

Farmington Observer & Eccentric



Merry Christmas

Santa Claus and Mary Lachman, 5, discuss whether or not she's been a good girl this year as she tells him that she would like a "Walton's

House" for Christmas. (Staff photo by Harry Mauth)

Sewer line system details confusing

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Some Farmington Hills city officials and residents are contradicting each other and the Farmington city manager on details of a proposed sewer system beneath Freedom Road between Nine Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Owners of property in the area, which borders on Farmington, asked the Farmington Hills City Council on Dec. 15 to install a sewer in the area. Ralph Magid, director of public services for the Hills, said the request was made by about four property owners. The owners want to develop their property. The owner of a vacant building in the area, the owner of some vacant lots, and a man considering constructing an apartment complex in the area want the Hills to install the line.

A fourth party, the owner of the Wayside Cabins is also requesting the sewer. Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, said the Oakland County Board of Health closed the cabins after Farmington had served notice to the Hills and to the owner. Sewage from the units' broken septic tank spilled over onto the property within Farmington.

Magid said the cabins' septic tank had broken, but was replaced by a holding tank which is regularly inspected. He said the owner of the cabins was advised to reduce the number of his tenants by 50 per cent.

Floyd Cairns, Farmington Hills City Clerk, said he believes the cabins had closed last summer. Deadman said he believes the cabins have been closed for 12-15 months.

Residents of the area receive sewer lines and water service from

Farmington. They pay double the normal rate for water and sewage.

DEADMAN EXPLAINED the billing procedure was set up to justify the cost of building a pipeline outside of the city. The residents who receive Farmington utility services aren't charged for the trunkline or the facilities.

Farmington notified Detroit water board administrators that they were providing services to a location off their regular route. Detroit bills the City of Farmington for sewage service on the basis of how much water is used.

At the time Farmington was providing sewage and water facilities to the

area, it decided the cabins were on a grade elevation which made it difficult to install pipes to the cabins. The cabins use a well for their water supply.

The property owners requesting the sewage line from Farmington Hills may have to request a change in zoning if they want to build an apartment building. The area is zoned for single-family residential use. The property owner interested in constructing an apartment complex has expressed his interest in a zoning change to Hills officials. Action on a change in the zoning hasn't been taken, Magid said.

RESIDENTS IN the area fear they (Continued on Page 2A)

Jaycettes ready BUBS project

The Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary, Jaycettes, will launch a life-saving project come the first of the new year.

Called "BUBS" which stands for Buckle Up Babies, the project is two-fold—to provide an inexpensive rental service for a special, safe infant car seat, and to create awareness of automotive safety precautions to save lives, particularly youngsters.

Luck was with the local women as they began to plan their campaign which dovetails with a national Jaycettes program. Three local GM dealers, Audette Cadillac, Saks Olds and Peck Chevrolet, made it possible for the group to rent 30 Infant Love Seats to families in the community for \$5 plus a \$5 returnable deposit.

Mrs. Harriet Reed, BUBS chairman for the Farmington chapter said, "We hope that since parents can rent the seats through our project for only \$5 for as long as needed, many more babies will be protected than might have been otherwise."

She continued, "Many parents don't want to invest in one since they can only be used for nine to 12 months, until the infant reaches 20 pounds."

The seats are especially designed for babies from birth to 20 pounds. The seat is constructed from two polypropylene shells. The outer shell conforms to the auto seat, the inner shell is contoured for baby's comfort and support at important body points.

The seat has been designed and tested extensively by GM safety engineers with the help of doctors and child health experts. It has also been tested and approved by Consumers' Union.

"No one expects to have an accident," said Mrs. Reed, a registered nurse, "but a baby is a very precious cargo and taking any chance at all is taking too much chance, we feel."

An infant hitting a dashboard in a 20-mile-an-hour crash compares to falling from a second story. It doesn't

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Elementary students prepare for conversion to metrics

By RON GARBINSKI

Farmington students are preparing themselves now, so when the big switch from English measurement to metric happens in the U.S., they will be better prepared to handle the conversion.

A new program, started in the Farmington School District this year, teaches students in kindergarten through third grades only metric measurements. Students in fourth through 12th grades work with both systems, but conversion from the English to metric is not emphasized.

