

Today  
hot  
Vol. 82, No. 82 62 pages, 5 sections

## Self-Help Project

Homeowners in the City of Farmington have pitched in the money and volunteered the labor to beautify their subdivision's appearance along Farmington Rd. Here's a pictorial report on this self-help project. **Page 3A**

## Gift To Providence

The Tupper of Farmington are among contributors donating heart machines which enable Providence Hospital in Southfield to begin operating a modern laboratory for heart surgery patients. Details are inside on Farmington's gift to its neighbor on the east. **Page 5A**

## Aldo Takes Stand

School Board member Aldo Vagnozzi says he will not attend any more "executive" sessions and suggests other trustees follow his lead to establish public committee of the whole meetings to replace the secret sessions. **Page 6B**

## In The 19th District

Those candidates for Congress in the 19th District are involved in labor endorsements, aid to education, the seniority system in the House. Here's what they're saying. **Page 4B**

## Tax Assessor

Observerland has one of the few women tax assessors in the country. Margaret Miller tells how Mrs. Dorothy Shields got the job and what she thinks about it. **Page 2C**

## Choice Is Yours

Beethoven's been dead 143 years, but his music is very much alive at Schoolcraft College. You can choose from three programs this week. **Page 6C**

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Observer Want Ads  
422-0900

# Farmington Schools Approve Cheaper Construction Method

By EMORY DANIELS

Farmington School District, like school systems throughout the state, is finding it tougher to build and operate schools in the face of rising costs.

Especially challenging is building classrooms to meet higher enrollment because construction costs have been among the leaders in the inflationary price indexes slowing our national economy.

IN FACT, mentioned most often in meetings of homeowners complaining about school taxes has been necessity to economize with school construction.

Monday night, the Farmington Board of Education approved new construction methods to realize some of that economy taxpayers have been demanding.

More significantly, however, the action might well mark the beginning of a new era of school construction.

THE BOARD authorized the district's architects to proceed with working drawings using module construction for elementary classroom additions.

Module construction involves the assembly of steel-frame rooms in a factory, on a mass production basis, with the pre-assembled units delivered to the building site.

Module homes have been around for quite some time but in recent years the art has been refined and factory production systems revamped to offer a higher quality product.

Residential homes, constructed in modules in factories have increased in numbers and, more and more, are catching the public's imagination.

USE OF MODULE construction is untested in the Farmington School District but a few districts such as Birmingham, have experimented with favorable results.

The favorable result most immediately evident is that module units can be added 15-20% cheaper than by using conventional construction methods, without a drastic reduction in quality.

The architectural firm of Ral s Hamill & Becker has completed preliminary design plans for using modules to add six classrooms and a media center to Shiawassee Elementary School.

When authorized to draw plans for Shiawassee, the firm was charged by the board to do a feasibility study to obtain "the most economical, yet completely satisfactory, solution" to the problem of rising construction costs.

Preliminary drawings call for the use of two 12x 32 feet modules to be joined to form one classroom. Brick panels attached to the steel modules will tie-in the additions with the surface of the existing building.

Carpeting is recommended for acoustic reasons because of the openness between the classrooms and media center.

The estimated construction cost for the six classrooms and instructional media center is \$220,000 which is estimated to be about \$35,000 cheaper than if the work was done by conventional means.

Total cost, with addition of architectural fees and equipment, will be about \$260,000. By using module construction, the cost is trimmed down to about \$20 per square foot while conventional construction methods would cost about \$23 per square foot.

John Washburn III, board president, explained the district had decided to build additions to existing elementary schools located in areas of increasing population density instead of building a new school in an undeveloped area.

"We've changed our architects to develop plans different than we have done in the past because of rising costs."

AFTER APPROVING plans for Shiawassee the board acted on preliminary plans for additions to Longacre and Larkshire elementary schools presented by Tom Zoedies, Farmington architect.

The module scheme did not prove practical at Longacre, Zoedies told the board, but new methods will allow two classrooms and a media center to be built for \$18 per square foot.

But Zoedies did recommend module construction for addition of two classrooms and a media center at Larkshire. This can be done for \$19.50 per square foot for everything, Zoedies said.

Zoedies' preliminary plans were approved and he was authorized to proceed with working drawings.

THE BOARD'S actions Monday night could revolutionize future school construction in the district. Not only are modules cheaper but can be completed quicker.

The module concept also reduces construction delays caused by labor strikes because fewer unions are involved. There is the union for employees assembling the modules in the factory and then electricians and plumbers to do necessary work on site.



