

# Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 8

Monday, February 28, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

©1979 Suburban Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Vandalism Mounting incidents cost district bucks

Vandalism in the schools, tagged by a weary-sounding Farmington high school principal as "part of the (education) business," constitutes a reoccurring problem for both teachers and students. If the culprits go undiscovered, the destruction, ranging from graffiti on rest room walls to a recent incident in which a high school locker was set on fire, can cost the district thousands of dollars. During the 1977-78 school year, the Farmington district paid about \$17,617 to repair damage done to its property. So far this school year, the district has suffered at least two exceptionally expensive incidents of vandalism. The district suffered a \$1,400 loss on Jan. 13 after vandals broke into Shawassaw Elementary School.

About \$30 from the school pop machine and two calculators were missing. The damage total rose after the vandals emptied eight fire extinguishers into an office, library and hallway. The cleanup process cost the district about \$1,100 of the total damage, according to Farmington Hills Police Officer Larry Doyle. Police continue to investigate the incident. Between \$400-\$500 in damage resulted when a North Farmington High School locker was set on fire last last year.

ADMINISTRATORS BELIEVE the fire started when a passer-by lit a flyer which was taped onto one of the lockers. Heat from the fire on the outside of the locker set ablaze papers and books on the inside, according to North Farmington Principal Clayton Graham. The fire spread to two other nearby lockers and destroyed about three coats and between 8-10 books, according to Graham. While Hills police and administrators have a few leads, Graham admits there is no substantial evidence linking anyone to the fire. Administrators are quick to point out that these incidents aren't the usual fare in Farmington schools. However, they admit the district has a steady diet of petty vandalism which adds away at the budget. "It's better this year," says Supt. Lewis Schulman. The worse years for vandalism in Farmington schools were in the early 1970s, according to Schulman. "There's been a substantial reduction," he says. "But it's still around."

Schulman credits community efforts by groups like the PTA Council for helping to decrease the vandalism rate. Education of parents and students as well as increased patrols in the hallways have helped to cut down on the damage.

"IT'S IMPORTANT that students understand that vandalism is a hazard to the community," he says. Psychologists say that vandals harbor a rage against the school, its administration and teachers, adds Schulman. "The chemistry between the kids and our schools is good," he says.

While Harrison High School Principal

Larry Geiger has some doubts about the theory students are acting against the teachers when they vandalize a school, he views it as a continuing part of the teaching business. Although his school doesn't face major vandalism with great frequency, Geiger says that it's the little incidents which add up to a large repair bill for the district.

Removing electric plates from the wall, breaking windows and removal of ceiling lights are examples of the type of vandalism administrators usually face. "There is no rhyme or reason to it," admits Schulman. "I get miffed by these things," says Graham. "If they want to kick in their own property, let them go home and do it."

Instead of using more of the district's money to buy new supplies for the school, vandalism forced administrators to replace old items, says Graham.

SO FAR THIS school year, the full length windows in the North Farmington auditorium doors have been damaged and replaced three times, according to Graham. Kicking in lockers and writing on walls also account for a large portion of destruction in the school. In the restrooms, girls tend to write on the walls and boys generally tear out the paper-holders and dump them in the toilets, he says.

Graham's pet peeve involves the tendency of some students to throw food at the cafeteria wall. Several years ago, students painted murals on the walls to live up the eating area. "If you look closely, you can see food on them," he says.

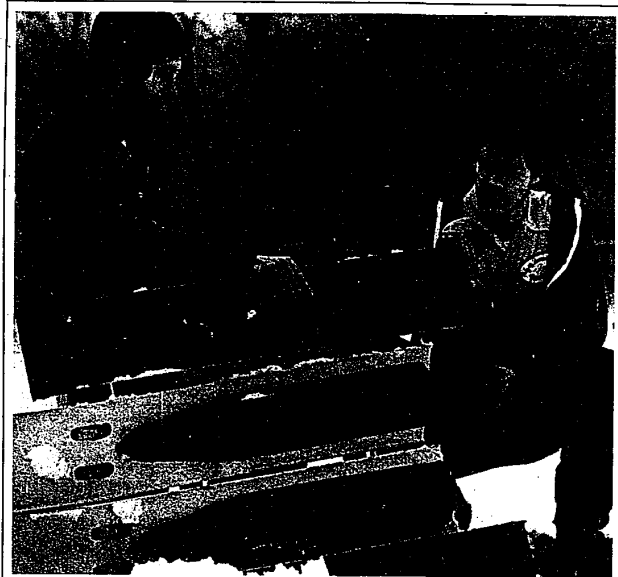
Larceny in the parking lots involving cars belonging to students and teachers also poses a problem for the administrators. Farmington school administrators are pursuing a policy of tracking down vandals and demanding restitution. According to state law, the district can collect up to \$2,500 in damages from the parents of minors responsible for vandalism.

