \$29,000.

Robert Coleman, labor relations coordinator, will receive \$28,519 based on a 49-week work year. LeRoy Bartram, director of personnel, will be paid \$29,000 based on 52 weeks and the director of special education, Graham Lewis, will receive \$28,442 for working 51 weeks.



RICHARD PRESS AND JUDGE MICHAEL HAND

Bank gives map to city

About 45 hours of work went into making the map of the City of Farmington which now hangs in the council chambers.

It was created by National Bank of Detroit artist Michael Kaufman, and given to the city to commemorate the bank's new Farmington branch.

This week Dick Press, a banking officer in Farmington, visited Judge Michael Hand and learned how meaningful the gift has been.

"We use it to refresh the minds of witnesses who might not be familiar with the city. We use it in civil matters when we want to establish venue. It's used by the courts, the council, the beautification committee and everybody who uses this room," Hand said.

"And besides being a good memory aid, it is a very beautiful decoration."

The map measures 40 x 60 inches

and is cut out of one solid sheet of double thick illustration board. The board was sprayed with white enamel, lettered, and the streets shaped by the cut of an exacto knife. The cut out was then mounted on a piece of walnut paneling, matted with linen and custom-framed with antique gold.

It bears an engraved plaque with the donor's name.

"When we are looking for an exact location, we very often will get an answer such as 'a couple of blocks past Farmington Road' and of course we need much more than that," Hand said. "Our map is quite graphic, as well as being easy on the eyes."

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MUSICAL

The Farmington Musicals is marking its 10th anniversary. To see how they are celebrating turn to Page 6B.