

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## New Post Office Location Raises Ire Of Homeowners

About five dozen homeowners crowded into the Farmington City Hall Monday night to protest proposed rezoning of property west of Farmington Rd. between Alta Loma and Freedom Dr.

Proposed are office and deluxe multiple land uses which would allow a new post office and an apartment development. No council decision was made.

**THE HOMEOWNERS** were opposed to both the post office and apartment complex, insisting instead the property should remain single-family.

The hearing, which began at 7:30 p.m., continued until 11

p.m. when the city council closed the hearing and moved into its regular agenda.

C.R. Kelly is asking that the first six lots south of Alta Loma be rezoned to R-3 to allow construction of 88 multiple units.

But the Planning Commission, after completing a master study of the area, denied Kelly's request and recommended rezoning to R-5, deluxe multiple.

The R-3 zone allows 18 units per acre, and Kelly's preliminary plans indicate a density of 12.5 units per acre. If the property is zoned R-5, Kelly would have to conform to the density requirement of 10 units per acre.

Kelly told councilmen his plans conform in every respect to the R-5 requirements except for density and only fell 2.5 units short.

Of the 88 units planned, 32 would be one-bedroom and 56 two-bedrooms. Rent would be \$300 and up, said Kelly. The total project would be worth between \$2.5 million and \$3 million.

**CITY MANAGER** John Dinan, answering a question from the audience, said the apartments would add only about 2% to the city's population.

The added tax revenue would more than offset the extra costs to the city, Dinan claimed. Dinan added that a

storm drain will be put in which Kelly will pay for but will provide relief for Alta Loma Subdivision.

Responding to a question on density, Dinan pointed out the city has 12,000 residents in its 2.6 square miles. He compared this to Oak Park's 40,000 residents in five square miles.

On the point of school age children living in apartments, Dinan said economics will dictate that anyone who can afford \$300 a month rent and has children will buy a home and not rent.

Councilman Ralph Yoder commented Farmington has not experienced an influx of children in apartments. The hearing on Kelly's re-

quest for R-3 ended at 9:15 p.m., and the council then turned its attention to the Planning Commission's request to rezone the area to R-5 and office.

**THE PLANNERS** recommended that lots 1-7 and part 8 be rezoned to R-5, deluxe multiple. Part of lot 8 and lots 9-13 would be rezoned office.

Included in the office district is the Huron Valley Hunting and Fishing Club and the Glen Aquatic Swim Club, both which now are non-conforming uses under the existing R-4.

Also included is the proposed location of a new post office on Farmington Rd. just north of

the Huron Valley Hunting & Fishing Club.

One of the key speakers for homeowners was John Stenson, who said the Planning Commission was "arbitrarily disregarding the citizens and pushing the self-interest evolving from generating a new zoning, R-5."

"No one wants it, not even the developer or property owners,"

Stenson described the office classification for the proposed post office as absurd. He argued the post office is a commercial use, stating the present post office uses 43 vehicles, rolling steel curtain

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### today's hot line

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### what's inside

#### Bowler Sizzles

A 44-year-old Livonia carpenter bowled 33 out of a possible 36 strikes in sanctioned league play Tuesday to set an all-time Detroit City area record 867 series. Twenty of the strikes were consecutive.

Gaston Morois of 1949 Newburgh rolled games of 300, 278 and 289 in Senior House League play at Bel-Aire Lanes, 10 Mile and Orchard Ridge in Farmington. It was the same house where the previous local record was set two years ago by Jet Perilli with an 845 series.

Morois came within nine pins of matching the world's record series of 886 set by Alie Brandt in New York some time ago.

Morois carries a 201 average in the Senior House League, one of two he bowls in at Bel-Aire weekly. He has been bowling for 10 years.

Morois was unavailable for comment as The Observer went to press. Bel-Aire manager Irv Watson said he was still out celebrating.

Watch in upcoming editions for Observer bowling columnist W. W. Edgar's in-depth portrait of Morois and his accomplishment.

#### Taxpayers March?

Homeowners in Farmington Township met Monday night to discuss rising taxes and decided the best solution was to seek reduction of the millage rate levied by the Farmington School District. Someone even suggested a march on the school administration building.

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### upcoming

**THE ALL-AREA** high school basketball team will be picked by Observerland coaches and our sports staff next week. The coach of the year will be named, too. Watch for it in the March 11 edition of your home town newspaper.



"Dream of a Bride..."



**KIELBASA CHAMP** — A kielbasa eating contest was held Friday night between North Farmington and Farmington high schools with the trophy for the winner of the two-man duel going to Robert Kessler (right) of N.F.H.S. Kessler consumed his fourth and started on his fifth kielbasa when the hour time limit expired. His opponent, Darryle Winn



of F.H.S., put away three of the kielbasas, which are 10 inches long, one inch in diameter and weigh eight ounces. The contest, which drew a large crowd of spectators from both schools, was sponsored by Mr. S. restaurant on Grand River. (Photos by Ralph Evert)

## Oakland Prepares Drug Blitz

Oakland County has taken steps which could lead to a full time drug abuse prevention program in both Farmington and Southfield.

