

Farmington Observer

Volume 88 Number 91

Thursday, September 1, 1977

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

Strike is threatened by teachers' union

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Although classes in the Farmington School District are due to begin next Tuesday, Farmington Education Association (FEA) President Ken Barry says that unless there is some progress toward settlement of major issues, the union will consider strike action.

"Teachers will be left with no good options on Sept. 6," says Barry, who also says the FEA is seeking approval of the Michigan Education Association (MEA) for a possible work stoppage.

The one year contract forged last year expired on Wednesday midnight and the FEA has placed pickets in the front of the school administration building to dramatize its appeal for public support.

Farmington's 750 teachers are "frustrated and angered" by what they see as the slow progress of teacher con-



tract negotiation which began last April, according to Barry.

"It is fair to say that should it come to next Tuesday and no further progress has been made, there is no question that the membership will be asked not to work without a contract," he said.

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—Ken Barry

The last time Farmington teachers waged a strike was in 1973.

IN A NEWSLETTER distributed to the public this week by the FEA, the teachers' union has accused the board of attempting to:

- demand the unilateral right to increase teacher workload at will.
- "masquerade" for a salary increase what teachers would have gotten due to an experience increase anyway.
- reduce health insurance coverage of teachers which would further increase financial liability.

"Teachers are convinced that a six per cent salary improvement plus a cost of living adjustment, a reduced class size, continuation of the same health insurance benefits, and improved job security are not excessive or unrealistic expectations," said the newsletter.

"That is why we don't understand why the board's negotiators have chosen to fight us on these issues rather than peaceably settle a fair contract." The board's negotiators have been accused of submitting "regressive" proposals to the FEA, according to FEA Crisis Committee Chairman Dick Kurp, who is in charge of get-

ting the union stand out to the public.

MOST DISTURBING to the teachers' union, says Kurp, is that the board won't talk about a cost-of-living increase in the contract, something which Kurp says a majority of the FEA membership wants.

Kurp says that the board has proposed to reduce teachers' Blue Cross-Blue Shield medical coverage, remove class size guarantees won in the 1973 strike and provide the same salary schedule as last year's contract.

"The administration's contract offer is insulting to the worth of every teacher in the district," says Barry.

But Farmington School Supt. Lewis Schulman has a different perspective on negotiations and says he is optimistic that a contract can be settled soon, although not as soon as he would prefer.

Although refusing to talk about specific issues under negotiations, Schulman says that the teachers' salary scale is at the top when compared to surrounding school districts.

But union officials disagree with that assessment.

"We've compared our fringe benefits with surrounding districts and there is only one (Waterford) where teachers are being offered less money and benefits," says Barry.

Teachers also are upset, according to Kurp, because board negotiators want the district to have the option of laying off teachers at two week's notice and changing teachers' assignments in the middle of the semester.

It would nearly be impossible for a teacher to find another job if that person was laid off in the middle of the teaching year, according to Kurp.

Teachers will meet on Tuesday morning to decide what action they will take if the contract goes unsettled.

SEMCOC urges Hills to join regional group

Farmington Hills can have a voice in solving regional problems before they grow into state government level quandaries.

That's the word carried to the Farmington Hills City Council, Monday, by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOC) Executive Director Michael Glusac. Presently, the Hills is considering joining the regional group.

By participating in SEMCOC, Farmington Hills could assist in solving problems such as environmental planning, without the threat of having their votes swallowed up by a larger community, according to Glusac.

Each government which belongs to SEMCOC has one vote in the General Assembly. Counties are given slightly more votes than cities. Oakland County has three votes. Wayne County has five votes and Detroit has three votes. Although these governments have slightly more votes than the one chance given to each of the cities, they don't have the voting power to carry all the decisions and continually overrule the smaller members, according to Glusac.

"SEMCOC COULDN'T have been formed if there had been no compromise," Glusac said. "The small cities wanted one vote for each gov-

ernment so they wouldn't be swallowed up."

In addition to the General Assembly, which meets three to four times a year, the organization has an executive committee, its board of directors. The 40 member executive committee meets once a month. Its members are elected.

Representatives from Oakland County are selected in a caucus of villages and cities. Two members of the executive committee and two alternates are chosen.

Each member pays dues which are based on its State Equalized Valuation. Farmington Hills' membership dues to SEMCOC would be \$2,300 if the city decided to join.

The organization's budget is guaranteed by the counties who give money to SEMCOC each year. When city or village members donate their dues money to SEMCOC, the organization rebates that amount to the appropriate county, according to Glusac.

"There's no double dipping," Glusac said.

In determining the types of projects that the organization will tackle for the coming year, problems which are the focus of federal programs are matched with the concerns of the member governments.

HOUSING AND environmental planning are among the problem areas that hold SEMCOC's attention, according to Glusac.

Plans to solve members' problems take into account the projected growth or decline of an area and the costs of the project.

A township that wants to have its own waste disposal plant will build one of the correct size for its present and future population with SEMCOC help, according to Glusac. This extra planning that the organization offers will help member cities save money, he said.

