

Festival group invites public to meeting

The 1979 Farmington and Farmington Hills Founders Festival Committee will hold its first public meeting at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 9.

Community organizations, business representatives and residents are invited to attend the meeting, which will be at the Masonic Temple, Farmington Road and Grand River.

At the meeting, festival committee members will describe their activities and enlist support. Ways for various community groups and individuals to participate in the 15th annual Founders Festival also will be discussed.

"We hope that large numbers of interested people will attend and offer to get involved in the festival and its many activities," said Gary Miramonti, the festival's 1979 general chairman.

"The Founders Festival is a community event and will be successful only if supported by the community at large," he commented.

This year's festival is slated for July 25-29 at various locations throughout both cities. Additional information about it can be obtained from the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce by calling 474-3440.



Mayday celebration

Children in ArtStart Preschool decorated their own Maypole and celebrated Mayday, emulating woodsmen of another era who celebrated the last of the tree-cutting with their neighbors on the Village Green. Barbara Burgess, preschool teacher at left, extended the tradition to include a typical woodsmen

breakfast of pancakes. The day was followed by open house in the ArtStart facility in Mercy Center, when registration opened for next term's crop of preschoolers. Registration continues until class loads are filled by calling Ms. Burgess at 474-7175.

Board initiates swap to obtain traffic light

By MARY GNIEWEK

Government by barter?

That may seem a bit outdated, but a request from Oakland County officials turned into a negotiating tool on a completely different matter for the Farmington Board of Education Tuesday night.

The board greeted a request for installation of easements at the corner of Westfield and Thirteen Mile, on Bond Elementary School property, with a counter resolution.

It ordered school administrators to tell the Oakland County Road Commission it would grant the requested easement one week after the county installs a traffic signal at East Junior High School.

The board ran into problems with prior requests for a traffic signal at East, located on Middlebelt south of Eleven Mile, because the road commission ordered installation of a sidewalk on the west side of Middlebelt before it would grant approval for the signal.

A spokesman for the Farmington Hills engineering department said a one-block sidewalk from the Greek Orthodox church on the west side of Middlebelt south to Hemlock would cost \$28,000.

"There is some question as to whether we should use district money to install sidewalks," said school administrator Scott Bacon.

Board member James McGlinchey, who supported Vice President Michael Spiecke's counter resolution, expressed similar doubts.

It's a "Catch 22" situation. The county attached strings," he said.

ADDED SPIECHE: "I'm willing to support our paying one third of the cost of the traffic light if they (the road commission) forego the sidewalk."

The city of Farmington Hills and Oakland County would split the other two thirds of the cost of the \$8,500 push button traffic signal.

Board attorney Robert J. Kelly had no objection to the board's counter resolution.

"At least you can ask," he said.

Spiecke, McGlinchey, Board President Helen Prutow and trustee Janice Rolnick supported the resolution.

Trustees Emma Makinen, Jack Inch, and Dick Wallace voted against it.

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