

The Farmington

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's
hot line

what's inside

What Teachers Want

Farmington teachers and administrators are preparing for a summer recess in negotiations. Before leaving for vacations, the bargaining unit for teachers left a proposed salary package which includes a pay hike in excess of 10 per cent. Administrators have the summer to mull over the proposals.

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The Life Of A Wife

Mrs. Shirley Richardson has led a new life since her husband, John, was elected to the Farmington City Council. Reporter Elizabeth Wissman talks with Shirley who tells what it's like to be a councilman's wife. Shirley tells the same story to you.

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Pick Top Citizen

Farmington Elks Club has announced its top citizen of the year. The identity of this year's choice, selected for community and lodge activities, is told on

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Static Laws

People are maturing younger and younger during the last century, but the laws governing them have remained static—in one case since the 11th century. An Observer-White Paper proposes that the state gather scientific knowledge about human maturity with a view to revising ALL the laws concerning age. Gov. Milliken is interested.

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Don't Kill Umps!

Their trousers are so tight that they have to wear their shinguards outside, and they get a lot of guff from the kids. But the boys of ages 14-16 who umpire Little League baseball get a hearty tribute from George Maskin in his entertaining column, Observing Sports.

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Summer Fun

How can you find out what towns are having which festivals in Michigan? Is the movie your teenager wants to see really what he should be seeing? Where is there summer theater near by? We've got the answers on the Amusements Page.

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SELLING PROBLEMS — Gary Jackson is trying to sell his house but may not be able to unless he can convince city hall and his neighbors to cooperate. (Evert photo)

Jackson Tells Woes Of City Hall Fights

By EMORY DANIELS

Gary W. Jackson has a problem and it is appalling for help. "Help! Could someone please tell us how to sell our home," Jackson wanted to sell his home at 24718 Farmington Rd. in the City of Farmington but is caught in a bind which makes the prospect of a transaction seemingly impossible.

HE HAS a two bedroom ranch on one acre of land and wants to sell it as residential property. But financiers won't give a conventional mortgage because the acre next to Jackson's property is zoned multiple dwelling. Jackson sought the advice of a real estate firm and was told to list the house as an office building. He obtained an offer for a two-man office on April 12.

Next Jackson applied for rezoning to professional services but met opposition. "It was brought out that city does not believe in spot zoning despite the fact that our block is commercial, multiple dwelling and residential (as).

"We have seven homes in our backyard and a 10-unit apartment facing our house on the other side which will be constructed sometime this summer. "Also there is a 160-unit apartment next to that with a commercial lot on the corner. Across Farmington Road, there is a factory facing us."

WHERE DOES the city draw the line on spot zoning, Jackson asks?

"The city has made our home

impossible to sell and deprived us of our privacy," says Jackson. "Where does the average working man have any rights when it comes to fighting city hall? Where is the justice in the case the city has created on Farmington Rd.?"

"When the apartments next to us were opposed, all the city kept telling us was that we should think of the revenue the apartments would bring in and the results would be less tax strain on us taxpayers."

UPON INVESTIGATION, The Enterprise & Observer learned that not all of Jackson's troubles is coming from "city hall." Some of his neighbors have set up a roadblock to his plans to sell his property for professional office use.

At the city planning commission public hearing June 9, the proposed purchaser, told the commission he had met with the Farmington Oaks Homeowners' Association but they were unable to arrive at an agreement.

The association wants a deed restriction on the east 200 feet of the property for residential purposes. But the developer balked and instead offered to lease the property to the property owners for a five-year period.

Tom Ruyle of 21647 Chestnut says the developer is not dealing in good faith and was not attempting to work out certain protections for the surrounding property owners.

Harold Sider, president of the homeowners' association, has

presented the commission with a petition bearing 158 signatures objecting to the proposed rezoning because it "would establish a precedent for the balance of Farmington Road south of Chestnut."

JACKSON appeared before the commission and questioned his rights to sell the property for his best use.

Jackson told commissioners he has been unable to receive a mortgage because he was pigeon-holed with multiple to the north, residential to the east and south, and because he is located on a large arterial highway.

K.E. Stratten of Mapient argued the rezoning will set a precedent which would allow future commercial in the area. Stratten indicated the area owners would fight in court to resist residential zoning.

The commission denied Jackson's rezoning request 6-1. At its last meeting, city council agreed to hold a public hearing on the request if the developer indicates in writing he is willing to pursue the matter.

MEANWHILE, Jackson has a home to sell.

Jackson has written Farmington Mayor Wilbur Brotherton, Attorney General Frank Kelley and the Federal Housing Authority.

In conclusion Jackson said: "We are confused, disillusioned, perplexed and dismayed in all the maneuverings the city has concocted in pushing us around."

Rezoning May Doom Stadium

The battle over a proposed domed stadium in Southfield may come to a head Monday night.

The Southfield Planning Commission is holding a preliminary hearing on a rezoning request involving the 203-acre site located east of Inkster and south of I-696.

But the rezoning request will not be for a stadium, a counter move is being made to rezone the land for educational research office (ERO) which, if approved, would eliminate location of a domed stadium.

STADIUM developers are expected to attend and make a pitch as to why a stadium on that location would be a better use than ERO. Also attending will be representatives from Farmington to speak against the stadium.

The rezoning proposal has raised stiff opposition from residential subdivisions in Farmington Township.

Local government representatives who will speak in Southfield Monday night are Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan and City Attorney Robert Kelly.

It is also expected the hearing will draw a large number of Farmington residents and officers of local subdivision associations.