But tracking down the guilty parties isn't so easy. Administrators agree that students are reluctant to tattle on each other.

LAST YEAR two Farmington High School students were caught spray painting the exterior of the building. Farmington District Court Judge Michael Hand ordered that \$1,000 in damages be paid to the school district. The students were also ordered to write an essay on vandalism.

That's a classic example of times when police become involved in school vandalism cases, according to Farmington Public Safety Lt. John Santamour.

If the damage is extensive or if fire is involved, police and fire officials are notified. But usually, petty vandalism is handled within the school by administrators.



Jerry Wills (left) and Al Huybrechts, of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division prepare the device used to groove out some ski tracks at the San Marino cross country skiing site. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## San Marino skiers grooved just like Olympic hopefuls

By MARY GNIEWEK

What do cross country skiers at San Marino in Farmington Hills and Lake Placid, New York, site of this winter's pre-Olympics, have in common?

Both groups are skiing on tracks perfectly set in place by Track Mould, a recent invention guaranteed to make cross country skiing a new experience.

"It's the ultimate," said Dave Justis, recreation supervisor at the city-sponsored San Marino course. "It improves skiing 100 percent. It places two perfectly matched tracks side by side."

"It's a real advantage for beginners because it keeps them in the grooves—you don't fluctuate from side to side. It also improves racing. The European skiers at Lake Placid claim they make the best laid ski tracks in the world. The

Track Mould will be used next winter at the 1980 Olympics."

The tracks at San Marino were laid at the end of January atop a six inch base of fresh snow. The Benchmark, a sporting goods store in Farmington Hills, loaned the equipment to the city.

"The first step is to attach a groomer unit to the back of a snowmobile and ride it over the course," Justis explained. "The unit throws snow up in the air and puts moisture in it. It sheers off old snow and readies the track."

"THE GROOMER," which is eight feet long and four feet wide, is equipped with steel blades which gouge two preliminary tracks in the snow while it packs moisturized snow into a center strip. The groomer is pulled over the course at a speed of 30 miles per hour.

"The track mould sets the final

track, which is sixteen inches wide with six to eight inches between the two—which is the normal range between skis."

Benchmark laid tracks for the Nordic Classic Race it cosponsored with the Hills Recreation Department at Glen Oaks earlier this month. It also laid tracks for Livonia's cross country ski race last weekend.

"There are only three Track Mould units in the state. This model, which is the best, has only been on the market two years. I'm sure it will catch on."

Justis said track setting should also boost the city's special recreation program for the handicapped next winter.

"We want to get blind skiers out here next winter. Once the tracks are set, they won't have a problem skiing."

## New rules under fire

# Austin attacked on lobby reform

By MARY GNIEWEK

Tax critic Headlee last week blasted Secretary of State Richard Austin's proposed administrative rules to the Lobby Reform Act of 1978.

Headlee, successful promulgator of the Proposal E tax limitation drive, which voters approved last November, made his remarks at a public hearing in Detroit. It was the second of three public hearings held statewide by the Secretary of State's office on rules for enactment of the new lobby law.

"The proposed administrative rules on the Lobby Reform Act pose a serious threat to the already limited ability of the people of Michigan to communicate with the legislature and the executive branch of state government," Headlee said, who lives in Farmington Hills.

Headlee offered the following objections to the proposed rules:

- Scores of taxpayer financed state government lobbyists and other officials of state government are excluded from the proposed rules.
- Travel and payroll costs must be reported as lobbying expenditures imposing an obvious disadvantage on Upper Peninsula lobbyists.
- The rules require lobbyists to maintain personal maintenance records.
- The proposed rules require a lobbyist to file the reasons why he quit lobbying.

"YOU DON'T HAVE to be a ballistics expert to see that this law and its



RICHARD HEADLEE

rules are aimed at the wrong people," he said. "Rather than pointing at the nine million people in our state, this legislation should be aimed at the activities of 148 legislators and our legions of paid professional bureaucrats."