"We work with just metrics in the lower grade levels," said Mrs. Caroline Hewes, a remedial math teacher at Larkshire Elementary School. "Once we get them working with metrics, we don't make the students convert back into English either. This would only defeat our purpose because we are not trying to teach them conversions. We are trying to get them to think just metric, because once they use it over and over again, it becomes second nature."

THE OBJECT of the new metric

education program in Farmington schools is to get the students to deal with concepts. To think in terms of 10, the basic unit in metrics. Once they understand the concepts of metrics, coping with the nationwide conversion to metrics will not be that difficult.

Congress is working on a federal metrics conversions bill and if all goes according to plan, it is scheduled to be implemented by the end of this year.

"Almost everyone knows the switch is coming sooner or later. They know that some day we must change and use metrics like most other countries because there must be some common ground—especially in international trade," explains Larkshire Principal James Lanigan, who also directs the metric program at the elementary level.

"We feel it is really important to teach students metrics and the best place to do it is at the elementary level when students are just learning to work with weights and measures. We teach it slowly at first and then once they work with metrics, it becomes easy," he continues.

Metric measurement is not really new to Farmington. Students have been learning metrics for years. Most math books used in the district have a chapter or two at the end of the text that deals with metrics and conversions. So students get at least some exposure to metrics before they leave the Farmington School System.

"THE SECONDARY levels have been studying metrics for a number of years, but on a very limited basis," says William Martin, assistant principal at Farmington Junior High School.

Martin also handles the metric education program at the secondary level. He works with Lanigan and three other teachers on a committee that has formulated the metrics program for Farmington.

"What is new in our program is that we are encouraging a broader use of metrics. This year the district is trying to incorporate more and more of the metric system into our studies so that students will become more familiar with the method.

Our main concentration and interest (Continued on page 6A)

At mock convention

Seniors nominate Udall

North Farmington High School senior government students chose former U.S. Rep. Morris Udall of Arizona as the presidential candidate and Governor James Carter of Georgia as his running mate in a mock Democratic election last week in the school auditorium.

A last minute addition to the convention platform sought to prevent the situation in Angola from becoming another Viet Nam.

The platform was written by a committee of students from the school's 10 government classes. It dealt with such issues as human rights, crime, New York City's economy and unemployment.

The human rights plank supported increased benefits for veterans and equity in the social security program.

The students felt basic legal services should be provided for all.

The platform also urged giving federal funds to help New York City. A stable New York would help to stabilize the country's economy, the platform indicated.

THE STUDENTS felt the government should provide job opportunities to the country's unemployed.

Mrs. Elizabeth Howe, chairwoman of the Oakland County Democratic Society, spoke at the convention and she encouraged the 350 students to become more involved in politics. She said there was a need for their involvement in the political system.

"Here we had a real contest that students could get involved with," said North teacher William Brinker.

The students worked for about eight weeks planning the convention.

Each student obtained information about the 12 candidates. Students were required to write each of the candidates for facts about their platforms, views and backgrounds.

Each class represented five states which were picked from a hat. The District of Columbia was given as a booby prize to the class with the least voting power.

STUDENTS WORKED to gain support for their candidates. David Wilson, head of the Udall campaign, convinced people to switch to his candidate as early as the second balloting.

Mary Jewell, chairwoman of the (Continued on Page 2A)



Math specialist Mrs. Caroline Hewes explains a liter beaker to metric education program student Patrick McKeever. (Staff photo by Harry Mauth)

Postal Service provides delivery

Normal mail service will be provided on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28 and 29 and Jan. 2 and 3, postal authorities say. A holiday schedule will be in effect on Christmas and New Year's Day.

On those days there will be no window service or regular residential, rural or business delivery. Lockbox service and special delivery will be available in some areas.

Mail will be collected Christmas Day from mail boxes with white stars ♯, then.

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Early deadlines

Because next Thursday is Christmas day, your Observer & Eccentric will be delivered Friday and all deadlines will be moved up. Classified ads must be called in to the phone room by noon, Tuesday; space reservations for display advertising must be made by noon, Monday, and news copy must be in by Monday evening. All offices will close at 3 p.m., Wednesday, December 24.