

The Farmington

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today's
hot line

what's inside

Debate On Paving

It was a controversial decision but the Farmington Board of Education has decided to pave the Wood Creek Elementary School parking lot with asphalt instead of gravel. The debate and vote is reported on

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Visitors Speak Out

Last Wednesday the Enterprise & Observer reported a need for student support of the foreign exchange program which is being endangered by apathy. In today's issue, we visit with two exchange students and their hosting families. Elizabeth Wiseman's talk with Thomas Weinszleir is on page one and her conversation with Rose Marie Boudgugier is on

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Are Movies Rotten?

It wouldn't be fair — or accurate — to say that all movies are more depraved than ever. But how does a parent decide which movies are suitable for the youngsters, and which for adults only? He turns to the Amusements Page of today's edition and consults a new service — this newspaper's listing of local movie houses, their offerings, how the industry rates them, and what a prominent religious service says about them. We give you the facts. You make up your mind.

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Fun Time

What three area lakes have received new plantings of fish? What's new at Greenfield Village? What's the law on licensing of boats? Where are the fish biting in southeastern Michigan? There's a page of stories about outdoor fun you can have this weekend and all through the summer.

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Strawberry Festival

The annual Strawberry Festival comes up next Thursday at the Northwest YWCA, 25046 Grand River, Redford Township. There will be strawberries and ice cream for the whole family, and the story is on today's Women's Page.

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How Consolidation Election Date Decision Effects Area

By EMORY DANIELS

On June 11 the State Boundary Commission will be meeting in Detroit to set a date for a consolidation election for the Greater Farmington Area.

The decision, once made, will be final. It will be the Boundary Commission's decision and not that of any local government or group. The question is whether the election should be held this fall or in March or April of 1970. The commission has asked for and received opinions from the petitioners and the four governmental units.

THOSE OPINIONS will be weighed and placed in perspective before the commission will decide. Local views in favor of either date are important only to the extent that they influence the commission's decision.

analysis

The joint study committee of the four governmental units have requested a spring 1970 election. The petitioners, Citizens for a Better Farmington, are asking for an election in November 1969.

The setting of an election date is important because it has a direct bearing on the actions of those groups which will be supporting consolidation. These groups must establish a timetable and the date of the election will affect different groups in different manners.

And so the views of both the petitioners and joint study committee are important, not only to the Boundary Commission but also to residents who will be voting on the single-city concept.

CITIZENS FOR a Better Farmington, the petitioners, do not agree a spring vote is needed to grant more time to properly educate the community on the issue.

"It is our contention that, the issue of boundary change is not a new one to the Farmington community in that there have been numerous moves for annexation and incorporation in years past," the petitioners wrote the Boundary Commission.



THE PROMOTERS The petitioners for consolidation came first from the MSU staff (shown in left panel) recommending that action and then from Citizens for a Better Farmington and petitioners for the action.



Representing the petitioners of the last Boundary Commission meeting were (right panel from left) Richard Ellsworth and Paul Dwyer.

"Therefore, there is no need for an unusual amount of time to familiarize the people with the new issue."

The petitioners claim the joint study committee is in no position to present a neutral educational program, since "it is in the self interest of the present government structure to preserve the status quo and thereby their jobs."

The group also claims the quality and quantity of education will not improve by setting a spring vote but "will simply mean that the same amount of information will be spread over a greater length of time, dissipating its effect."

Citizens for a Better Farmington say a spring election would cause a situation where "justice delayed is justice denied." They argue: "It is possible that the delay could well mean denial of a favorable vote. Certainly there is a momentum and interest built up by the action of our group."

"We feel there is a great possibility that a

delay at this time might be fatal to our attempt to get a favorable vote on consolidation."

IN THEIR LETTER to the commission, the petitioners state the Farmington community "is small enough and is served by an excellent local newspaper which has proven in the past to be quite capable of bringing the facts before the public so that they can make an educated decision."

The petitioners conclude: "It should be noted that there is no need for an extraordinary period of education because this first vote is not decisive on the issue of consolidation."

"It merely allows a charter commission to prepare a proposed governmental structure for the area to be consolidated and report back to the community."

"A final vote would then have to be conducted to adopt a consolidated form of government."

Continued on Page 3A



JOINT EFFORT — German exchange student Thomas Weinszleir (left) shares a painting job with his Farmington "brother" Steve Raliff. (Everett photo)

VWs Make German Feel Right At Home

By ELIZABETH WISEMAN

Like a good German, Thomas Weinszleir of Urdorf, Germany, Youth for Understanding student at Our Lady of Sorrows, has been riding around Volkswagen all his life.

Now he says, "When I came to the United States and sat in an American car, I wondered how I was able to drive for 12 years in a Volkswagen."

THE CAR Americans lovingly call the "bug" is small by American standards but Thomas says, "From the European standard, it is a medium size car."

The sight of so many VWs on American streets gave Thomas a touch of home but he takes exception at American sauerkraut.

"Here you can buy it in a can," says Thomas, "but at home we get sauerkraut out of a barrel."

Thomas spikes the American belief that his countrymen live on sauerkraut and sausage: "Twice a year we may have sauerkraut and you Americans eat more hot dogs than we eat sausage at home."

But the American belief that Germans love beer is true according to the YFU student. The German evening meal is usually bread, butter, sausage and beer.

ON THE SUBJECT of German food versus American food, the German youth comments, "We have things like Kellogg's Corn Flakes but they are very expensive and very special. And your orange juice! Oh, how I'd love to have something like that in my country every day for breakfast!"

Our orange juice has impressed Thomas favorably but the drug problem among American young people has struck him negatively. He explains, "I don't want to say that all American kids are using them but I am amazed at how many are."

"If we Germans need an escape hatch," he continues, "we can drink alcohol and get a good feeling on that—it may be that it's easier for Americans to get 'grass' than it is for them to get alcohol."

THE GERMAN BOY has been delighted with the acceptance he has met here in America because he had some fear that Nazism was still the living memory in the United States that it is in many countries of Europe. "Very few people have mentioned the Nazis to me," he says. "I must say I expected it and I appreciate the great politeness I've had from your people."

JUST AS he didn't expect politeness about Nazis, Thomas didn't know what to expect when he arrived at his host family's,

the Jesse Ratliffes, 31972 Leimay Farmington.

Thomas comes from a family of three children and the Ratliffes have eight.

"I thought before I got here," Thomas says, "that nobody has eight kids but now I just enjoy it. Here somebody is always fighting, somebody is always laughing—it's great."

Thomas is a Catholic as is his host family, but he is a Catholic with a European difference.

"Here the Catholic church is very, very backward," he points out. "At home, the priests say very openly that confession is no longer necessary. And they even say in church that they reject birth control. Only 50 percent of our Catholics are going to church faithfully. American Catholics are much more Catholic than European Catholics."

AN UNCLE of Thomas' is a Catholic priest living behind the Wall in East Germany.

"He is a well-informed man by Communist standards," notes Thomas, "and yet he believes that the American people don't believe in God, only money. Communist propaganda has him believing these things."

Thomas believes that the Russians don't want a unified Germany because the nation would then be too strong industrially for the Russians to control.

HE ALSO makes a subtle observation about Germany and Russia: "Marx and Engels, the Communist fathers, were both Germans and perhaps the Russians think a strong unified Germany based on the Communism ideology that two Germans created would be beyond Russian control."

Thomas indicates that Communism is no threat to West Germany, nor is the rebirth of Nazism.

"It's a dead issue," he states emphatically. "Nazism is no threat to the world. The younger generation wants nothing to do with it and we're ashamed of what happened 30 years ago."