

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Twenty Five Cents

## Hills public hearing set for development grant

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington Hills residents will have an opportunity to express their opinions on a three-year community development grant which the city is now receiving.

A public hearing is being conducted tonight (Monday) at 8 p.m. in Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. The \$600,000 grant will be used for storm sewer development, housing code enforcement, home renovation and senior citizen programs.

City officials are enthused about the grant, according to administrative assistant Mike Dorman, because it allows for increased local determination of how the funds are spent.

In the past, block grants have been categorized, allowing cities to spend money only on designated projects. While regulations still exist, the new grants offer much more leeway to local municipalities, he says.

Red-tape-bound programs, he says, have been abolished.

"The problem before was that the funds were earmarked. A lot of cities for instance, were building things

likes sidewalks whether or not they really needed them," says Dorman. This community block grant places more responsibility on local government. It shows a realization that every community has different needs.

**THE PRIMARY REGULATION** now is that the funds must be spent for low and moderate income persons. Concentration in the Hills' grant will be on developing a storm sewer system in Sections 35 and 36, located in the city's south end.

It's very flat in that section of the city and, when the spring thaws come, the roads get real bad. The entire storm sewer system will cost \$628,000, says Dorman. The city hopes to have excess funds available so residents in that area won't have to be assessed to pay for the costs the grant won't be able to handle.

"We don't want to assess the people in that area if we don't have to. It doesn't make sense. Hopefully, we will have excess funds to take care of it," he says.

Although the grant is for three years, cities are required to reapply

every year, says Dorman, because the federal government could decide to either increase or reduce allocated funds.

**UNDER THE HOME** renovation program, residents would be eligible to receive funds and loans to fix up personal residences. The storm sewer plan will go hand in hand with the renovation program, says Dorman, because sewer installation will enhance the area.

Under the renovation program the city has three alternative plans for aiding homeowners:

- A loan to persons after needs have been certified by city inspectors.
- Interest subsidy programs through which the city would cooperate with private lending institutions in subsidizing portions of loans, which homeowners could obtain.
- A lending program in which the city would guarantee loans to private lending institutions.

Through this program we hope to eliminate red lining in the area," says Dorman.



Pat Borman of Farmington Hills, who has developed a popular course on growing plants for youngsters, helps her daughter, Amy, with the egg shell planting. Mother furnishes the materials. Amy does the work. In the background, Helene is intently preparing dirt for

planting. The hanging plant is a carrot with the core center to hold water. The carrot is inverted and sprouts come from where the green top was cut away. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthner)

## How Farmington students fare in state testing

By RON GARBINSKI

Results of the recent Michigan Educational Assessment tests show that students in the Farmington School District have scored, on the average, almost 20 percent higher than most other districts in the state.

These test scores for students in grades four and seven indicate the percentage of students who have attained the minimal state objectives in reading and mathematics.

"The state assessment test is not one that actually is made for basic comparison of total grade levels or achievement scores at the end of the year, but rather attainment of certain objectives in reading and math," explained Larry Freedman, assistant superintendent of elementary schools in Farmington.

"It is interesting, and we are quite pleased, that our achievement ranges anywhere from 10 to 20 percent above the state average and within no time are we hitting the minimal state average. And we never fall below that average, either," he continued.

**IN THE MATH** section there are 30 or 40 questions and in the reading parts of the test, there are either 19 or 20 questions depending on the grade level. Five questions are asked of each objective and when a student answers four or more correctly, he has achieved the desired results.

The department of education reviews the exams and reports back to the districts basis how many students achieved those objectives. It distributes state averages so that each district can see how it compares to

other fourth- and seventh-grade students throughout the state.

"What also is of interest is that objectives attained at the fourth-grade level generally measure the attainment of youngsters in kindergarten through third grade. The testing in grade seven measures achievement of youngsters in grades four through six, or actually the total elementary experience," said Freedman.

"The district is really pleased at the response and results of the tests. The scores are really significant. They show us that in the areas of math and reading we are doing a good job, and our youngsters are achieving in the classroom."

Results from each school in the district have been returned to the individual buildings so that teachers can work with students to see if they are

achieving certain objectives.

"One of the best things that has come out of the state assessment program during the last couple of years is the diagnostic tool the state has given us. They have broken the questions down in objectives and let us know what individual students have done in specific areas of reading and math. It also lets us do a lot more individual work with youngsters," said Don Cowan, the district's elementary testing chairman.

**IN AN EFFORT** to help individual students who did not score well on the test, the district has designated reading specialists at the schools as coordinators of a follow-up program.

When test results are returned to the schools, the reading specialists meet with building principals and dis-

cuss what can be done about students not achieving state objectives.

The specialist and principal then meet with the total teaching staff and discuss how the school compares to other schools in the district and state. Together they decide what can be done to improve student scores.

The reading specialist recommends materials to teachers who want to stress individual areas in which students need help to reach the minimal state objectives.

"It is interesting to note that our reading specialists were ahead of the state in developing or starting to develop materials used in these special follow-up programs and to see how they are used in helping students reach the objectives set by the state," Cowan said.

"Basically, what we are saying is

that we are encouraged by the feedback we are getting from the state as a result of this diagnostic tool. I hope the school system will continue to pick up more and more in regards to these results so we can help the youngsters who might not have reached the minimal objectives," he continued.

After students are tested in the seventh grade, each secondary school and teacher has a chance to work with students not meeting the objectives, said Lewis Schulman, assistant superintendent of secondary schools.

