

today's hot line observerland

LIVONIA—The construction of a new City Hall "without further delay" has been recommended to the City Council by the Municipal Building Authority. Total cost of the nine-story structure would be nearly \$5.9 million. Erection of the building would dovetail with the Planning Commission's desires of concentrating most city government business on the 55 acres owned by the city and contemplated for a new Civic Center site.

PLYMOUTH—After listening to complaints for the past month, the City Commission finally has admitted defeat in the annual battle with the starlings. The Commissioners discussed all possible means of relief, from special whistles to tape recordings, but decided nothing definite could be done in the way of relief.

LIVONIA—An ordinance now being drafted by the local department may bring an end to the running dispute over management of the Livonia Education Association's retirement funds. The measure would conform with the City Charter and forbid seating of "politicians" on the Retirement Board of Trustees as allowed under the present city ordinance.

REDFORD—Chris Horn, policeman shot attempting to stop a bank bandit early this year, is out of his body cast and moving gingerly around now. He even includes an occasional visit to the police station in his renewed freedom.

LIVONIA—Although members of the Livonia Education Association ratified a new contract with the Board of Education by a 2½ to 1 vote, "priorities" for next year's negotiations already have been formulated. Dissatisfaction was not voiced as to salary, but on temporary conditions imposed by the Board this year in regard to increased pupils per room and per counselor.

REDFORD—Former Township Supervisor Richard E. Manping failed to gain a single vote in his recount of primary election ballots for Wayne County Board of Supervisors in the Redford-DeARBorn Height district. Harvey J. Beadle, former state legislator, retained the Democratic nomination.

PLYMOUTH—A record gathering of more than 13,000 persons is expected to attend the chicken barbecue in Kellogg Park that brings the annual Fall Festival to a close Sunday afternoon. Last year 12,500 dinners were served in the six hour period from noon to 6 o'clock.

What's Inside

FALL'S HERE, not when the calendar says so, but when high school football starts—and that's next Friday. Details on Page 4B.

The head of Northville State Hospital was promoted a couple of months ago to a new state-level job in Lansing, but he can't leave until his replacement is found. The story of the Mental Health Department's difficulties is on Page 1B.

Irving Rozlan is a Democrat who has labored long and hard in the party and his township's government—with the result that he has a good bit to say about the party's platform. Page 6B.

A new Sunday edition feature is the television page. The schedule is all in one spot, not on page after page of a tiny booklet, and we think you'll like it. Page 6B.

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Teachers OK Contract, 257-7

The new master agreement between the Farmington Education Association and the Board of Education was ratified by an overwhelming margin in a special teachers' meeting Thursday, although fewer than half of the more than 700 faculty members attended.

The vote was announced as being 287 in favor of the new pact covering wages, fringe benefits and working conditions, with only seven votes against acceptance.

Monday night the school board will consider its ratification of the agreement, and approve a foregoing conclusion. Under terms of the contract, teachers will receive an across-the-board economic boost of approximately 10 per cent in comparison with the 1967-68 pact.

WITH THE OPENING of classes and settlement of the wage issue after several months of bargaining, the school administration turned this week to the pressing matter of construction plans for the new Harrison High School.

The structure will be located on 12 Mile Rd., between Middle Bell and Orchard Lake Rds., and Superintendent of Schools Roderick J. Smith said that the target date for its opening is the fall of 1970.

Bids were received by the Board of Education Wednesday and are now under study. Dr. Smith stated that the board hopes contracts can be let and the necessary bonds sold within the next 60 days.

Low bidders on general construction plans

mechanical and electrical work set the cost of these three major phases at a total of \$5,121,817. Farmington has submitted an application to the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission for permission to sell \$8 million in bonds.

IN ADDITION to the Harrison project, this would provide for a new elementary school in Wood Creek Farms to be finished during the 1969-70 school year for an estimated \$1 million and purchase and development of additional school sites.

An auditing team from the finance commission recently conducted a study of the bonding history of the local school system to determine whether expenditures have coincided with the purposes as defined at the time the issues have

been approved by the voters.

A spokesman for the commission said Thursday that "nothing definite" has yet been decided but predicted eventual approval for the \$8 million issue "with certain restrictions and changes in Farmington's way of doing things." He did not elaborate on that comment.

Dr. Smith also disclosed that the opening of the fall semester saw all classrooms in the district fully staffed with permanent teachers, with only seven specialists still being sought to complete the faculty at budgeted strength.

The openings are for three music consultants, two art consultants, one psychological diagnostician for the special education staff and one trade and industrial coordinator for the vocational program. All are full-time positions.



HAPPY FACES — Well at least some of them are happy as the first graders at Highmeadow School arrive to begin

school Wednesday. An estimated 20,000 children began another school year this week as both public and private schools opened.

This Fort Was A 'Fun' Project

By CANDY LUTZ

Fort Mackinac may not be offered competition, but it is a sure thing that the Farmington youth who constructed their fort in Lincolnshire subdivision had more fun building theirs.

