

Ditching Complaints Result In Promise Of Meeting

FARMINGTON
About 20 residents from the south end of Farmington Township spent an hour complaining about ditches to the Board of Trustees Monday night, with the result being another meeting scheduled to go over the complaints again.

A second meeting will be held if Township Supervisor Curtis Hall can entice Oakland County road commissioners to make an appearance in Farmington Township.

HALL PROMISED residents

he would invite county road officials to a meeting hall for a 10 a.m. township some day next week to meet with residents and discuss ditching problems between Grayfield and Astor on Tulane, Albion, Colgate and Purdue.

Monday, a spokesman for the residents gave Hall a letter residents sent to the county road commission asking for relief.

The letter stated that because of lack of ditching and improper ditches infested water is laying dormant on the

ground and is a serious hazard to health.
A county engineer is supposed to have told residents that Oakland County will initiate ditching only at the request of the township board and the county has no record of a township request for ditching for the Clarenceville area.

HALL SAID it was his understanding ditches were to have been out in last fall. "I think it will still be done but that's up to the Road Commission."

"If there was some way I

could go to Oakland County and get your roads gravelled or paved, I'd do it," said Hall. "But you won't get your roads fixed for nothing. If the newspapers can get it done for you, more power to them."
A homeowner commented: "We are asking for the chance to get into our homes, no more or no less. We don't want paved roads, we want ditches that will drain water."
Hall commented: "I know it is frustrating and if we could do something, we would."

THE ONLY WAY under pre-

sent formulas to get roads fixed is for the homeowners to pay for the improvements, Hall added.
A resident answered: "We don't want our roads improved, we want ditching. Why should we pay for ditching when it is Oakland County's responsibility to maintain ditches. And the county says it will initiate ditching only at the township board's request."

Hall replied that the ditches belong to Oakland County and the township is in no way responsible. He added the township does not get one cent from the state for gas and weight tax returns, yet the township has some 85 miles of gravel roads which need repair.

He continued that the road commission is limited by the money it has available. "We got a start down there. They have set up grade stakes. They now recognize the problem and I have hopes it will be taken care of."

TRUSTEE MARGARET Schaffer suggested the residents talk with Delos Hamlin, Farmington's representative on the County Board of Commissioners who appoint members to the Road Commission.

Hall commented that the recently revamped county board is controlled by city-mandated commissioners who are not about to appoint road commissioners sympathetic to townships.

Hall said that a one-car family pays about \$92 a year for auto license and gasoline taxes. State and cities take

2/3 and the other third goes to counties for road maintenance.

Of the \$30 which goes to the county, Hall continued, the county is limited to spending 25%, or \$7.50, on local roads. And that money must be spent for removing diseased Dutch Elm trees, spreading sand on ice and unthawing frozen culverts among many other tasks, Hall said.

"The only thing we have received is a bunch of pink grading stakes that the kids pull up to play soldiers with," a housewife commented.

HALL EXPLAINED a policy now in force that for every \$1 a homeowner brings in to the township hall for gravel, the township will kick in another \$1 and the county will furnish the equipment to give the homeowner gravel at \$2.75 a yard.

Under this program, Hall explained, the homeowner can get gravel for less than half-price.

The homeowners then asked if a similar matching fund program could be established for ditching.

Hall promised the board would take the matter under advisement to determine if such a policy would be feasible.

"We have got plenty of water collected in our ditches," said Leo Devine of Albion, "and if one person drowns the township won't have enough money to pay them."

Another homeowner told of green slime in the ditches and warned of the danger of hepatitis.

"All we need is two culverts

and the ditches cleaned," said Devine, "I'll clean my ditches if the culverts are replaced."
Hall said he spent a lot of time with the road commission last spring and summer on the problem and "If the road commission can't solve the problem I don't know who will."

TRUSTEE EARL Oppenheimer commented: "This session has generated a lot of heat and very little light. Maybe you should come here with your eyes and ears open instead of just talking."

Oppenheimer said he has received a bill for \$560 to have reditching on his lot. "You people complain about how drastic conditions are. If you meant it, you should get a petition and create a special assessment district."

Hall said the problem is a high water table and sump pumps running continually.

"The only way to completely solve the problem is to put in an enclosed storm drain."