WINNERS MEET — Huggy Bear Phillips, WCAR disc jockey, meets the Pigeon he will race tomorrow (July 16) in the Farmington International Pigeon Race. The bird was delivered to Phillips, who won last year's race here, by Miss Donna Bush who was first runnerup in last year's Festival queen contest. Huggy Bear took the occasion to

encourage Farmington girls to enter the 1970 Festival queen contest and invites would-be candidates to attend a briefing session at 8 p.m. July 16 in the Alexander Hamilton Meeting Room at 12 Mile and Farmington Rds. Information can be obtained by calling Mrs. Betty Huff, queen contest chairman, at 474-0133. (Event photo)

## 'Hoodlums' Irk Residents Alameda Neighbors Complain

A group of residents living near Alameda Elementary School at 3240 Alameda complained to the Farmington Township Board Monday night that a youthful gang is terrorizing the neighborhood.

Clarence G. Dawson of 32093 Alameda, a spokesman for 20 neighbors, told township trustees a house on Alameda has become a "hangout for a bunch of hoodlums."

HE SAID A mixed group of youths, ages 16-20, had been harassing, threatening and stealing from neighbors.

Dawson said two years of calls to the township police department have failed to stop the disturbances.

"These kids are stopping cars and climbing on them," one member of the audience emphasized.

Another woman told of how some of the group stopped her car while she was returning from shopping about 6:30 p.m. She said the group "yelled and insulted her."

Others claimed minors among the group drink beer and steal batteries, gasoline, and purses.

ALSO CHARGED is the gang were a series of fire and vandalism at Alameda School.

"They even have marital relations right out in the car right in front," a dad pronounced indignantly.

Several members of the audience said the youths possess "dope."

A man said his son found a packet on the way to school which was found to be marijuana when examined by the township police.

zen in a criminal act or have other evidence before they can arrest a suspect.

In reply, a spectator noted the gang seems to have a police radio in a house on Alameda.

"I hear them come out and say the cops are coming," the lady said.

One of the most vocal of the vocal crowd was Mrs. Joe Vitale of 32046 Alameda. She said the youths often drink beer on a vacant lot near the house they use as a hangout.

"If someone's up in the woods, are you going to walk up and ask his name?" she asked. "You're asking the neighbors to do police work."

"I've done more police work in the last two months. I should be on your payroll," she added later.

SHE PROTESTED the township's inability to clear up the problem, commenting the disturbance is sometimes upsetting.

She said she called Township Police Chief Irving Yakes who

promised to have an unmarked car patrol the neighborhood.

"He was going to have a secret car patrolling. It was so secret nobody saw it," Mrs. Vitale quipped.

As Hall grimaced at her witty remarks, she commented: "When I'm in Northville, you'll still be smiling."

Overall, Mrs. Vitale blamed the courts for failing to punish youths who are arrested.

"They're coming into court and they're slapping their hands," Mrs. Vitale emphasized.

"Why is this individual allowed out of his cage? He should be caged," she said.

ANOTHER ONLOOKER said the Michigan State Police once invaded a house on Alameda after the township police failed to stop a beer party. The state police, she said, poured the beer down a drain.

Paul Bibeau, an associate of township attorney Joseph T. Brennan, who is vacationing, commented state police en-

tered the house on their own risk.

"If the citizen is interested enough to sign a complaint, then that is about as far as the township can go," the attorney said.

Bibeau said District Judge Michael Hand had been contacted on the matter and one of the youths is wanted for a parole violation.

Trustee Earl Oppenhausser also defended the township police.

"Once they're brought into court... it's in the hands of the court."

HALL AND Trustees Margaret Schaefer and Tom Nolan also said the neighbors should talk to Hand.

Another trustee seemed to feel the police power may be limited in the problem.

"The questions you ask lead me to believe you people expect things done which police under the law have no power to do," Fred Lichtman commented.

Hall said the township would make arrangements so the gang won't be notified by radio if a raid is coming.

"In fact, you'll get extra police protection tonight," the supervisor promised.

He also urged the group to get several witnesses to crimes and testify against the gang members.

"We're saying 'they did this and they did that,' but we really don't know," he said.

DAWSON QUESTIONED why the township board was unaware of the problem.

"I can't understand the lack of communication in the chain of command," Dawson said, noting police had been involved with the youths for two or three years.

Oppenhausser replied that the township has a new stop and frisk ordinance which he said may be used in the case.

## Extend Entry Deadline

Groups and persons wishing to enter floats in the Farmington Founders Festival Parade July 25 are reminded an entry form must first be submitted.

Entry blanks for parade entries may be picked up at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce office in the Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Rds., or by calling 474-3440.

The Chamber has learned that some persons are building floats but have not yet filed an application. The chamber reminds all that a formal application must be made for any entry in the parade.

To facilitate latecomers, the July 15 deadline for parade entry applications has been extended to Saturday, July 18.