

Farmington Observer

Volume 100 Number 46

Monday, March 13, 1989

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

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MORE social studies.

Senior high students in Farmington Public Schools will take three years of social studies, beginning with the incoming freshman class of 1989. The current requirement is 2½ years.

Recommendations came from a school committee that studied the social studies program for several years.

TRAFFIC on the agenda. Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper said the city council will consider a citizens request to form a citywide traffic commission.

Tupper told representatives of the Old Village homeowners group he had asked for an administrative recommendation to be brought to the next council meeting Monday, March 20.

During the past year, Old Village residents have raised concerns about traffic in the downtown area.

Memory lane

25 years ago:

• Farmington Township's \$2.4 million water project is three weeks ahead of its original June completion date with five miles of pipeline laid since Dec. 2.

Twenty miles of distribution lines are still in the works. The project, the largest capital improvement in township history, will serve 4,000 parcels in a 7½-square-mile area in the southeast part of the township.

— Farmington Enterprise, March 18, 1964

Schools clamp lid on legal report

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington Public Schools has refused to release a legal report requested under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act last week, claiming its content is privileged.

Representatives from the Farmington Hills-based Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. said they "categorically reject this argument" and will attend Tuesday's school board meeting to appeal their case to elected officials.

On March 2, Alexander Hamilton economists Patrick Anderson, and

They claim privilege; firm plans to appeal

Joel Wittenberg asked for a copy of an attorney's report used to support the district's claim that it could not use operating funds to build a new school. They believe the document is public information because it was openly used during recent bond campaigns.

The issue of using operating funds

for the school was first raised during a bond election last September by Alexander Hamilton chairman Richard Headlee, then the firm's president. That initial bond attempt was defeated; a \$7.3 million issue was approved by voters Jan. 30.

While denying release of the attorney's report, school officials did

agree to release some related information.

In a March 8 letter, assistant superintendent Lynn Nutter, who was acting as superintendent last week, stated the district had "scant records in our possession on this subject," but offered to allow the company to review five related documents.

AS FOR the attorney's report, "I must deny your request as it relates to privileged matters," Nutter said, citing portions of the act that relate to attorney-client privilege.

But in a statement released by the

company Friday, economists Anderson and Wittenberg said since the report was used publicly to support a bond issue asking voters for money, it should be considered public information.

"The school board publicly discussed this opinion on many occasions," they said. "Furthermore, the district members cited it in an election-eve newsletter as a reason to support the bond proposal. The school administration made this a public issue, and now cannot reasonably claim 'privilege.'"

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JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Dotty over spring

Think long, slim, soft with lots of swishy chiffon and polka dots on just about everything and you have a pretty good idea of the main look for the upcoming fashion season. This cotton navy polka-dot Oscar de la Renta from Jacobson's is a good

example of what's ahead. The entire fashion story will unfold in the Observer's special Spring Fashion Section appearing Thursday.

Zoning bid is pulled back

New Muirwood plan in works

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Bertak Building Co. withdrew its controversial request to rezone acreage to double the size of the Muirwood Square shopping center at Drake and Grand River in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills building company is expected to resubmit a rezoning request later for the site, which borders the city of Farmington.

"We are making this request to provide sufficient time to obtain further traffic and intersection information from Michigan Department of Transportation," Larry Wilkinson, Bertak vice president of development, wrote in a letter to Farmington Hills city manager William Costick March 7.

Withdrawal came 2½ weeks before the Farmington Hills City Council was scheduled to consider the planing commission's recommended denial of the rezoning request.

Bertak's request to rezone 12 acres just west of the 8-year-old shopping center prompted many in Farmington to publicly oppose it in mid-February. Residents and city officials were concerned about traffic congestion and a negative effect on the smaller city's redevelopment downtown one mile away.

THE FARMINGTON Downtown Development Authority is expected to receive a status report of the building company's plans at its regular meeting at 8 a.m. Tuesday. "I'm not sure they'll discuss it beyond that. The DDA board's position is very clear," executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer said.

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Hills physician pleads guilty in poisoning death of patient

A Farmington Hills physician pleaded guilty last May 6. Cherry-Sapp was dying from diabetes.

At a hearing before Recorder's Court Judge Terrance Boyle, Caraccio said he felt sorry for Cherry-Sapp and injected her with the potassium chloride to end her pain and suffering.

"THE PRINCIPAL significance of this prosecution to the people of the community is confirmation of the basic truth that no one has a right to take an innocent human life, no matter how short the expectancy of that life may be," O'Hair said.

Southfield defense attorney Justin Ravitz said

Caraccio wanted to spare his family the stress of a trial. In December, Ravitz said Caraccio was under stress because of his father's terminal illness and "look leave of his senses" when injecting Cherry-Sapp.

Caraccio was suspended from the hospital when the investigation began and has not practiced medicine since his arrest last November.

Originally, Cherry-Sapp's death was listed as natural and attributed to heart and lung failure

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Kids nature trail part of new condos

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A Farmington Hills elementary school will soon have new neighbors and a nature area to enjoy.

But school officials say they will keep a close eye on the planned condominium project especially during heavy construction, slated to begin next door to Longacre Elementary School by late March.

Frank Milo, developer of the Longacre Woods Condominiums, will install a nature walkway on his own wooded land, which students at the

neighboring school can use.

In addition, the Farmington Board of Education has agreed to sell Milo property he can use as a retention area, required by city planners.

Longacre principal William Smith said he is working closely with Milo on extra safety measures during the project's construction to ensure the safety of the 500 children who attend Longacre.

"I'm still concerned with safety issues, but want to work carefully and closely with them," Smith said.

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Frank Milo
Longacre Woods developer

Union Lake woman raped in parking lot

A 21-year-old Union Lake woman who had just left McFrock's Saloon was raped as she tried to enter her car parked in the nearby rear lot at Uncle Ed's Oil Shoppe, 30740 12 Mile, at 1 a.m. Thursday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The woman left McFrock's alone and was about to put the key into the door of her car when a man thought to be in his 20s grabbed her from behind.

She bit, scratched and punched him as they struggled. But he was

able to push her to the ground and raped her before running toward 12 Mile.

The woman sought medical treatment on her own, said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

The man was wearing a red ski jacket and had a small diamond in his right ear. A complete description was not available Friday.

McFrock's is in the Orchard Ridge Plaza at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.