

# Roof bid award draws criticism

Award of a roof bid for Shawsee Center to a non-union contractor drew criticism Tuesday from one trustee and a 4-2 split board vote.

The low bid of \$119,890 was awarded to Master Roofers Inc. of Mount Clemens. The next highest bid from a union company, Fisher Roofing, jumped \$10,000 to \$129,226, according to reports.

The board was forewarned that the company had past problems with picketing at work sites, according to Trustee R. Jack Inch, who is also an incumbent candidate for another four-year school board term.

"This firm is viewed by this industry as a breaker," Inch said. "I'm saying this is a little touchy to me. I don't think our staff and students should have to cross picket lines."

Inch is an inactive member of the United Auto Workers and United Steel Workers, and is a union member at Oakland Community College, where he teaches.

"PICKETING ONLY happened to me on one job," Master Roofers President and owner Donald McNicol said, "and there was never any trouble."

"We're a family concern - we've never been union-oriented," McNicol added.

# Farmington eyes never-used zone

Farmington council members and planning commissioners discussed the city's never-used planned unit development (PUD) ordinance Tuesday, April 15.

Commissioners are considering its possible use on two property parcels in the city.

PUD allows planning commissioners to circumvent zoning regulations, on certain occasions, by permitting buildings normally placed on differently zoned properties on the same parcel.

The city's ordinance directly reflects the original state law, with no local modifications. City Manager Robert Deadman said, "It appears more flexible" than some other local ordinances, he added.

There was a consensus of the council and commission that "the concept gives a lot of authority and latitude," Deadman said, "allowing for unique factors."

The two property parcels being considered for PUD include one on Grand River near the Oakwood Cemetery, where a furniture store is proposed for the front and a multi-family apartment complex for the rear. This parcel is also special, Deadman said, because the front of the parcel is in the city of Farmington, and the rear is in Farmington Hills.

The second is a five-acre parcel on Farmington Road, just south of the Crossroads Shopping Center at Nine Mile. The frontage on Farmington Road "may be considered for a different use," Deadman said.

He stressed that commissioners will give "careful consideration" when using PUD so the surrounding areas are not disturbed.



The final and most welcome step is the taste test, here performed by Sharon Wertheimer of Farmington Hills.

# Kids make matzah

A "hands on" matzah factory means just that.

When the eight-day matzah factory closed at 6 p.m. Thursday, nearly 2,000 youngsters mixed, kneaded, rolled and baked their own special Passover matzah by hand.

The event was sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and Congregation Bais Chabad of West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

Rabbi Elimelech Silberberg of Bais Chabad said the matzah differs from those bought in grocery stores. The whole wheat flour used is guarded from the time of harvest so that no water will touch it and initiate leavening.

IN AN attempt to duplicate an actual bakery, two structures were assembled - one to house the flour, one for the mayim shelenu (cold water that has "rested" overnight).

Once the water and flour are mixed, Silberberg said, "everything must be completed within 18 minutes before fermentation begins."

Throughout the process, the bakers chant a Hebrew phrase meaning, "For the sake of the commandment God gave us."

Silberberg said it is the first time Bais Chabad has done matzah demonstrations in the area.

"The response has been beautiful. The children are involved in a commandment. They become excited about that."

PASSOVER, WHICH begins at sundown Wednesday and lasts eight days, commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery, about 1280 BCE, and the resultant exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt.

In their haste to leave Egypt, the Israelites didn't have time to let their dough for bread-baking rise. To this day, unleavened bread (matzah) is eaten during the eight-day holiday.

The first two nights of Passover are celebrated in Conservative and Orthodox Jewish homes with a feast called the Seder. In many Reform and Humanistic Jewish homes, the Seder is held only on the first night.

The word seder literally means "order" of the service. It is a ceremonial dinner marked by the retelling of the exodus through the use of prayers, songs and ceremonial foods - including matzah.

Monday, April 21, 1988 O&E (FRA)

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