

# the farmington enterprise & observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's  
**hot line**

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**what's inside**

## Who's Advising?

Farmington's Board of Education has already agreed to form a citizens advisory council and has appointed 50 residents to serve on the task force. But Monday night, an attempt was made to place tighter controls than were originally proposed. Martha Mahan reports on the debate.

Page 5A

## Report On Sexuality

A report on the human sexuality program proposed for Farmington School's curriculum is given by Lawrence Freedman, principal of Wood Creek Elementary and chairman of the committee instructed to develop the curriculum.

Page 3A

## Science Course?

A most unusual "course" in science will be given Sunday in Clarenceville High School. It will certainly be fun for kids, and adults might enjoy it too.

Page 11B

## Political Teachers

Teachers need to get more into politics, says the Observerland man who heads Michigan's biggest teachers' union. John Ort of the MEA talked to Martha Mahan about the educator's role in a changing society.

Page 12B

Amusements .....	10-11B
Classified Want Ads .....	Sec. D
Cooking, by Ely .....	5C
Deaths and Funerals .....	12B
Editorial Viewpoints .....	4A
Home and Garden .....	5B
Observing Sports .....	2B
Readers' Forum .....	13B
Regional Affairs .....	12B
Sports—Prep and Pro .....	1-4B
Spotlight on Women .....	1-4C

## INSIDE YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER...



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# Township Decides Against Membership In SEMCOG

The Farmington Township Board has voted to withhold membership in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) by voting not to pay its 1971-72 membership dues.

Monday night, trustees voted 6-0 against paying the \$600 annual SEMCOG dues charged to member communities.

The general sentiment of the board was that SEMCOG had not performed up to promise since its creation in 1967 and that the township would not receive enough return to justify the dues.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK** Floyd Cairns told this newspaper that the township had not paid membership dues last year to SEMCOG and that Monday night's decision was just a continuation of last year's action.

Before taking action, the board heard a presentation made by William Hutton of the Farmington Township Road & Civic Association.

Hutton said his association had looked into SEMCOG and found that the planning agency had "made study upon study and has accomplished very little except study."

Because the Farmington School District has voted to withhold its financial support from SEMCOG, Hutton continued, it would be appropri-

ate for the township to do the same.

Hutton urged the township to withhold dues to SEMCOG "until such time as they prove capable of more than study upon study upon study."

**TREASURER** Tom Nolan agreed with Hutton and added that "SEMCOG certainly is not doing very much."

**SUPERVISOR** Earl Teeple said that, for the most part, representatives from the member communities did not seem to attend SEMCOG meetings regularly.

Teeple added that he attended only one meeting, SEMCOG's annual meeting in Cobo Hall, and much of the discussion concerned Detroit.

**TRUSTEE** David Stader commented it was a shame that an organization such as SEMCOG cannot be effective.

"We'll have problems with each community in the metropolitan area going its own way. A regional organization of some type is needed."

"The active support of member communities was needed more than financial support," Stader continued. "If representatives don't attend SEMCOG meetings, no wonder it is not going far."

Stader said he was bothered that Farmington Town-

ship was withdrawing from SEMCOG because it was almost an indication there was no way for all the suburban communities to get together and coordinate planning.

"Where do we go from here and with what do we replace SEMCOG?" he asked.

**NOLAN** ADDED that if the township withdrew and told SEMCOG its reasons for doing so, maybe it could get some action.

Teeple said that since he assumed office, the only things the township has received from SEMCOG were good prices for salt purchases and some census figures that were also received from Oakland County and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The motion to withdraw financial support to SEMCOG was made by Nolan, supported by Trustee Earl Oppenheimer, and passed 6-0 with Trustee Fred Lichtman absent.

**IN OTHER** action, the board referred to its attorney for advice a resolution adopted by the Township of Oakland expressing opposition to the New-Town concept.

Before submitting the resolution to attorney Joseph T. Brennan, Trustee Margaret Schaeffer commented she prefers the local control the

township has exercised and the New-Town concept would remove zoning and planning control from local communities.

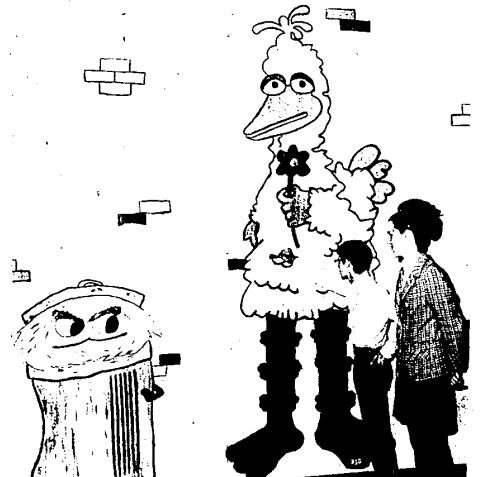
In other action, the board: Declared Feb. 25 as leadership for tomorrow day in recognition of the three students receiving youth citizenship awards from the Farmington Sceptimists.

● Asked the Oakland County Road Commission to conduct a hearing to establish a special assessment for street paving in Westbrook Manor subdivision.

● Agreed to study the need of reactivating the Farmington Township Road Committee to see if the group can be made more viable.

● Agreed to lease for 60 months a mailing, folding and stuffing machine from Pitney-Bowles at \$75 a month.

● Reported that half of the Springland sewer project would receive its final inspection Friday, Feb. 26, with tap-ins possible the next day.



