

# Farmington Observer

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## Candidates trade barbs as campaign heats up

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

State Sen. Dana Wilson, D-Hazel Park, undermined his influence among members of the Farmington Democratic Club Wednesday by choosing to skip candidates' night at the Boisfort Inn.

His major opponent in the 15th District Senate race, state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Detroit, was the overwhelming favorite and received the club's endorsement.

Fellow candidates Alan Feuer, Philip Marcuse and Jacki Kaye Work also were on hand to promote their candidacies during the evening organized by Aldo Vagnozzi, Democratic hopeful for state representative in the 69th District

and president of the Farmington Democratic Club.

The only other Democrat in the race, Dan Reedley of Ferndale, was absent due to the death of a friend.

"Wilson hasn't shown up at any Democratic functions. He doesn't consider these people his voters," charged Faxon at his Southfield apartment during a Thursday media luncheon attended by only three people.

"He should have run in the Republican primary, where his (voting) record would be much more consistent with voters."

Wilson said Thursday that a coffee planned for Wednesday evening a month or two ago prevented him from participating in the Democratic Club's luncheon.

"I'm walking door-to-door every day

until 9 or 9:30 p.m.," Wilson said.

"I believe in campaigning with the personal touch."

Wilson added he would "very much have liked the endorsement" of Farmington Democrats.

FAXON, PRESIDENT pro tem of the Senate, impressed upon his supporters his deeply-rooted commitment to the Democratic party, his support for education and the arts and his seniority in the Senate.

He has represented Detroit in Lansing for almost 18 years. Faxon, labeled recently as a carpetbagger by Feuer, said he was "encouraged to come here" (the 15th District) by many former constituents who had moved from Detroit into the 15th District, (which includes Farmington,

Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Ferndale, Royal Oak Township, Huntington Woods, Novi, Wixom and Northville).

"I've always felt there's nothing sacrosanct about where you live. Where you live doesn't represent how you feel about issues. The issues transcend Detroit," Faxon said.

"Provincialism is part of the problem in solving the state's problems. We have to look at the whole picture, not just at one small district."

FEUER COUNTERED that "adherence to the law is a pretty important thing, but apparently that is not the case when it comes to elections in this state."

Marcuse joined Feuer in his criticism of the incumbent senators, saying,

"they're running to save their job. Wilson and Faxon have never represented this district."

No evidence has been supplied by either Wilson or Faxon that they reside within the district, Feuer added.

The former executive director of Common Cause in Michigan, Feuer blamed the legislature for its glaring failure to "make even a philosophical fight on how to spend money with a shrunken pie."

"Clinton Valley (Mental Health Center) is on the verge of closing, yet we have a subsidy passed by the legislature for Pontiac Stadium," said the Cornell University graduate.

"It's just been discovered you can promote tourism, Michigan's second largest industry, and what happened?"

The advertising contract went out of state."

Feuer contends the serious fights he has taken on "show whose side I'm on."

He claims a major share of credit for passage of Michigan's Open Meetings in Government Act and the Campaign Finance Reform Act, limiting special interest influence in politics and requiring politicians to disclose to the public campaign contributions.

MARCUSE, CHAIRMAN of the Huntington Woods Traffic Control Committee and court clerk for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John N. O'Brien, said he has "the talent and capability to get the most for this district in Lansing."

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## Home business zoning break is pondered

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Persons working out of their homes will no longer be required to appear before the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals if a proposed zoning-ordinance amendment is enacted.

The amendment will come up for consideration at tonight's City Council meeting.

Currently, residents with home occupations must assure the board of their compliance with the ordinance in order to receive a permit.

"This is an attempt to ease up on the Zoning Board of Appeals caseload and to eliminate any inconvenience to people who have answering services or who keep a set of books at home," said Hal Rowe, zoning inspector for Farmington Hills.

Jim Ellis, chairman of the board of appeals, said the ailing economy was behind the recent jump in the number of Farmington Hills residents doing business out of their homes.