THE TOWNSHIP decision to send Brennan was prompted by a request from Dale Haskins and Ed Andre, chairman of the Canterbury Commons community affairs committee.

"You've got to let the township know what is going on," said Andre.

Trustee Fred Lichman agreed a representative should be sent but reminded residents that the township could not take any legal stands and did not have a legal right to speak. "If we get the right to speak, it will be because Southfield allows us to."

Haskins agreed that Brennan would be the best representative to send. "We don't know how this will go and so we should have someone there capable of making a big splash if this becomes our only chance."

Haskins added that the township must be careful that Farmington doesn't try for an overkill. Southfield is sensitive, Haskins said, especially after the stadium promoters ran an advertisement claiming Farmington wanted the stadium.

Haskins has led a petition drive and to date has obtained about 4,000 signatures showing opposition to the stadium. He hopes to collect up to 10,000 before the drive ends.

THE CITY, township and both villages have passed resolutions expressing opposition to the stadium at its present site.

Recently, Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) told the city council he was in full agreement with Farmington's position on the Southfield stadium.

"He said if the stadium were built on private property and financed with private funds it would not come under the jurisdiction of the Legislature which would be unable to control its location."

Baker said he would not support any legislation which would permit the spending of public funds to provide facilities for private industry such as the

Detroit Lions or Tigers, whether it be located in Detroit, Southfield, Walled Lake or Taylor.

Another vocal opponent of the stadium site has been Kenneth Perrin, newly-elected board member to the Farmington Board of Education.

Haskins agreed that Perrin was quite active in the anti-stadium movement. During the campaign he blasted stadium promoters citing immediate problems of law enforcement and traffic congestion once the stadium is built.

In addition, Perrin noted, there are long-range problems which would "without a doubt effect each and every homeowner and resident here."

"It almost goes without saying that the increase of 50,000 or more persons in our area daily to visit the stadium will bring problems which will hit us right in the pocketbook through increased taxes for law enforcement and other services."

"Of even greater concern is the increased danger to our children from the tremendous influx of traffic and people into our residential community. If we had wanted to live in such an environment, some of us would have moved into Farmington."

"To have such a monstrosity forced upon us against our wishes would be tragic. We do not want a stadium in Southfield," concludes Perrin, "and we should all make this abundantly clear to all of our elected officials at the local, county and state levels."

'We're Too Busy To Answer Mail'

The City of Farmington has expressed concern that it may not be receiving adequate support on certain bills from its legislators.

Rep. Raymond Baker and Sen. George Kuhn.

The council had passed a number of resolutions urging legislative support and became disheartening. The council then asked City Manager John Dinan to report on the legislative responsiveness.

DINAN FOUND the council adopted five resolutions during the past two months on "what we consider very important matters that needed support from our representatives in the State Legislature and we have received hardly any response on these matters."

THE RESOLUTION adopted by council involve:

1. A resolution supporting the 60-40 allocation of funds for the state recreation program.

2. A resolution urging installation of a signal light at Powers and Grand River and requesting intervention from Kuhn and Baker.

3. A resolution opposing construction of a domed stadium in Southfield.

4. A resolution on behalf of the Farmington District Library requesting sponsorship of legislation to allow library building authority.

5. A resolution regarding assessing practices throughout the state requesting legislation be adopted to protect the taxpayer from the spiraling of increased assessed valuations based on real estate sales without adjusting the tax rate in relationship to the increase in assessed valuation.

Baker told the council he had contacted the State Highway Department on the light at Grand River and Powers and promised to continue a follow-up and prepare a resolution to show legislative intent.

Baker said he agreed with Farmington's position on the proposed stadium in Southfield.

He informed the council the request for legislation allowing a library building authority reached his office after the deadline for introducing bills.

Baker said it is possible the request could be introduced as an amendment to a bill on the calendar, but it was a remote possibility. If not, Baker said he would be pleased to introduce the legislation in the 1970 session.

BAKER AGREED there has been a breakdown of communication between his office and the City of Farmington and promised to make every effort to correct the situation.

Baker said it has been a very frustrating session: "The House is holding sessions from early morning until late evening and as a result of this our desk work has suffered."

Arrangements have been made for a dinner meeting July 1 between Kuhn, Baker and city officials.



RAYMOND BAKER

Road Unit Seeking Volunteers

Volunteers are still needed to serve on the Farmington Township Road Committee established in April by the Farmington Township Board.

A nine-member road committee was approved at that time to advise trustees on road needs, funding and priorities.

Membership is to be geographically representative of the township.

The Farmington Township Road Association, a non-official group of township residents, is making an appeal for volunteers to serve on the committee. The group has mailed letters to the president of 14 township subdivision associations. The road association was one of the initial organizations asking the township board to establish an official committee to consider the problems of the township's bad roads.

Discussion of the road committee will be held at a meeting of the road association to be held at 8 p.m. June 24 in Clarenceville High School.



PARTING LIFT — Graduating sixth graders of Mrs. Elaine Chabur's class at Woodville School leave behind a patriotic tribute for their school's entrance hall. Production of the 28-inch shield grew out of a class project related to the national election. Principal G. Donald Cowan expresses gratitude to Roxanne DeVold, designer of the plaque and Donald Gaines, production coordinator. (Evert photo)



Mr. Employer

Summer vacation is here and many of the local area teenagers are available for full or part time employment.

Check today's Classified Want Ad section for the "Summer Situations Wanted Ads" and find the summer helper you need!



GEORGE KUHN