The Drug Abuse Committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors recommended a full-time coordinator for drug abuse plans in Farmington, Southfield and each of 25 other communities in the county.

**THE COUNTY** would pay up to one-half of a coordinator's salary up to a maximum of \$5,000 under the proposed plan.

In addition, the committee suggested the county pay up to \$1,000 per year for the rent of a facility for the program and up to \$500 per year to subsidize other operations.

"Inherent in this proposal is a concept that drug-use is a symptom of social ills. As crime in the streets, need of medical care, housing and employment, drug-use control must be based on human needs."

"This plan proposes that Oakland County immediately create a high level staff to implement this skeletal plan and further design meaningful community programs to deal with community problems," the committee's plan says.

Arthur W. Jalkanen, chairman of the drug abuse committee and dean of students at Oakland Community College's Auburn Heights campus,

stressed participation of local institutions as he presented the recommendation to the Human Resource Committee of the Board of Supervisors.

**CENTERS** in the communities, which Jalkanen referred to as "awareness houses" would be "an agent for the community to become aware of community problems."

The awareness houses, 10 of which could begin operation by June 1, would refer addicted drug users to a county drug center, Jalkanen said. The center will have 50 beds in the Pontiac available to treat addicts, the report proposes.

The committee's chairman said community centers could become active in court probation, family support and employment counseling activities as well as assisting drug users.

Bill Richards, a member of the Board of Supervisors, said he believed the supervisors will readily approve the central medical facilities and money need for the local programs.

"The real guts of this program, is going to be local government cooperation," he added.

Jalkanen said communities will be "quite pleasantly surprised" to find leadership for the local programs coming from the local courts, churches or schools.

**THE REPORT**-entitled "What Can You Do About the Use of Drugs in Your Community?" - says there is no single workable program to deal with community problems.

"The kind of program that may be most successful in one case will be easily judged the most inefficient in another. Creative programs have been begun nationally under a therapeutic community concept wherein 'rap' sessions and encounter groups are carried out."

"In other communities the free clinic approach is imperative whereas in other groups

the formal program takes the concept of a family.

"As the program begins its initial operation it should be quite flexible and the kind of things that seem to work best in the community need to be expanded," the report says.

**JALKANEN SAID** the committee studied anti-drug abuse programs from New York to California in preparing their report. The report is 35 pages, mostly dealing with county-wide organization of programs.

Included in the report is a suggestion from a student organization in California, DARR (Drug Abuse Research and Education) student volunteers

from Los Angeles suggest drug abuse is part of a larger problem.

"We regard adolescent drug abuse as a symptom of a larger problem: the existence of a serious communication breakdown between adults and young people is reflected in many individual and social problems."

"Drug abuse among youth is one of them. We recommend that the problem of communication between the generations be considered in the planning of all drug abuse programs," the student volunteers recommended.

The Drug Abuse Committee's report says one way to develop a community-wide action is a drug caucus. The purpose of a drug caucus would be to develop community leadership of the project.

"If the end product of the community caucus results in a coordinating council or an advisory board of community-coordinated action, it would be a profound conclusion of the caucus," the report says.

A SECOND STEP, the report recommends, should be to hire a community coordinator for awareness programs.

"The person should be adequately rewarded financially so that he can devote full time to program establishment by working with young people, organizations and interested parents in determining the

community needs and specific model of a program that will be identified for operation," the report says.

"One of the major activities that a program in a community will provide is in-service training for all. Hopefully, the in-service training will take the form of human participation in the activity as opposed to outright lecture series."

"If appropriately planned, this kind of experience will extend itself into such existing community institutions as, for example, the law enforcement agencies and civic and fraternal organizations."

**FARMINGTON HAS** one active group concerned with drug abuse problems. A group of high school students operate a telephone referral service on a part-time basis. The group is sponsored by the North Farmington Baptist Church.

In addition, an advisory committee of the Farmington Board of Education has conducted a lengthy investigation into plans for a drug education program. Some type of drug education is expected to be included in the Farmington district's curriculum next fall.

Richards estimated the initial cost of the county-wide program will be \$170,000. The report says funds will be sought from current federal programs, the National Institute of Mental Health and state agencies.

## Sesqui-Centennial Culminates Here

One of the culminating activities of Oakland County's sesqui-centennial celebration this year will be the Farmington Founders Festival.

The festival will be held July 24, 25 and 26 and will be one of the last events held during the sesqui-centennial observance.

The Founders Festival committee is now considering how the Farmington observance can be tied in with the celebration of Oakland County's 150th anniversary.

Chairman of the 1970 Founders Festival is Vernon Lamm. Assisting him are Bob Smith, first vice chairman; Keith Deacon, second vice-chairman; and Barbara Benya, executive administrator and publicity director.

MRS. BENYA is also serving on a sesqui-centennial sub-committee for the county.

Actually, the Farmington Founders Festival will be the last event of the county's anniversary celebration the weekend after the Sesqui-Centennial Banquet on July 22.