

Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 50

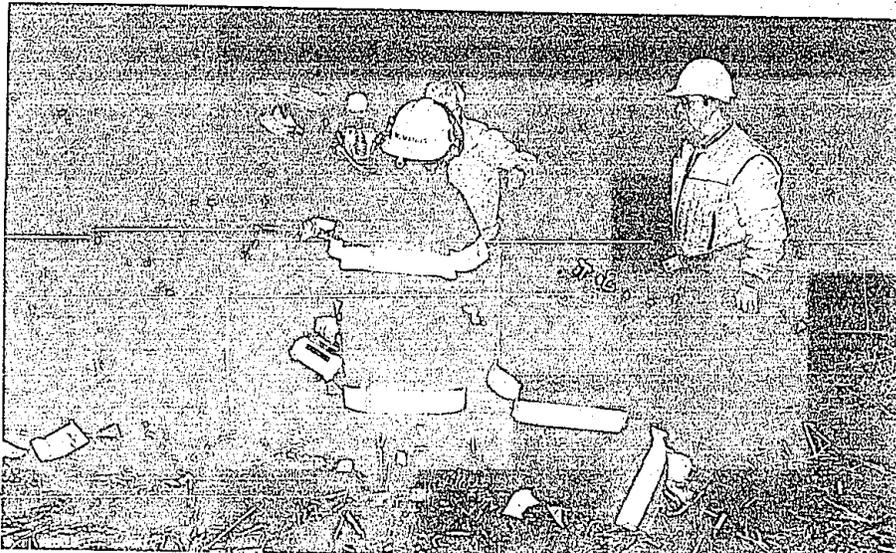
Monday, April 2, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1984 Edman-Comstock Corporation, All Rights Reserved



Officials probe electrocution

By Joanno Maliszewski
staff writer

Detroit Edison officials say "they really don't have a clear picture" of how a 15-year-old Farmington Hills boy was electrocuted by a 4,800-volt wire sometime between 7:30 and 9 p.m. Thursday.

Jared Lee Case, 15, of 25988 Pimlico, was electrocuted while walking through a wooded area approximately 50 yards north of Rocky Crest, 100 yards east of Orchard Lake, between 10 and 11 mile roads, said Sgt. Al Havner of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

"We don't know how long that damned wire has been there," Havner said.

"Some say it was down last night, others three days, and others say seven to 10 days. We're not saying for sure until we've completed our investigation."

Michael Maurer, spokesman for Detroit Edison, which intends to conduct its own investigation into Case's electrocution, said officials "just can't sort it out."

"We got a call after 9 p.m. that a child was trapped," Maurer said. "We

sent folks out to cut the wire."

But according to Maurer, officials did not "have any outage calls from that area" or reports of a downed wire prior to the accident.

Edison also never received an alarm which signals when a primary wire hits the ground and pops open a circuit, Maurer said.

Case, who had left his home sometime after 7:30 p.m. to buy a pair of tennis shoes from a nearby store, apparently was taking a short-cut through the wet, wooded area when he was electrocuted, Havner said.

When Case's 16-year-old brother, Nathan, returned home about 9 p.m. and discovered his younger brother was still not home, he went looking for him, Havner said. The brother found Case lying on his back on a trail in the wooded area, Havner added.

The brother told police he had seen live electrical wires lying on the path for seven to 10 days, according to police.

Police also indicated that when they arrived on the scene they found "several wires lying in and around the body."

Detroit Edison workers arrived on the scene at 9:40 p.m. and cut "all live wires," according to police.

Police and fire officials investigate the field off of Orchard Lake Road between 10 and 11 Mile where Jared Lee Case was electrocuted by a downed Edison line Thursday.

Plea to keep out group home rejected

By Joanno Maliszewski
staff writer

Mental health officials appreciated hearing the concerns of Glen Oaks subdivision residents. But the development

of a proposed small group home for mentally retarded adults in the Farmington Hills neighborhood is moving forward as planned.

"Our conclusions are that the use of this residence as a group home will not

adversely affect the welfare of the subdivision in terms of over-concentration, devaluation, or in any other way," said Laurel Berger, community liaison coordinator for the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC), in a letter to city officials.

On behalf of Glen Oaks residents, city officials in early March requested MORC officials re-evaluate the proposed home's placement on Greening. Residents had complained that the proposed group home on Greening is less than 1,500 feet away from a neighborhood family which has at least two mentally retarded members. The family, residents said, "gives us a pretty fair rate of retarded to any subdivision our size."

According to state law, local zoning ordinances are pre-empted in the

placement of group homes as long as these homes are not within 1,500 feet of each other.

