

# Students take reins of government

By LYNN ORR

Farmington minors who try to buy alcoholic beverages would find it rough going if some of their peers were running city hall.

At least that's the impression given by a group of Farmington High School students who stepped into the shoes of City of Farmington officials for a day this week.

The FHS seniors immediately tack-

led some tough issues, including enforcement of drinking age laws; vandalism; improvement of city parks; and maintenance of the FHS building and grounds.

Student Mayor Chuck Amori used his gavel to maintain order, and after an unprecedented attack of the giggles by student Councilwoman Sheri Lord, reports on various subjects were received from acting city officials.

"I think we should enforce more stringent ID's," said Bruce Lilley, replacing Lt. of Public Safety John Santomauro. Councilwoman Janis Jagielky expressed concern about the state legislature's consideration of bills aimed at raising the drinking age to 19.

Sophomores and juniors are buying liquor, and they (the legislature) are blaming it the 18 year-olds," she contended.

The student-run Council resolved to direct the public safety department to more emphatically enforce identification requirements for purchasing alcoholic beverages.

TO BECOME a city official for the day, FHS seniors were required to get 40 signatures on a ballot, and the senior class elected students to fill the officials' posts.

Students started their day with a morning session with the official they were to replace. Laurie Dahlstrom learned "all about city assessing" from John Sailer, while Lilley collected information from Santomauro.

"I didn't know much about City Hall—it's a building on Liberty Street," Ms. Dahlstrom said. "My parents are always talking about taxes, so I decided to try."

"I assessed malicious destruction of property or MDP's," Lilley said. "I had to find out how many were residential and commercial and classify the information."

Doug Smith spent the morning with 17th District Court Judge Michael Hand, observing cases on the bench.

"It was amazing that all his verdicts were the same as mine," Smith quipped. "Actually it was the first time I was in a court, and I was really surprised how smoothly everything runs."

"He's always in control."

At noon, students and city officials departed City Hall for the Farmington Elks Club, where they were treated to a lunch sponsored by Farmington Rotarians.

Farmington Hills resident and Rotarian member Ed Miller encouraged the students to consider civil government in their career choices and support their local government as residents.

"You have an opportunity to understand how American government works," he told his audience. "One of our every six people in this country is employed by the government."

Miller also encouraged students to participate in volunteer government, such as city council positions.

"Watergate generated a distrust of public officials, but I contend there's a greater sensitivity about public service and conduct today than at any other time. Let's remember to support those people who are trying to perform a service for us."

After the lunch, students reconvened at City Hall to get down to

work, and with a lengthy agenda in front of them, their afternoon was crammed with official business.

The student city council also resolved to suggest to the Farmington School Board that safety bells be incorporated in all school buses.

Students participating in the day's events and the officials they replaced included: Chuck Amori, mayor (Dr. John Richardson); Timothy Brisbois, councilman (Richard Tupper); George Dorset, councilman (Ralph Yoder); Janis Jagielky, councilwoman (William Hartsock); Sheri Lord, councilwoman (Alton Bennett);

Also: Clifford Donovan, city manager (Robert Deadman); Barbara Tupper, city treasurer (Winona Woods); Janis Jagielky, clerk (Nedra Viane); Ellen Patton, city attorney (Robert Kelly); Doug Smith, district judge (Michael Hand); Paul Chuba, director of public safety (Dan Byrnes); Bruce Lilley, lieutenant of public safety (John Santomauro); Anne Campbell, building inspector (Jay Harrison); Laurie Dahlstrom, city assessor (John Sailer); Nancy Schiller, court administrator (Marilyn Daguda); Patricia Fewlass, director of public services (David Jones); Linda Leary, foreman of public works (Joe DeVriendt); Lynette Seimer, crew chief of public works (Jerry Linhart); and Richard Miltzer, foreman of water and sewer (John Overfield).

FHS teacher Tom Pierce and student Terri Lewis coordinated the day's events.

## Photo program set at library

Learning how to be a better picture taker is the object of the Farmington Branch Library's photography program scheduled for 7:30 p.m., May 11 at the library, 2550 Liberty.

The evening will be devoted to exploring the art of photography with emphasis on improved photographs. A brief film from Eastman Kodak Co. entitled "Snapshot camera handling" will be shown and Jerry Jakacki from the Focal Point Studio of Photography in Farmington will offer hints on camera handling, composition, light and other subjects.

The Young Adult department of the library is sponsoring this free program for photography enthusiasts of all ages.

## Help for nurses

Nurses who provide maternal and infant care are being taught to recognize high-risk situations through special courses sponsored by the National Foundation-March of Dimes.

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Thursday, May 5, 1977

(F7A)



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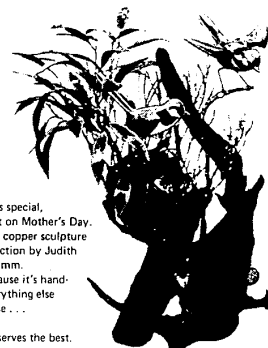
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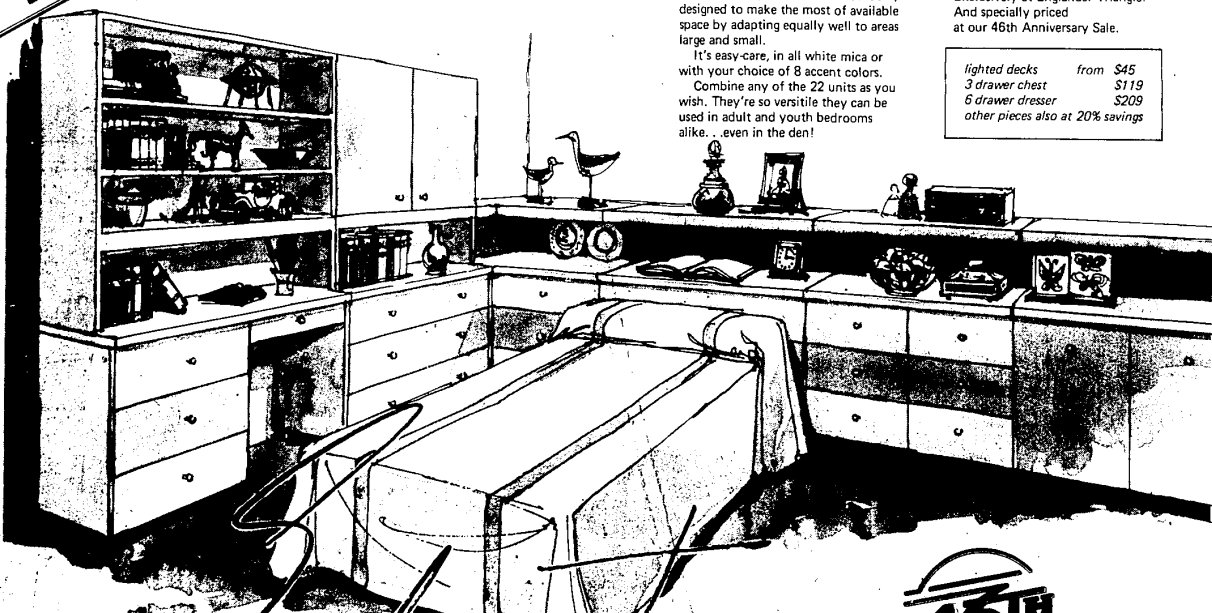
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