

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCEPT PROBED

Declining enrollments and the resultant loss in state aid has led to the investigation of middle schools for Farmington students by a board appointed task force.

Task force members will visit schools in Brighton and Berkeley to study the feasibility of implementing that type of school structure in the Farmington district.

The middle school concept houses students in grades six to eight, rather

than in junior high schools which house grades seven to nine. Many experts believe implementing middle schools would be less expensive and result in a better utilization of space.

## TOO TALKATIVE?

After addressing an assembly of senior government students at Rochester Adams High School last week, Lt. Gov. James Damman apologized for talking too long and cutting short the time available for the question and answer exchange. "That's the danger

when you give a politician a microphone and podium," Damman said. "He always tends to talk too much."

## POLICE LOSE CAR

Two Troy police officers had their patrol car stolen this week after a hitchhiker they stopped to question pulled a gun on them. The hitchhiker reportedly ordered the two officers, Ptl. Phillip Steele and Phillip DiMaria, out of their car, took their guns and drove off.

Police later arrested Glen McBride, 35, who lists addresses in Schwartz Creek and Flint. After an extensive search failed to turn up the suspect, an officer spotted McBride walking along Long Lake Road in Troy.

McBride was charged with two counts of armed robbery and two counts of using a gun while committing a felony.

## FIRST CANDIDATE FILES

The first candidate for the Birmingham Board of Education has filed nominating petitions for the June 13 election.

Donald T. Gervase, 43, seeks the four-year term being vacated by Robert Ketchum who announced last week that he would not run for reelection. Ketchum's seat will be the only vacancy on the board this year.

Gervase has been a Birmingham resident since July.

## ASSESSMENTS QUESTIONED

The attorney for nearly 100 residents in Southfield's Oakland Hills subdivision claims homeowners' properties are being illegally assessed this year.

Southfield attorney Julius Giar-

marco told board of review members that some homes in the subdivision are assessed higher than the 50 percent of true cash value stipulated by the state constitution.

Giarmarco also maintains reliance on sale prices of homes in the neighborhood in raising assessed values is not valid, and properties haven't been uniformly evaluated. Residents in the city's northeast subdivision received an average 1977 assessment hike of 32 percent.

## TEACHERS SAY NO

West Bloomfield teachers have rejected a fact-finding report issued last week by state-appointed fact finder Mario Chiesa.

The teachers have been working without a contract since Sept. 1.

Teacher union leader John Sullivan said teachers do not accept Chiesa's recommendations on first-year salaries, retroactivity of pay increases and insurance, the crucial issues barring contract settlement. He said the report "appears to have been prepared in haste."

Bargainers for the teachers and school board are expected to return to the table to resume negotiations but no date has been set.

## NEW LAWS

Orchard Lake City Council will hold public hearings April 11 on three new proposed ordinances, two of which could greatly affect future development in the city.

One would prohibit cutting trees without a permit and the other sets standards for lakefront frontage including prohibiting pie-shape lots.



## Little Babe Blue

Babe, a mixed long haired pointer, is feeling blue with no children with which to play. She's spayed and about 1 1/2 years old. To adopt her, contact Lydia Stack at the Oakland Humane Society, 879-1269.

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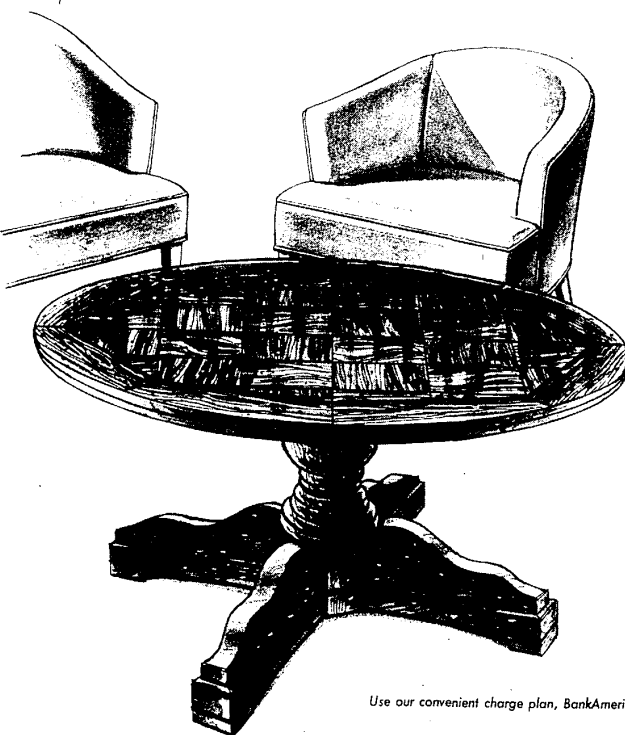
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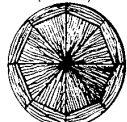
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