BRIGHTEN THE CORNER — Assigned to a classroom in an old unit which had long been used as a storage area, Mrs. Jeannie Young, English teacher at Farmington Junior High, improves the paint job on the walls by having her students create pictures of Sesame Street's Big Bird and Oscar. Dan Diehr adds some finishing touches to the characters who illustrated a creative writing project undertaken by the class. Oscar was the work of Randy Frank, and the overall effect is cause for much admiring comment. (Evert photo)

# Aid Cuts May Be \$5,000 Less

By EMORY DANIELS

The State Legislature is studying a less drastic reduction in state aid payments to local school districts which, if it becomes official, will mean about \$5,000 less will be taken away from Farmington Public Schools.

The crux of the local impact is that Farmington Schools would still lose \$116,000 in state aid payments but not the \$121,000 loss under Gov. Milliken's proposed reductions.

**THE MICHIGAN** House and Senate appropriation committees are jointly considering an alternative to Milliken's plan to reduce state aid payments by 2%.

The alternative is that state payments be instead reduced by 0.75% of the local district's total operating budget, which would include state aid payments but possibly exclude federal aid.

Business Manager William Frisk of Farmington Schools says the governor's proposal would result in a loss of \$121,000 in state aid payments.

The Legislature's alternative, Frisk explains, would result in a loss of \$116,000 in payments from the state.

**PRISK** ADDED that he expects the Legislature will

approve the proposal if it is reported out of both chambers' appropriation committees.

On this assumption, Frisk told Farmington board members Monday night to count on a state aid reduction of \$116,000.

When the district's operating budget was approved last fall, it anticipated state aid payments based on last year. Without including the unexpected state aid reductions, the unusually tight operating budget showed an expected fund balance at the end of this fiscal year of only \$485.

If the new legislative proposal becomes final, Farmington school trustees will be faced with two alternatives:

## NFHS Clubs

### Earn Citation

For efforts last Halloween in collecting for UNICEF, North Farmington High School's Contemporary Affairs Club has received a certificate from that organization. Aided by the Exchange Club which made a donation of \$50, the group collected \$405.50 to assist the world's underprivileged children toward a better life.

tives: trim existing programs to reduce expenditures by \$116,000 or be forced to accept a deficit budget for 1970-71 fiscal year ending in June.

A report will be made soon — possibly on March 2 — to the school finances subcommittee of the newly formed citizens' advisory committee.

**THE QUESTION** now being explored is whether additional operation millage will be needed for the 1971-72 fiscal year.

Frisk said he is more concerned with what next year's state aid formula will be than the current reductions.

The district presently is operating under a \$15 million budget with about \$5 million coming from the state under the governor's proposed reduction.

The district presently is levying 29.93 mills (\$29.93 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) which includes the county allocated millage and is one-half mill below the limit approved by voters.

The district also levies six mills for debt retirement. This past year, the board approved the six-mill levy after collecting seven mills for several years to pay off construction bonds.

# What Are Fears Of State Tests?

By MARTHA MAHAN

Farmington public schools have administered the state assessment tests to all fourth and seventh graders, as directed by the State Board of Education. But they did so with misgivings.

The test, "based on educational goals" and is "unacceptable" as an invasion of privacy in its measurement of socioeconomic status, according to Marinus Van Ameyde, assistant superintendent for instruction.

**THE 1970 TEST** only verified what educators long have known — that socioeconomic status is "about the best predictor of measured pupil achievement," Van Ameyde declared — and the 1971 test will only confirm it. In this respect, it is "good to know that Michigan elementary and secondary

students follow the national pattern," he said.

"Influential political interests" have moved the assessment program into an instrument for determining state aid according to socioeconomic need, and this is geared to adding Detroit, he went on.

Socio-economic quizzing of students, even anonymously, along with this year's new requirement that principals report on educational and economic status of parents, is an invasion of privacy which "can give at best only gross group data," Van Ameyde continued.

**FARMINGTON** principals were "not allowed to go through records or questionnaires" to determine the extent of parental education or economic position, Van Ameyde said. "We're paying them too

much to have them do that kind of work." They were told, instead, to make random estimates. Moreover, he said, "to ask a fourth grader who his father is and if he is living with his mother is not acceptable."

"Recently, the State Board of Education distributed a preliminary draft of 'The Common Goals of Michigan Education,'" Van Ameyde recently told the Farmington school board.

"The goals statement developed by the task force is designed to give direction to the improvement of education in Michigan. The state assessment program must be developed in such a way that, as the goals are developed and finalized, they can become the basis for the assessment."

"Even though the same Department of Education staff members are involved in the two tasks, it appears as if each task was undertaken in complete isolation."

**FARMINGTON SCHOOLS** for years have been using extensive assessment batteries which are "goal oriented for the improvement of our instructional programs," Van Ameyde said.

"Our commonly-used test batteries are much more comprehensive, much more diagnostic and more related to commonly known and obtainable instructional programs."

A spokesman for the State Department of Education acknowledged that the test is "not perfect," but called it "a start toward helping people know what their educational institutions are providing."

"As an educator, he (Van Ameyde) is entitled to his viewpoints about things, and I am sure his position is defensible just as is another position taken by the department," the spokesman said. "The whole assessment program was designed as a cooperative effort, and, hopefully, can be carried through in this spirit."



**ELK CAGE WINNERS** — These boys were division winners in the basketball skills competition sponsored recently by the Farmington Elks (from left): Gary Franka, age 9-10 division, of 22973 Mayfield; Kurt Ludwick, 11-12 division, of 20951 Laurelwood; and Patrick Miracle, 13-14 division, of 21760 Hancock, all of Farmington. (Evert photo)