Housing problems are a major focus for the organization, according to Glusac. It reviews all applications for community development funds so that members can move forward along the lines of the organization's housing plan.

This plan stresses maintenance and rehabilitation of existing housing. The plan coordinates continuing use of older homes with construction of new houses.

Through this plan, the organization includes housing concerns with other areas, such as sewer planning, transportation and land use.

In addition, the organization assists communities in housing and community development.



Soccer time in Farmington Hills

It's time again for soccer in Farmington Hills and Farmington as the Hill Parks and Recreation Department revs up for another autumn and winter of class-

ses for young, old and in between. For further information on the learning line-up, turn to Page 3A.

Family battles to save home

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

A Farmington Hills woman is waging a battle with neighbors, city administrators and the courts in an effort to fix up her home and stay out of jail.

Mrs. Johanna Artido will appear before 47th District Court Judge Michael Hand today and request an appeal after being held in contempt of court for completing only half of the house repairs ordered by Hand. She was sentenced to one month in jail, but was released after paying a \$100 bond.

Her neighbors says she is taking too long to rebuild her house on the corner of Ontario and Independence in the southern section of the city. City officials says she has had sufficient time to rebuild her home since it burned down seven years ago.

But Mrs. Artido counters those claims, saving improvements have been made over the years and that she is too poor to move any faster.

During the school season she works as a lunch room helper in the Clarensville Schools for \$100 a month. Her husband earns \$200 a week at his job in a heat treatment plant.

They have five children ranging in age from 7-17 years old.

THE CASE originally ended up in court after the city charged the house wasn't up to building code standards.

Mrs. Artido was given 30 days to complete a list of repairs designed to bring the house up to code. She was only able to complete two of those four tasks.

Her daughter Laura, 17, and husband John raised the money by appealing to members of the nearby Moose Lodge.

"This started a year ago when three neighbors didn't like to see the house anymore," she said. "I think that the outside doesn't look bad."



MRS. JOHN ARTIDO

"If you had seen it a year ago, you would have seen the improvements that are on it today," she said.

In the past year the family has saved enough money to install eaves in the front of the house, finish plastering, painting and wallpapering all of the bedrooms and getting the bathroom facilities into working order.

Next on the agenda is to put siding on

the sides and back of the house.

Another problem facing Mrs. Artido is the city's claim that she lacks an occupant's permit, which she needs to continue to live and work in her home.

Mrs. Artido, who is sure that she has the occupants' permit, says that it was granted to her by the Township in the spring of 1973 and that it has since been lost.

ALTHOUGH SHE HAS NO proof of her contentions she says she has a witness who heard a township official tell Mrs. Artido that the permit was granted.

Meanwhile, the Artidos were ordered by the court to bring the house up to code before they would be issued the permit. These improvements included installing sliders in the windows so occupants could open them up to a 45 degree angle.

The windows were stationary while the Artidos raised the money to put in the window accessories, which could cost up to \$50 a window, according to Mrs. Artido.

Another city complaint was that her bathroom wasn't equipped with hot water.

(Continued on page 4A)

Stag party trials begin

Four persons arrested and arraigned last month following a police raid on a West Bloomfield bachelor's party faced 48th District Judge Carl Ingraham on Monday.

The four and 12 others were arrested at Moon Lake townhouses clubhouse, off Long Lake Road. The other 12 are scheduled for arraignment early this month.

In proceedings Monday, Ingraham found Charles Campbell, 20, of Farm-

ington Hills, not guilty of drunk and disorderly conduct.

Irene Fleming, 26, of Detroit, and Randy Baloga, 23, of Detroit, will be tried by Ingraham Thursday, Sept. 8. Both face charges of drunk and disorderly conduct.

Gwendolyn Moore, 23, of Detroit, will be given a jury trial. No date has been set. She is charged with indecent exposure as well as drunk and disorderly conduct.

After their arraignment, the four were released on bond.



Neighbors of the Artido family complain that the house is an eyesore, but the family says that they are moving as fast as they can. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

inside

STEREO SOLD WITH ONE AD

Edward McWhirter did it the easy way when he wanted to sell his stereo. He placed an ad in the Observer & Eccentric classified section. "I sold it the first day that the ad appeared," he told us happily.

FOR SALE: Portable stereo, AM-FM radio, battery operated. Call after 6 p.m.

Used TV's and stereo equipment sell quickly when advertised in our classified section. Call us today.

DIAL DIRECT
644-1070

Course taught in real estate

A course in real estate finance will be offered in Farmington next month by the state-wide real estate program of the University of Michigan.

The course begins on Sept. 14 and runs each Wednesday for 11 weeks from 7-10 p.m. at the Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors office, 24125 Drake, at Grand River.

The finance course involves a thorough study of residential home financing. Types of lending institutions available and explanations of the mortgage procedure and the Michigan land contract will be covered.

Although advance registration for the course is advised, students also may register at the class directly prior to the opening session. Those wishing to register in advance should call the University of Michigan extension service at 763-2170.

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