

# School district considers selling surplus properties

BY LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Faced with the realization that it's unlikely the district will need to build another facility, Farmington school administrators are considering selling a portion of their 123.69 acres of undeveloped property.

Before searching out buyers, the district has commissioned a task force to assess the value of the lands and their usefulness to Farmington.

The lands were last assessed at the time of their purchase, according to District Business Manager William Prisk.

While the district will retain part of its undeveloped property, it wants to sell other parts to raise money to re-

pair existing buildings, according to Prisk.

Administrators are willing to sell some of the district's property in the north and the east, according to Prisk.

"There are some pieces of land that the district won't need in the future," he said.

"There are 20 acres in section one, in northern Farmington Hills, that would like to dispose of at a fair price to the district," he said.

THE 20 ACRE parcel in that section turned out to be useless to the district. Originally, Warner Junior High was scheduled to be built on the site. "The ground wasn't level," explain-

ed Prisk. "A school building needs level ground for a playground. It would have cost us \$350,000 to prepare the site."

"It's a beautiful piece of ground. But just to level it, the cost would be prohibitive," he said.

Administrators will consider selling 13.69 acres of vacant land that the district owns in the eastern section of the district.

"Most of that section is built up. They're pressured for land in that area. And with declining enrollments, it is surplus land for us," Prisk said.

However, Prisk believes that the school board should retain vacant lands it owns in the western section of the district.

"Studies suggest we may never need the sites, but things may change," he said.

"WE SHOULD retain the land, especially when you consider that there is other vacant land in that part of the district. If that part of the community

was hard pressed for vacant land, it would be different. But now, our vacant land is surrounded by other vacant land," he said.

The task force will consider putting up for sale only undeveloped lands.

The new committee is a spin-off from last year's Task Force on Declining Enrollments.

The enrollment study group suggested that the district investigate the value of its vacant lands, especially the land on which Eagle Elementary school stands.

Eagle, located on Fourteen Mile Road, Farmington Hills, is near commercially zoned property in West Bloomfield.

The school board will consider the findings of the property task force when they decide which school will be closed in 1978.

The Task Force on Declining Enrollments suggested that either Eagle or Fairview Elementary schools be closed.

## Cop wins honor

Lt. John Santomaro, a city of Farmington public safety officer, has been selected for listing in "Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges," a national publication.

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## Do loonies come out with the full moon?

"The inconstant moon" Shakespeare coined it. More influence has been attributed to the glowing orb than to any other heavenly body over the centuries.

Astrologers believe the moon holds great sway over a person's natal chart, and lovers and lyricists have invoked the moon's romantic influence in songs as verse.

Does the moon in fact influence our lives? Although some people maintain a full moon evokes erratic behavior, Farmington officials say they have no evidence to support that theory.

"I don't notice that much of a difference," commented Louise Strickland, Farmington Hills Ambulance Co. dispatcher.

"A FULL MOON's more romantic, but that's about all I've noticed," she said. "Some nights you have a lot of runs, and some nights you don't."

Botsford Hospital emergency room workers don't see any special action on nights of a full moon either, according to Seymour Cantor, hospital spokesman.

"There's a legend that on a full moon, you'll have more deliveries, but it certainly isn't scientific fact," he said. Confronting with employees in the emergency room, he confirmed his suspicion that the shape of the moon doesn't appear to influence accidents.

An emergency room aide at University of Michigan Hospital, however, insisted that a full moon always means extra work for the staff.

"I think it's always kind of jokingly said that the kooks come out when the full moon appears," said Farmington Police Lt. John Santomaro. "But there's nothing factual that I know of."

He couldn't recall any unusual occurrences that coincided with the moon's full phase.

Dr. Marcello Truzzi, chairman of the sociology department at Eastern Michigan University believes the question is why does the moon influence behavior, not if.

He explained that before man invented artificial lighting, the moon and stars were man's only guide in the blackness of night.

"It was only natural that people would become dependent on them, and they could start affecting human behavior."

LOCAL STARGAZER GUNDELLA believes the moon intensifies a person's feelings.

"If you're a romantic by nature, as I am, the full moon magnifies your feelings; it makes me think of romance," she maintained. "But how it affects you depends on your inclinations."

Legend or not, the word lunacy developed from lunar, so prepare yourself for Feb. 4, the next time the moon's full face appears on the horizon—there may be a moon behind your madness.

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