"In the last 30 months, we've heard 80 cases regarding home occupations. Under the new ordinance, 55 of them would not have to be heard," Ellis said.

"We've had more requests for home occupations in the first six months of this year than all of last year. There were 21 cases during the entire year last year, and 23 already in the first six months of 1982." Many people can no longer afford to go out and rent a store, rent a garage, building or similar space for a business that may or may not go, so they try to get established by using their own home.

Assistant City Manager Bill Costick estimated the amendment would cut in half the number of home-occupation

petitions but added that complaints received by the city will continue to necessitate hearings before the board.

Ninety-five percent of the non-compliance incidences are a case of residents' being unaware of the regulations, Costick added.

Ordinance stipulations, which pertain to the use of business mailing addresses and business telephone numbers in residences, dictate that:

- All home occupations shall be so conducted as not to be noticeable from the exterior of the dwelling.

- No signs accessory to the home occupation shall be permitted;

- Traffic and delivery of goods created by the home occupation shall not exceed that normally created by residential use;

- The home occupation shall not service more than one client or customer at a time on the premises;

- No employee other than residents of the dwelling shall be employed therein;

- Not more than 15 percent of the floor area of the dwelling shall be used for the home occupation, including storage of materials, and

- Excessive factors relative to noise, glare, odor and vibration are prohibited.

ELLIS SAID exceptions are granted by the board for variances for either practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships.

"This amendment would be an improvement in our operation and relieve our agenda. People like arson investigators and licensed private investigators won't have to come before us. They shouldn't have had to in the first place."

Assistant City Manager Bill Costick estimated the amendment would cut in half the number of home-occupation



Playing games always has been a part of being young in America. But with the growth of the suburbs, street games are becoming a rare commodity for many youngsters.

## Red rover, red rover, let... Street games struggle in video age

By Craig Plechura  
staff writer

It is out to be "it" in some circles, but many kids are helping to keep alive the grand tradition of street games.

You know the ones. Hide-and-seek. Blind man's bluff. Ghost in the graveyard. Red rover, red rover. Red light, green light. Jacks. Hopscotch. Leapfrog. Car ball. Root ball. Pitching pennies and pitching baseball cards.

Every game is subject to endless variations and incredibly complicated neighborhood rules.

With almost every game there are the rhymes that go with it to determine who's it and who's not. One standby we're happy to report still in circulation sounds like this:

"My mother and your mother were hanging up clothes  
My mother socked your mother right in the nose  
And what color was the blood?  
(Blue — color optional)  
B-L-U-E spells blue, and you are not it."

Such a delightful ditty in keeping with other classic children's folklore that tells kids how to stuff a witch in an oven. Wonderful things of which nightmares are made.

Jason Norris, 12, of Farmington and his older brother, Greg Norris, 14, can still recite the "My mother and your mother" line accurately. Jason still plays games like flashlight tag and dodge ball but prefers a recent game called slice.

"YOU NEEDED a Frisbee and a couple kids," Jason said. "You throw the Frisbee, and if it hits somebody in the arm they can't use that arm for the rest of the game. If you hit 'em in the right leg they can't use that leg, they've got to hop around on their left leg and throw with the arm that isn't ailed. If you hit a guy in the body or the head you're completely out. You're dead."

The Norris boys spent a sunny Thursday afternoon in a dim video arcade, but both said they spent a lot of time playing outdoor games too during the summer.

**'Kids today don't know how to hang around, how to fool around in a totally asexual sense. They don't know how to play unless it's an organized game with set rules.'**

— Evelyn Anderman

Greg said he and his friends spend a lot of time swinging from a rope hanging from a tree in his back yard. They jump off a bill and swing over a pond.

The two even had a new rhyme they use to designate someone as it. They credit the rhyme to a friend named Eric Goodwill. The rhyme goes like this:

"Hey, bitchee, botchee boo. Who's it? Not you." The rhyming stops when the last kid is left as it.

Of course, these rhymes are often the source of arguments because the caller can slow the rhyme down or speed it up to reach a desired result.