The fort, constructed by Mark and Vicki Kidd, 25366 Wyke-

shire, Tom Gail, and Bill Haefner, 25072 Castlereigh, Steve and Mike Slasor, 25318 Wyke-shire, Larry LaBute, 25309 Chapelweigh, and Rick Larsen, 25312 Chapelweigh, was "made completely from scratch, including the flag."

The fort stands 24 feet and was constructed in three, long—(from 7 a.m. until midnight)—days by these youths from scraps of wood left from house construction in the neighborhood.

"We didn't take any of the wood, and the police saw all of it," according to Mike.

The fort was originally started by the "Little ones" according to Larry and Rick, but "We came in to assist on the fourth floor when they needed protection."

Construction methods were slightly unorthodox since each floor was built, a hole would be left in the center so ladders could go through to build the next floor. Then, working assembly-line fashion, the wood was handed from person to person.

These builders have an ingenious way of getting to the ground from the third and fourth floors. Two garden hoses, which are attached to mailboxes below, serve as "fireman style" elevators. On the first and second floors, two pillars (originally used as toilet paper holders) serve as downward slides.

Reminiscent of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the fort has a slight lean to the right, but the builders claim there is no danger of the structure tipping.

SHOWING astute business sense, these small tycoons (ranging from ages 6 to 10) already have "big kids" renting at \$2 per night, and are willing to sell the fort for \$10 to \$15.

Would-be buyers beware, though, word has it another fort is in the form of a new house, may soon come to uproot it; that is, when the architects complete the plans.



FORT FARMINGTON? — These young builders, from bottom to top, 1 to 9: Steve Slasor, Larry LaBute, Tom Haefner, (row 2) Gail Haefner, Vicki Kidd, Mike Slasor, and Bill Haefner, (row 3) Erick Larsen, and Mark Kidd, built their 24 foot high fort in three days.

Flood Relief Sought

Two engineering studies plus an appeal to the Oakland County Drain Commission for help were the city of Farmington's answers this week to bring flood prevention to the Bell Acre Hills subdivision at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Rds.

More than 50 residents of the area appeared at the City Council session Tuesday to press for permanent improvements that would prevent recurrence of flooding during heavy rains.

Petitions carrying signatures of 258 persons who live in the subdivision were submitted to the council, declaring:

"We, the people of Bell Acre, request the City of Farmington to take immediate action to prevent sewage from backing up into our basements every time it rains."

Engineering studies of what can be done on a long range basis to solve the problem are under way by two Detroit firms, John Hiltz and Associates, and the office of Paul, Hearn and Boggs. Reports are expected at the council's Sept. 16 session.

City Manager John D. Dinan also said he is asking the county drain commission for a meeting to discuss aspects of the county building a special storm drain that would provide permanent relief for both the city and township.

Dinan said that, although the sanitary and storm sewers are separate in the subdivision there is definite infiltration of storm water into the sanitary system.

"The engineers will not only study the sewer system in the subdivision, but will make a survey of the water courses, size of culverts, and amount of land contributing to the surface runoff in the township, for analysis purposes in developing a long range plan for proper storm drain facilities," said the city manager.

"The prime problem is infiltration," he conceded.

Joint Confab Slated

A joint meeting among representatives of the four Farmington-area governments to discuss the township's proposal for continuing the annexation moratorium has been set for Monday, Sept. 30.

The executive committee of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee also will be invited to participate.

The City Council agreed to the session Tuesday night, and City Manager John D. Dinan said Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall also reports his board amenable to the suggestion.

Dinan's office will address invitations to officials of the study committee, asking that the confab be expanded to include officers of the two villages, Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms.

The meeting will be held in the township hall.

Dinan told the council: "Since the question relative to a moratorium on annexation, incorporation and/or consolidation has been brought up by the township board, it is our opinion that this matter should be discussed jointly by the two villages, the township board and council to develop a joint statement of policy."

"We believe that to get full cooperation of all concerned that all governmental bodies should be in on the development of a moratorium policy pertaining to the release and study of the future Farmington area report that is being prepared by Michigan State University."

When the governmental analysis was undertaken by M.S.U. last spring, the city and township agreed officially on a moratorium concerning annexation or incorporation.

Woman Dies In Accident

The death of a pedestrian on Sept. 1 accounted for the City of Farmington's first traffic fatality of 1968.

Struck by an auto at the corner of Grove and Grand River was Mrs. Clara Eberwine, 66, of the Farmington West Apartments. The driver of the auto was Lynn A. Rawlins, 21, of 25465 Lake Park, Ingalls.

The accident occurred at 11 noon on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Mrs. Eberwine died the next day in Botford General Hospital following surgery.

According to the police, the cause of death was a blow on the head and the conclusion was that Mrs. Eberwine struck her head on the pavement when she fell.

Police said that Mrs. Rawlins was making a right turn onto Grand River at the time of the accident.

No ticket was issued by the police.

Mrs. Eberwine is survived by her husband, Russell, and two brothers, Albert, Brownsville, and Frank, Farmington. Funeral services were conducted Sept. 7 in Dayton.

The Eberwines had resided in Farmington for the past 15 years. Mrs. Eberwine was an active member of Our Lady of Sorrows parish.