

# Farmington Observer

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## Residents to protest Orchard Lake widening

Subdivision associations in the Farmington Hills portion of the Orchard Lake Road widening project are petitioning the City Council to halt the reconstruction between 10 and 12 Mile roads.

Springland-LaMuer, Pasadena Park and Slamen Acres residents fear the widening to five lanes in their area would increase traffic, encourage more businesses to locate in the area and ruin the old trees which line the road.

Subdivision association representatives will present the Farmington Hills City Council Monday night with a petition aimed at halting the project in their area.

"We feel quite strongly that widening the road will act like a magnet to pull community development into the area," said Richard W. Steiger, treasurer of the Pasadena Park Association.

"Pressure for rezoning the land flanking the roadway would grow in all likelihood, fostering commercial development in our area. One has only to drive north on 12 Mile on Orchard Lake to get the picture," says a statement which Steiger will read to council.

WHILE SAYING that businesses in the 12 to 14 Mile Road area of Orchard Lake Road were built before the road was widened, Steiger says he fears such an expansion in his neighborhood would serve as a temptation to commercial development.

The current design of the road in the

10-11 Mile area can handle the amount of traffic which it receives, he said.

"We feel the traffic flow in the area is considerably less than further north near the college (Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus.)"

Residents contend the two-lane road with its third lane to handle left turns is sufficient.

They are concerned the widening project will destroy trees and remove additional land which separates the homes from the road.

Without this "buffer zone," Steiger says, residents will find themselves closer to the road and its traffic.

Steiger moved to the neighborhood from another Farmington Hills subdivision a year ago, attracted by the area's older homes.

"THIS IS essentially a residential area and it should be kept that way," he said.

The Oakland County Road Commission isn't sure when the project will continue.

With a decrease in the expected amount of state revenue from gas and weight taxes, which goes to the commission, commission members aren't sure if its budget can handle completing all facets of the Orchard Lake Road project at once, Dennis Pajot, road commission spokesman, said.

The project, proposed for Orchard Lake Road from Grand River in Farm-

ington to Willoway in West Bloomfield, will be one of the subjects of a budget hearing at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 12 in the Waterford Township Hall, 5200 Civic Center, Drayton Plains. The road commission's budget hearings are open to the public.

Residents who want a change in the commission's projects can petition the

members of the board at that time.

The subdivisions' strategy of petitioning the City Council could be effective, Pajot said, because the city does pay for 8 percent of the widening cost. In midsummer Farmington Hills' portion of the project cost was estimated to be \$646,000.

THE FEDERAL government con-

tributes 76 percent or \$6 million of the estimated \$8 million in construction costs for the project.

As of midsummer, the Oakland County Road Commission's share was \$396,000 or 12 percent of the project's cost.

Petitioning the city won't have any

legal effect since Farmington Hills doesn't make the final decision on the continuation of the widening project. That is the road commission's responsibility.

"But the road commission is receptive to the input and desires of the community," Pajot said.



Three-lined Orchard Lake Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads has become the center of controversy at city hall. Residents wish to keep it

narrow and tree-lined. The county has other ideas. (Staff photo by Randy Bors) )

## Over there and back here

### Veterans recall years at war

By MARY GNIEWEK

World War One veterans will raise champagne glasses tomorrow for the 11th hour, 11th day toast commemorating the Armistice Nov. 11, 1918.

The annual mid-morning affair at the Veterans Administration building in Detroit is symbolic of the spirit that survives among veterans of all wars.

Years haven't dimmed the memories for Clarence Moran, 82, of Farmington Hills.

Moran volunteered for the U.S. Navy in December, 1917 and was called into active service the following February. He served until 1919 on the U.S.S. Agamenon, affectionately called "Aggie" by its 1,200 crew members.

Moran's Kendallwood apartment reflects his lifelong fascination with ships. He has models, pictures and a prized photograph of the Agamenon at sea, looking like the ship.

"It was a German cruise ship before the war called Kaiser Wilhelm II," he said.

Moran, a first class seaman, made 18 roundtrips to Brest, France transporting troops to the front and bringing home casualties while fighting off German U-boats.

He spent half those trips in the "upper crow's nest," the observation tower high above the ship.

"THERE WAS NO protection from the weather up there," he recalled. "You always had the sensation you were going to fall, rocking back and forth."

The ship, 740 feet long, consumed 7,000 tons of coal from its home port in Hoboken, New Jersey to Europe. Then the crew, dressed in white sailor uniforms, would hand-load enough coal for the return trip. It took seven days to load enough coal.

The ship carried up to 7,500 persons and made the Transatlantic voyage in nine days in good weather. During one storm the ship turned 43 degrees and lost all of its lifeboats.

"Another two degrees and we wouldn't have come back," Moran said. But as threatening as the weather

was, the German submarines posed an even greater worry.

"German subs were rampant. We zigzagged often and were camouflaged."

He remembers one close call on Nov. 5, 1918.

"A sub came so close to us, we couldn't shoot it with our guns," he said. "We watched as it torpedoed our sistership, the Mount Vernon."

The torpedo hit mid-ship, broadside. There was a gush of water up 100 feet. The ship staggered, then started sinking.

The Mount Vernon was saved, though. It was towed back to Brest. But 57 crew members, working in combat bunkers in the engine room during the attack, were killed.

"The sub paid for it, though," Moran said. "We had a six destroyer escort and they dropped ash cans, depth charges, until they got it."

WAR MEMORIES are still vivid for Raymond Heldenbrand, of Livonia. Heldenbrand, former commander of American Legion Post 150 of Farmington Hills, took a break from a building project there recently to talk about World War Two.