"That's how I learned my contractions," says Jim Dillon, 22, of Farmington Hills. "You know, 'Eeny, meeny, miney, moe. Catch a tiger by the toe. If he hollers, let him go. Eeny, meeny, miney, moe. My mother says to pick the very best one and you are not it.' Or, if that didn't work out to your liking, you'd say, 'You're not it.'"

ONE SYLLABLE less makes all the difference. Besides, most street-game arguments are decided in favor of the biggest person doing the arguing.

Sociological studies and theses on American popular culture have been published showing today's youngsters are growing up unfamiliar with many time-tested street games and rhymes. Culprits listed in these studies include the suburban setting and lifestyle with its lack of alleys and the increased mobility of its residents.

Jeff Farland, recreation superintendent for the city of Farmington Hills, said "I think you'll find they've gone by the wayside" when asked if games like blind man's bluff still are being widely played by youngsters.

Evelyn Anderman of Farmington Hills said children, hers included, have lost the ability to amuse themselves just by using their imagination.

She was at a video arcade Thursday with her children — Barbara, 12, and David, 9 — because they complained they were bored.

"Kids today don't know how to hang around, how to fool around in a totally asexual sense," Anderman said. "They don't know how to play unless it's an organized game with set rules."

"When I was a kid I never talked to my mother in the summer or hung around the house. We'd hang around the dell on the corner. Of course, there is no dell on the corner for these kids."

Barbara, 12, defended her generation, saying that while she finds games like tag and leapfrog "boring," she and her friends enjoy an old favorite street game, blind man's bluff. Except they play the game in a swimming pool.

"The person who is it has to close their eyes, and the other people scream out something, and the person who's it has to sit on a raft and paddle around and try to find them," she said.

Barbara also goes fishing in a creek with her mother's noodle strainer for unstructured fun. Her brother, David, said he likes to ride his bike, play bicycle tag and also enjoys playing a variation of dodge ball called wall ball.

"It's like dodge ball except they stand against the wall, and you try to hit them with the ball," David said. "We're kinda violent."

If you want to play mean, Steve Cahagan, 24, of Farmington suggests stretching a rope across a road with tin cans attached to both ends. When a car comes by, you let go, and the driver thinks his muffler has fallen.

Good, clean dirty fun. You didn't hear about it here.

## Arcade owner fights to change ordinance

By Craig Plechura  
staff writer

The owner of the Great Getaway Family Arcade in Farmington was warned Tuesday about allowing youths under the age of 16 to play machines without being accompanied by an adult.

Sheldon Korn, arcade owner, said he plans to approach City Council soon to see if the city's arcade ordinance can be changed to allow youths under 16 to play games without their parents present if the adult drops them off and picks them up at the arcade.

Under the current ordinance children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult to enter an arcade — any establishment with more than three pinball machines or video games.

The ordinance doesn't apply to stores with three or less machines because the machines are considered an "incidental use" of the business in those cases.

Informed that the arcade owner plans to petition City Council for a change in the ordinance, Councilman Ralph Yoder said "I don't think it's going to fly."

"You're defeating the purpose of the ordinance," Yoder said of the suggestion that adults could drop youngsters

off at the arcade. "It just opens the door a little bit for something else to happen. I'm not so sure leniency is the answer to his problem. Of course, we'll hear him out if he comes to council but I don't really think the ordinance will change."

"If you want to do that, then that would allow the arcade owners to let every kid under 16 in unsupervised."

"THE PARENTS want to protect this ordinance," Korn said. "For them it's nice to leave their kids in a nice place and go shopping. It's good for business in the whole center."

If the council doesn't change the ordinance, Korn said he'll "brew up a big pot of coffee for the parents" and live by the law.

Sgt. Gary Goss of the Farmington Police Department said he noticed "at least five" young persons playing games with no adult present other than the five arcade employees when he inspected the arcade at 1:40 p.m. Tuesday.

Because the manager located one youth's mother in the shopping center, and it was the first infraction in five weeks the arcade has been open, Goss issued the arcade manager, Al Pisto-

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