When you purchased your house you didn't pay for a new road or a ditch," said Hall. "You purchased what was there. We know you have problems but Oakland County says residents must pay because the county doesn't have the money."

Hall said the problem is a high water table and sump pumps running continually.

"The only way to completely solve the problem is to put in an enclosed storm drain."

Farmington Calendar

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 25, Farmington Historical Society will meet at 8 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center. Dick Hatton will show slides and pictures of local historic sites and landmarks. Persons with antique pictures of Farmington they would like identified are invited to bring them to the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION

March 25, Grades 4, 5 and 6 at Shiawassee School will present a gymnastic exhibition beginning at 7 p.m.

STARR COMMONWEALTH AUXILIARY

March 26, Starr Commonwealth Auxiliary of Farmington will hold a benefit card party and smorgasbord luncheon at noon in the Farmington Community Center. Donation \$2. Door prizes. Proceeds will go to the boys at the commonwealth.

ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Farmington meets at noon each Tuesday in Botsford Inn.

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 28, The annual Jaycee Easter egg hunt will be held in Farmington City Park beginning at 10 a.m. All area children are invited—there is no age limit. Prizes will be given to those who find the "lucky eggs." Small children should be accompanied by their parents. Boots and rubbers should be worn because of the damp ground. There is no admission charge.

Young Artists Display Works

Art work of Farmington elementary art students is popping up all around town. An exhibit will remain on display in Demery's until April 3. Another, more recently mounted but frequently changed, is in Botsford General Hospital.

Selections from the 10th annual Oakland Art Association's show are currently on view in the school administration building. This year's show will open in the Northland Center display area April 3.

Environmental Classes Asked For Schools

State Rep. Raymond L. Baker (R-Farmington), representing the 64th House District, has introduced a bill to provide for mandatory environmental courses in public schools within the state.

Baker says the legislation would provide for the teaching of attitudes and skills involving the relationship between man and the quality of his cultural and biophysical environment. These courses shall include, but are not restricted to, an understanding of ecology and man's activities within the context of the natural community and the relevant contemporary issue dealing with our environmental heritage.

Baker stated that he feels the education of our children in the area of pollution of our air, water and land is necessary if they are to survive the degradation of our environment.

Jayeettes Elect Mrs. Dittmar

Mrs. Arthur H. Dittmar Jr. of Farmington, has been elected vice president of District 17 of the Michigan Jaycee Auxiliary.

President of the Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary, Mrs. Dittmar's duties will include serving six additional Jaycee Auxiliary groups, helping them to coordinate and upgrade their internal and external programming.

In addition to her auxiliary functions, Mrs. Dittmar teaches chemistry at Garden City East High School. She is also active in Phi Mu, national sorority alumnae association and has millinery work as a hobby.

Farmington Socially Speaking

By KATHY ZISKA GR. 4-7261

THE HOLLY HILLS subdivision held its annual dance party recently in the Glenn Oak Country Club where 80 couples enjoyed the fun evening.

The program was under the chairmanship of Robert and Sharon Wagner, ably assisted by Jill and Dean Dudley, Barbara and Jim McIntosh and Jerry and Gail Teelch.

Some of the "scene people" were Mr. and Mrs. William Dinwiddie, Mr. and Mrs. David Ash, Mr. and Mrs. Case DeLange, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Steinman, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cox, Mr. and Mrs. David Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. George Rouke, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Dowber, Mr. and Mrs. Don Chamberlin, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Sharback, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Kaufman, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Witt, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Denholm, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tomchak, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Torbico, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Pere Ober, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Majeski and many others.

Here from South Carolina are Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Powell, visiting their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clive Cooper of Sugar Spring Road. Although the daughter Frances says that they are visiting their eight-month-old grandson. He is called Mark even though his name is Geoffrey Mark Cooper. Which leads us to tell you that his dad works for Ford but his child's initials make us believe he swears by a GMC product.

LAST THURSDAY evening, Francis Alenikoff of New York presented "Dance Theatre in Multi-Media" as part of the Farmington Arts Council series, "New Frontiers in the Performing Arts" in the Farmington Community Center.

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I may not think they're the grooviest thing around but I now will be able to say a "Peppermint Patty, please" or "I'd like a Black Russian, if you don't mind."

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