As a young infantryman, he spent 285 days in combat in a forward push from France to Germany. He recalls the difficult time he encountered on orders to cross the Ruhr River into Julich, Germany in September, 1944.

"The Germans broke the dams and flooded the area. We couldn't cross until February," he said.

Combat engineers put footbridges in while under fire. Once accomplished, 14-man squads made the 200-yard dash across the two-foot wide bridge with wire handrails.

Heldenbrand remembers his turn to run.

"The second man in front of me was killed. The boy in front was shot through the heel. The boy behind me was shot in the leg. Miraculously, I got across unscathed," he said.

"There were many casualties in our company, but we got over."

There were other close calls. Helden-



CLARENCE MORAN



ANNABELLE HOEGLUND



RAY HELDENBRAND



BOB DEADMAN

brand came through with two minor injuries, an elbow grazing bullet wound that inflicted while he dug a trench behind a sargeant's plan in an open field and shrapnel in his shoulder from a mortar attack.

Retired from General Motors, Heldenbrand spends a lot of time at the American Legion Post, where he serves on various committees.

"I think every veteran should join a veterans organization," he said.

ANNABELLE HOEGLUND thinks so, too. She was the first woman to join Post 346 of the American Legion in Farmington. Later she became its first female commander.

Mrs. Hoeglund, assistant city treasurer in Farmington, served in the U.S. Navy from April, 1945 to August, 1946.

Though her assignment was state-side, she went through the rigors of a

(Continued on Page 8A)

## Headlee rebuts Milliken slash at appointment

By KAREN SUE HERMES

Richard Headlee, a supporter of the Tisch tax-cut plan, said Friday he didn't think he had to sacrifice freedom of speech to serve on Oakland University's Board of Trustees.

"I didn't think I had to give up my First Amendment rights," he said.

The Farmington Hills resident and insurance executive was responding to a comment by Gov. William Milliken at a press conference Wednesday that Headlee's appointment to the college board was a mistake.

Milliken's comment followed Headlee's refusal to join his colleagues on the OU board in adopting a resolution opposing Tisch. The tax plan, defeated by voters last week, would have significantly reduced state taxes.

"With respect to Mr. Headlee," the governor said, "I've made a few mistakes in my political and governmental career, but one of the mistakes I think I made was in appointing Mr. Headlee to the Oakland University board."

Headlee, who chairs the board, said an anti-Tisch resolution would "politicize" the board, which should foster debate on issues in a university environment rather than take a stand on one "in a state of panic."

"I still feel that (the university's neutrality) is the greater issue," Headlee said.

HEADLEE, AUTHOR of a tax limitation amendment to the state constitution which was approved by voters in 1978, said he also would have opposed a resolution supporting Tisch.

Meanwhile, the governor still hasn't responded to Rochester resident Elizabeth Howe's request of Milliken to re-

move Headlee from the university's board.

Mrs. Howe, a trustee-elect to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, requested Headlee's removal after he refused to support the anti-Tisch resolution.

"Apparently, Mr. Headlee's passion for the U.S. Senate or, indeed, your (the governor's) office, knows no logical bounds," she wrote in her letter to Milliken.

"To get there, he is willing to see MSU, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University's budgets cut in half and Oakland University's doors shut."

She called Headlee's refusal to support the anti-Tisch resolution an "incredibly opportunistic publicity grab."

At Sandusky, the governor's press secretary, said Friday he isn't sure when the governor will respond to Mrs. Howe's letter.

He said, however, Milliken can only remove appointments for "cause" and Headlee's refusal to support a resolution wouldn't constitute such cause.

Headlee, meanwhile, said Mrs. Howe is "narrow-minded" and he's glad she's on her (MSU's) board."

Mrs. Howe couldn't be reached for comment Friday.

Headlee said he doesn't plan to run for higher public office, but declined to rule out the possibility.

He said that as a resident, rather than a politician in Michigan, he can deal with "fundamental issues rather than party platforms."

"I rather like my role as a citizen," he said.

Headlee's term on the OU board expires in 1984.

## Police seeking clues in kidnapping try

Police are looking for a blond-haired man who abducted two teenaged Farmington Hills girls from a parked car in Farmington Hills Tuesday night.

The girls, 15 and 16, were sitting with two male youths in a car parked in the Farmington Nursing Home parking lot, Tuck and 8 Mile, at 9:35 p.m.

According to police, the suspect, who wore a ski mask, opened the car door and, while holding a knife, ordered the two males out of the vehicle.

One of the youths was stabbed in the thigh during an ensuing struggle, police said. He was treated and released from Bedford General Hospital.

The suspect drove away with the two girls. They jumped out of the car near 8

Mile and Middlebelt and were picked up by the Farmington Hills police car, police said. The girls, who were not sexually assaulted, suffered facial bruises.

"He (the suspect) didn't say where he was taking them or what he would do with them," said Sgt. Richard Murphy, police juvenile division.

Murphy said investigation of the incident would continue. He discounted the possibility that there was a connection between the incident and a similar assault which occurred in Redford Township last Sunday.

IN THAT INCIDENT, a man parked at Knight and Puritan at 4 a.m. was approached by a knife-wielding man

who demanded money. When the victim produced only \$4, he was stabbed repeatedly.

That suspect was described as a

blond-haired man. "We checked with Redford police and there's no connection between the two incidents," Murphy said.

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(Continued on Page 8A)

## what's inside

Community Calendar	4B
Editorials	8B
Inside Pages	8A
Columns	8A
Special	8A
Sports	8A
Classifieds	8A

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