In the junior high schools, each building's principal and counseling staff review the test scores and react to dips in the results. That way the district follows its philosophy of understanding the individual readiness and needs of each child as he progresses through his elementary years.

### NEEDED SOCIAL SERVICES IN STATE 64TH HOUSE DISTRICT?

Because of severe budget limitations the State of Michigan cannot increase spending in 1977 for the "Social Services" in order to allocate available funds more properly, we need to know what the people of the 64th District believe are the greatest needs.

Please rank from 1 to 17 the relative importance of the following:

SERVICE CATEGORY	PRIORITY
Adoption Services	_____
Day Care Services for Children	_____
Education and Training Services	_____
Employment Services	_____
Family Planning Services	_____
Health Related Services	_____
Home-maker Services	_____
Home Management Services	_____
Housing Improvement Services	_____
Individual and Family Counseling	_____
Information and Referral Services	_____
Mental Health Treatment and Rehabilitation Services	_____
Money Management Services	_____
Placement Services for Children and Adults	_____
Protective Services for Children and Adults	_____
Recreation Services	_____
Socialization Services	_____
Transportation Services	_____

## State needs opinions on social service

Residents in the 64th state representative district in Farmington and the Southfield area are being asked for input on how federal funds should be spent for social-service programs.

Under Title 20, funds are provided for family, children, youth and adult services. The Michigan Department of Social Services is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the program.

Those interested in stating preferences should send their replies to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Box 69, Southfield, Michigan 48075. Responses should be sent this week to meet the state deadline.

The goals of the services programs are to achieve or maintain economic self-sufficiency, to prevent abuse or exploitation of children and adults, to prevent or reduce inappropriate institutional care or to secure admission for institutional care when other forms of care are inappropriate.

Among the services provided under Title 20 are adoption, day care, home-making, protection and transportation.

Target groups for these services are primarily Aid to Dependent Children and Social Security recipients. Some of the services are provided to other low-income persons.

## Protests abortion rulings

By CORINNE ABATT

Thursday, Jan. 22, was a freezing cold day in Washington, D.C.

Two women from Farmington Hills can attest to it. They and 75,000 other Pro Lifers from across the United States marched in protest of the 1973 Supreme Court decision permitting abortion on demand.

Numb hands, numb feet and chilling winds notwithstanding, Mrs. Marlene Elwell, veteran of three such marches and area chairman for the Farmington and Oakland County organization, said:

"I wanted to shout hooray and hallelujah. It is such a thrill for me to live in a country where I can gather with other people for a cause—that we have the opportunity and are given a way to make changes and express our views to the nation and the world."

The Pro-Lifers are part of the national Right to Life movement which in Farmington is named Lifespan.

Mrs. Elwell says about 200 from Michigan paid the round trip plane fare of \$7 to fly down for the day. All who attended paid their own fares and an estimated 1,000 busses came in from areas closer to the capital.

**THE MARCHERS** met in a park near the White House, listened to speakers as the crowds gathered, walked down Pennsylvania to the Capitol in abreast and formed a circle of life around the Capitol with enough marchers still on the way to form a solid block from the White House to the Capitol.

While most were marching, others were lobbying. A contingent from the Michigan delegation met with U.S. Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) whom Mrs. Elwell says "will not support our human life amendments." Mrs. Rita (Margaret) Weber of Farmington Hills says the news

media that reported the crowds at 3,000 only counted the first few on the scene and failed to wait until others who were held up by the weather had arrived.

Rather than be tagged as anti-abortion, these people prefer, in fact insist, upon being labeled pro-life.

"We are dedicated to the dignity and sanctity of human life from beginning to end," Mrs. Elwell says. "Once you lose the dignity of life at one end of the spectrum, it is not long before society will become hardened to it at the other end."

The women, who shudder at the often-inflicted stereotype of their forces as little more than middle-age Catholic women with nothing better to do, emphasize the 75,000 marchers included as many men as women, persons of all races, creeds and ages.

"It was a thrill to me," says Mrs. Elwell, "to see the number of young people marching."

"I agree Mrs. Weber, 'and all of our speakers while we gathered at the park were college students'."

As distressing as it was rewarding were the number of crippled and wheel chair persons in the march. Pro-Life persons are sharply opposed to any kind of euthanasia legislation.

Mrs. Elwell gives an example of the extremes to which it could go when one of the proponents of a euthanasia bill before the Florida legislature spoke of saving \$5 million dollars if mongoloid children were permitted to succumb to pneumonia, a common ailment, and veterans being kept alive in VA hospitals were allowed to die.

**"OUR CONCERN** is whether this is going to be another Germany," Mrs. Elwell comments.

Mrs. Weber adds the proposed bill was defeated in the Florida legislature by a single vote.

"Society has a responsibility to its



MARGARET WEBER



MARLENE ELWELL

people, regardless of their capabilities."

"Who is to say whether these people lead meaningful lives? Maybe in the mind of a mongoloid child, his life is meaningful. Who determines meaningfulness?"

She continues, "The State of Michigan is well-covered in this respect—

Michigan tests life by brain waves. Our concern is when you start pulling plugs. Who determines whose plug gets pulled?"

Michigan Citizens for Life welcome the "hospice attitude" as articulated by English physician Dr. Sylvia Lack. This philosophy, which started in Eng-

(Continued on page 3A)

## inside

News	Section A
Sports	8
One by One	9
Letters	9
Suburban Life	Section B
Community Calendar	3
Classifieds	Section C

### STAY HAPPY

The Farmington libraries are offering a variety of courses throughout the winter months so you can fight off the doldrums. To see what you might be interested in turn to page 3A.