

## today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 35 48 pages, 5 sections

## what's inside

### Are Parks Needed?

Some communities are having trouble finding money to finance park projects, but Farmington Township is still wondering if parks are needed. A proposal to form a parks commission has raised an old issue — are community parks needed in the township or is open space in some subdivisions adequate?

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### Split Personality

Daniel's Den has a split personality when it comes to commenting on the accomplishments of the Farmington Township Board. While praise is given for one stance the board has taken, similar generosity is purposely withheld while discussing another behavioral pattern.

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### Revenue Split

Should the federal government share its revenues with the states and local units? Three Observerland congressmen sharply disagree. How does your man stand on the biggest issue in Washington?

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### With The Kids

A familiar fairytale character will be in Observerland this weekend, in a slightly different guise. You might enjoy his adventures along with the kids.

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### Making Comeback

A 17th century French dramatist seems to be making a comeback. Maybe it's because of the reaction he gets from those who are for women's lib.

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### Bigger Campus

Schoolcraft College trustees last week struck a deal to expand the size of their campus, several businessmen won promotions, and a local politician is running for Democratic state chairman.

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# Residents Tell Objections To Regional Shopping Mall

## ...Also Hear Advantages

By EMORY DANIELS

It was more than a "standing room only" crowd which packed the township hall for the Farmington Township Planning Commission's hearing on the proposed regional shopping center.

The overflow audience filled all the chairs in the township board meeting room, lined up against the walls and then sat down Indian-style in a semi-circle in front.

Cars filled the township hall parking lot and lined up on both sides of 11 Mile Rd. A number of cars pulled up and then drove away when it became apparent the town hall would be packed.

The residents turned out to hear developers from the HTK Corp. present their plans for a regional shopping center on the north side of 13 Mile Rd. between Halstead and Haggerty in the northwest section of Farmington Township.

AFTER MEETING for more than three hours, the commission voted to adjourn the public hearing until March 4 and attempt to schedule the next hearing in a school building.

The basic concerns of the residents were: Traffic congestion the center would create; how the center would effect sanitary and storm drainage; how the center would effect development of vacant tracts of land surrounding the proposed site; and a feeling that the center would destroy the residential flavor of the community.

Although packed into tight quarters, the audience was polite and courteous toward

speakers and exhibited a patient attitude of wanting to voice their positions and wanting to get more information.

Some residential spokesmen asked if an advisory vote could be obtained from a township special election before the township board made a final decision. And some seemed prepared to petition for a referendum vote if the board approves the rezoning request.

The center is proposed to be built on 128 acres of a total 310-acre site with the remaining acres utilized for offices, motels, restaurants, theaters, garden house and high rise apartments.

The HTK Corp. consists of: Homart Development Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sears & Roebuck, Inc.; A. Alfred Taubman, chairman of the board of Taubman Co.; and Richard Kughn, president of Taubman Co.

KUGHN PRESENTED the HTK proposal at the Jan. 28 public hearing and was assisted by a team of Taubman's traffic engineer, planner and market analysis advisor.

A series of verbal presentations, backed up by color slides and photos and charts, gave the audience a 65-minute summary of what HTK hopes to construct and why the developers chose the Farmington Township site.

Kughn explained Taubman Co. has been developing regional shopping centers for 19 years and Homart for 11 years.

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About 70 per cent of the audience appeared to be initially opposed to the proposed regional shopping center on 13 Mile, based on the reactions from residents at the Farmington Township Planning Commission's first public hearing last week.

Tom Lester of Oak Pointe Dr. commented that the mile roads already have a traffic burden with North Farmington High on 13 Mile and the new Harrison High near 12 Mile.

Mrs. Olga Weir, of Grey-thorne, water resources chairman for the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters, voiced her concerns over the center's effect on water quality.

"We already have serious drainage problems in the township," said Mrs. Weir. "What effect will the proposed retail and residential complex plans have on the rest of the township? Will it create a new drainage pattern?"

"Will the East and West lakes formed by retaining storm water in the proposed area have any outflow into the existing drainage areas and the Upper Rouge River?"

"At the present time, there are no standards, rules or regulations regarding retention basins. How much public usage and boating will they have? Will the township, since we are not a city, be able to have ANY control? Will the township be able to

prevent any resulting pollution?"

"Drainage basins and districts do not respect boundary lines. Therefore, we recommend that the utmost consideration be given to the study of the drainage situation before granting a zoning change."

A BRIAR HILL resident asked how much the center would affect the already overloaded Middle Belt sanitary sewer interceptor, adding that if the township becomes a city, it would pay a major share for the needed road improvements.

Richard Mackie of Rhonswood commented: "For only a 2 per cent improvement in our tax base, we don't want

to destroy the lovely residential character of our community."

David Lewis of Quakertown said the center would mean the 10 Mile sewer arm must be built and this would force the destruction of hundreds of trees in the village.

"I am opposed to any rezoning which would accelerate the need for the 10 Mile arm and spoil the natural beauty in Quakertown," added Lewis.

Joe Kilmer, president of the Westbrook Homeowners Assn., then presented the commission petitions containing signatures of 300 residents asking the township to deny the rezoning request.

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THIRD FATALITY — Mrs. Doris A. Danielson, 51, of 24341 Buchanan Ct., Independence Greens apartments, became Farmington Township's third traffic fatality of 1971 when she was killed at 9:15 p.m. Jan. 30 on 12 Mile near Rollcrest. She was a passenger in this car

driven by Jack Boyle of Southfield. The Boyle vehicle had lost control and skidded broadside into a second car, throwing Mrs. Danielson out and under it with the Boyle car passing over her. (Evert photo)

# Hill's Steep, Dangerous

By RICH McCULLEN

One of the disadvantages of Michigan's Winter Wonderland is the added safety hazards which are an unavoidable part of winter sports.

Farmington has seen a perfect example in its youthful sledders during the past few years. A number of sledding injuries, a few of them serious, have been reported on the hill near the Farmington Board of Education offices on Shiawassee Road at Farmington Road.

THE HILL, situated on school district property, has been used for sledding and ice skating for several years, although it is not a supervised city recreation area.

The portion used by sledders presently runs down from the Board of Education offices toward Farmington Rd.

The city, according to Farmington Police Chief Robert Deadman, has provided a snow fence at the bottom of the hill along Farmington Rd., as well as water for the ice rink, but the area is not supervised by city personnel.

The primary hazard for

sledders. Deadman suggested, is that the hill run is too short. On heavy snow, most sleds are slowed down before the bottom of the hill, but slick conditions make it nearly impossible to stop before the fence.

One Farmington youth, Craig Dembeck of 33221 Shiawassee, was seriously injured shortly before Christmas when he was unable to stop his sled and struck one of the metal support posts of the snow fence.

Craig, according to his mother, Mrs. Robert Dembeck, was hospitalized for nearly two weeks with a ruptured spleen and partially collapsed lung as a result of the accident, but is now recuperating well at home.

Mrs. Dembeck said most children have run into the flexible snow fence itself without injury, but that she considered the unprotected metal posts a danger to young sledders.

CHIEF DEADMAN told the Farmington Enterprise Observer that the snow fence was erected when a wooden, straw-packed fence used two

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EXISTING HAZARD — The hill at Shiawassee and Farmington Rd. is quite steep and when slick provides plenty of speed for a sled going downhill. But there is not enough level ground at the base of the hill to slow down a

sled on a slick day and not enough for the hill to be used by toboggans. Because of the dangers, parents should not let their children use the hill unless an adult supervisor is present, advise safety officials. (Evert photo)