But in her response to City Manager Lawrence Savage, Berger said the 1,500-foot provision is not applicable in Glen Oaks. The family with retarded members is an unlicensed home. The proposed group home, on the other hand, would be a state-licensed home housing unrelated adults.

"This provision . . . was not meant to include or segregate families who happen to have mentally retarded members," Berger wrote. "Similarly, it is keeping with our agency's philosophy that such a family should be regarded no differently than any other family in the community."

With Berger's letter in hand, Stanley Guyer, president of Glen Oaks home-

owners association, last week said, "There's nothing we can do."

"We've made pleas to the people in Mt. Clemens (MORC)," he continued. "The state law reads that they can put them in."

In accepting defeat, however, Guyer said neighbors are "not totally adverse" to group homes, but in Glen Oaks' case, "we think the criteria for selection is really bad."

Glen Oaks residents are complaining that their neighborhood is already confined by fencing for the Glen Oaks Gold Club on the eastern side of Greening as well as Orchard Lake Road on the west with its accompanying traffic and expanding commercial use.

"We can't hardly breathe here," Guyer said.

Residents also claimed that their closeness to the Detroit Baptist Manor elderly housing project as well as the proposed group home adversely affects the neighborhood, particularly property values.

"The existence of such a home in a very small subdivision has devastating effects on property value," residents said in a memo to the council in March.

In the 19 years he has lived in Glen Oaks, Guyer said, he has never seen more than two homes for sale.

Now, however, seven or eight homes are for sale, he added.

"Some is related. Some isn't," Guyer said, referring to the proposed group home's effect on neighbors moving out.

Please turn to Page 10

Council will discuss capital improvements

How to pay for needed capital improvements will be the topic of a Farmington Hills study session scheduled for 7:30 tonight.

Although the city's proposed multi-year capital improvement program was prepared last year, council has

never adopted a plan to pay for suggested projects.

Some of the projects included in the program are the Caddell Drain and other drains, a proposed police building, and 12 MI's Road improvements.

Science consultant makes sure students keep hands on program

By Tom Beer
staff writer

The read-the-book method of teaching is out the window for about 550 elementary school children in the Farmington District.

At least that's the case when the subject is science, the teacher is Dr. Kathy McAdaragh and the students are third-through-fifth graders at Flanders, Beechview, Kenbrook and Longacre schools.

Those students will be learning science by doing — not reading — on the

days McAdaragh visits their classrooms.

It's known as the "hands-on" approach to teaching, and it's preferred by McAdaragh, the district's recently appointed elementary science consultant.

"Children have a natural curiosity about things," said McAdaragh, a 16-year teaching veteran in Farmington. "You should let them experience things."

The position of elementary science consultant was voted into being by the

Farmington Board of Education last summer in an attempt to improve the presentation of that subject in the coming term.

"Nationally, the teaching of science isn't what it ought to be," said Farmington Superintendent Lewis Schulman on the July evening the position was created.

"Generally speaking, elementary teachers have a general background. Some of them don't know much about science," Schulman said. "Again, speaking very generally, science edu-

cation isn't what we'd like it to be. We'd like to strengthen and improve it."

MCADARAGH, WHO earned a doctorate in science education from the University of Michigan, said she has two goals in her new position. She wants to provide more "hands on" science to her students, while encouraging their teachers to become more comfortable with that method of instruction.

Please turn to Page 9

what's inside

- Amusements 7A
- Classifieds Sections C-D
- Community Calendar 4B
- Crossword Puzzle 7C
- Obituaries 2A
- Shopping Cart 1-2B
- Sports 1-2C
- Suburban Life 3-5B

"MANY CALLS"
L. Fisher was happy with the results of the **AUTOMOTIVE-TRANSPORTATION Observer & Economic Classified** and placed. "Really got many calls—anytime I have a car or ANYTHING to sell it will be through the O & E."

Remember...
One call does it all!

591-6800
Use your MasterCard or Visa

Field narrowed for school chief

By Teri Banasz
staff writer

A Ulica school consultant, a school administrator from Brighton and Livonia's outgoing state representative are the finalists in Clareosville's search for a new school superintendent to replace retiring David McDowell.

The finalists are Gary Davis, 44, a management consultant with the William J. Banach Management Consulting firm of Macomb County; Michael Shiber, 37, assistant superintendent for curriculum in the Brighton Area

Schools; and Jack Kirksey, 55, the Republican state representative for the 35th District serving Livonia for the past six years.

Only one of the men has had prior experience as a school superintendent. But school board president Michael Malone said "Clareosville would be fortunate to have any one of the three finalists." Davis was superintendent of the Clio/Alcona School District near Mount Clemens 1975-83 until he left.

Please turn to Page 9



Kathy McAdaragh, elementary school science consultant for the Farmington Public Schools, works with Beechview youngsters.