The last of the public hearings was held in Grand Rapids on Wednesday. Dave Kilgren, director of the legislative division of the Secretary of State's office in Lansing, said a decision on the proposed rules will be made next week. "We don't know yet what changes will be made. There will probably be

some changes because we have 26 pages of rules now," Kilgren said. "If enough changes are made, we'll have to schedule another public hearing. A number of people testified, we can't pin the changes on one person's testimony."

The Secretary of State's office was given the task of writing specific rules after the Legislature passed Public Act 472 last year.

"Our job is to fill in a vague new law. It doesn't take effect until the rules are defined. And the public must have an opportunity to speak to those rules."

"There was definite resistance to enactment of the law in the first place. Some of these same people don't want to be regulated and they are stating their objections," Kilgren continued.

The Lobby Reform Act is intended to

## Chemical disposal studied

By C.J. RISAK

Disposal of hazardous wastes, a problem since the PBB and PCP contamination, is the subject of considerable turmoil in the state.

A special state legislative committee is considering where chemical wastes, including those considered toxic, can be safely disposed of within the state.

"The kinds of wastes we're talking about are, for the most part, those left by heavy industry," said State Representative Sandy Brotherton (R-Farmington). Brotherton is one of nine members of the committee which will propose legislation on how to deal with the problem.

"In years past, we were able to dump our toxic wastes in other states — New Jersey, Illinois, and Texas," Brotherton said. "But in the last year-and-a-half, the source in New Jersey was closed after a fire, because of public concern. The Illinois source was shut down after it was discovered they weren't licensed correctly and they didn't have the proper controls. And it looks like the Texas source won't be available much longer."

"We just can't keep expecting other states to take our problems. And if we don't handle it, then they'll (large industry) have to close down."

Disposal of toxic substances has already been a cause for concern in the state. It was reported recently that poisonous wastes buried in the Muskegon area by the Hooker Chemical Co. were seeping into a nearby lake.

One of the first actions to be considered by the committee will be a proposed dumping site in northern Oakland County. A private firm that specializes in the disposal of toxic wastes, the Stablex Co., is interested in establishing its own plant in Groveland Township to process the wastes.

"WE HAD SOLID evidence that shows the process they use is safe," Brotherton said. "They have built similar plants in England, and have had no problems."

"The question now is, 'Is this the best place to put the plant?' Even though the process is safe, no one really wants it in their back yard."

"Everyone argues that we have to have a place for the disposals but no one wants it around them."

The committee will also consider "in any other possible dumping sites" in areas less populated than Oakland County," Brotherton said, if there is one that would fit the needs.

Cost of the project isn't expected to be paid by the state, but will probably be contracted to a private industry.

## Hills agenda readied

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL

31555 Elevee Mile Rd.  
7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28

New business

- Presentation by Forest City Dillon Corp. of senior citizen and family housing on city site at Freedom and Drake Rd.

- Presentation of Farmington Area Arts Commission Logo Award to Jim King.

Unfinished business

- Consideration of amendatory ordinance Sec 30 SW 14.
- Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance — regulation of alcoholic liquor for persons under 21.
- Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance — uniform traffic code.
- Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance — subdivision of land chapter 61.
- Consideration of adopting review fee for the engineering division for the proposed division of unplat-land ordinance.

- Consideration of selecting a builder for the construction of senior citizens and family housing on city site at Freedom and Drake.
- Consideration of a resolution authorizing selected builder to proceed with plans and make application to Michigan State Housing Authority for construction of senior and family housing at Freedom and Drake Rd.

- Consideration of final plat approval for Meadowbrook Park No. 2 subdivision in Section 31, Escrow set at \$22,250, and completion 11-79. Proponent: Trinity Land.
- Consideration of amending open space plan for Meadow Brook Park Subdivision.

- Consideration of application from Mr. Lam and Mr. Lim on a full-year Class C license to be located at 3859 W. Ten Mile Rd.
- Consideration of resolution for amendment to 1978/1979 General Fund budget.
- Consideration of awarding bid for concrete saw.

## inside

A SURPRISE GIFT

Throughout last week local residents dropped by the new Farmington Observer offices located at 2352 Farmington Road. A special gift was made by Walt Koenig, who brought in his own welcoming present. To see what he brought turn to the Cracker-Barrel Debate on Page B3:

At your leisure	6A
Community Calendar	2B
Inside Angles	3A
Monday's Commentary	5E
Suburban Life	Section B
Sports	Section C