

Board from page 1A

proposal will merely shift the problem from one area to another.

Wooddale PTO president Susan Miller said she was pleased some progress was being made at the board level. "We do appreciate you have your attention now," she told the board. "You have been charged by this community to ensure our children's safety."

Although residents attending Tuesday's school board meeting were relatively calm, previous meetings and school site visits have resulted in angry comments and accusations. Several board members told residents they hope the issue, which has torn the neighborhood apart, could now be put behind them and that fences could be mended.

"I know when we ultimately start this project, some people will be disappointed," said board vice president Cathleen Webb. "I hope you can put this behind you and refocus as a community."

Those most vocal included residents to the west of the school in Colony Park West, who mainly oppose the proposed solution, and those in Kendallwood to the south who supported it.

Rennels told residents they have some power to control the situation. She called on them to "put the safety of children above personal convenience" and use the organizational skills that brought them together to address safety concerns.

"We do care about your kids and also the well-being of all the sub-

I'm concerned that everybody agrees there's a problem, but nobody agrees on the solution. If we keep going around again and again, . . . some kid is going to be hurt. I think we have to go for the best solution — it's not going to be perfect.

Mary Callahan
parent

visions," she added. "It's up to all of us to make it work."

The community surrounding Wooddale has struggled with safety problems over the past 35 years, as subdivisions in the area have expanded. Principal David Coffin said the school has tried having the buses deliver and pick up children at the edge of school property, and having parent volunteers monitor the parking lot, but nothing has worked.

"I'm concerned that everybody agrees there's a problem, but nobody agrees on the solution," said parent Mary Callahan. "If we keep going around again and again, . . . some kid is going to be hurt."

"I think we have to go for the best solution — it's not going to be perfect."

Walt Disney Productions to tape kids' show in Hills

Mickey Mouse — or at least the production company that made him famous — is coming to Farmington Hills.

Walt Disney Productions will come to Marvin's Marvellous Mechanical Museum, 31005 Orchard Lake Road, on Sunday, Aug. 8, to tape an episode of "The Mickey

Mouse Club" which will air later on the Disney Channel.

The taping starts about noon Sunday and the public is invited to watch, according to Marvin Yagoda, museum owner.

"I think it's great that a local place is going to be featured on a national program," he said.

Parking issue divides neighborhoods

By CAROL HANSEN
STAFF WRITER

Frustration

That's what most everyone felt Monday night, as residents who live around Wooddale Elementary School met with school administrators and a traffic safety engineer to discuss concerns about the school parking lot and what could be done.

The meeting, held in the school gym, was meant to be an informational session for those who had not heard up-to-date information about five proposed plans to rectify the problems and one that was recommended to the Farmington school board two weeks ago.

But much of the two-hour session included neighbors venting their frustrations — depending on where they lived — over documented safety problems for students or with what some felt would simply move the problem out of the parking lot and onto nearby city streets.

Many of the 100-plus residents attending the meeting pledged to come out again Tuesday night to share their concerns with the school board, which was scheduled to vote on the issue.

Colony Park West resident Jack Mihalco, who has been very vocal in past meetings speaking

See editorial, 14A

against the recommended plan, continued airing his concerns Monday, saying "we're here to get the facts and we're not getting the facts."

"This is not a solution," he added. "It just moves the problems to another area."

Other parents spoke in favor of the proposed changes, saying they need to be done as quickly as possible before someone is seriously injured.

The Wooddale driveway and parking area was not a concern when the school was built in 1957 to serve students walking from the Kendallwood subdivision, said Don Cowan, building and student services director for the district and principal at the school in the mid-1960s. As various subdivisions built up in the area, more students were bused to the school and today, he said, many parents of students who live too close for bus service bring their children to school by car.

The parking lot, which has only one entrance/exit on a steep incline and 34 parking spaces, is inadequate for today's traffic, according to members of the school's parent safety committee and school officials. In the wintertime, the driveway is a nightmare, they said.

The school board considered a proposal in

April to reconfigure the parking lot and add a second driveway out to the west — into Colony Park West — but chose to get another opinion before making a decision. Barton-Aschman of Southfield was brought in to offer expertise.

Barton-Aschman's Mike Labadie offered the board five possible solutions, including to lower the grade of the current drive by 2 percent, two different configurations using the two-driveway proposal, possibly closing the current drive and installing one out of the lot to the north, and the recommended proposal, which included closing the current driveway and taking the drive west into Oak Forest, a street which dead ends at the school property.

Other resident concerns include the district cutting into a heavily wooded area west of the school to put in a new driveway. Farmington Hills city officials said the district is governed by state law, and is not required to comply with city laws, including the city's tree ordinance.

Although he could give no firm figures on how many trees would have to come down, Cowan said he is "dedicated to saving as many trees as possible."

All of the proposals would entail removal of trees, he said.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

■ DRYER FIRE

An estimated \$2,000 in content damage was done during a dryer fire in a garage on Applewood in Farmington Hills July 31.

According to Hills Fire Department reports, smoke was reported coming from the laundry area at

about 5:30 p.m. and the Hills crew responded to see light smoke visible. The fire was confined to the dryer in the utility room adjacent to the garage. The aluminum flex vent was clogged with lint, apparently causing the problem. Burning clothes were removed from the dryer and extinguished by firefighters.

■ THEFTS REPORTED

Jackets, hats, radios and other items valued at \$2,199 were report-

ed stolen from four vehicles parked in the lot at RV Electric, 32722 V. Eight Mile Road, Aug. 1-2. A total of \$600 in damage was reported.

Items valued at \$2,400 were stolen from a 1992 Ford parked in a carport on Greenhill July 31. Cash, metal detectors, a flashlight and car phone were taken.

Some \$350 in lawn furniture was stolen from an Orchard Lake Road residence July 31. A fax machine, laser jet printer

and VCR, valued at \$2,100 were stolen from R.M. Gilligan on Orchard Lake Road July 31.

■ DAMAGE REPORTED

Two employee vehicles at NBD, 23309 Farmington Road, received \$400 in damage on Friday, July 31. According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports, tires on the cars were punctured, causing the damage.

INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about education issues and students from the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336 or send information via

fax to 477-9722. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

■ JOURNALISM WORKSHOP
Two Farmington High School

students were among 800 completing study in the 1992 Bell State University Journalism Workshops this summer.

Naomi Smith and Tammy Allen both attended the workshops which concluded in mid-July.

The students participated in an intensive workshop program dealing with issues confronting scholastic journalists. In addition to daily classes and lectures, they did lab simulations, writing exercises and publications contests.

Farmington Observer

(ISSN 1577-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Printing Co., Inc., 305 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48334 (419) 477-7177. Second class postage paid at Farmington, MI 48334 (419) 477-7177. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Printing Co., Inc., 305 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48334 (419) 477-7177. Payment in advance. No return address. No liability for loss or damage. No responsibility for return of unsolicited material. No responsibility for return of unsolicited material. No responsibility for return of unsolicited material.

LET'S TALK

CHILDREN'S MARRIAGE COACHING

Take The First Step

AFFORDABLE COUNSELING

call 932-8928

Clancy's BAR & GRILL

Serving Great Food For... LUNCH & DINNER

Specials

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY \$6.75

DECK OPEN for your outdoor dining pleasure

Entertainment Fri. & Sat. Nights

LOX STOCK & BARREL

Delicatessen Restaurant

35572 Grand River Farmington Hills • At Drake Rd. In the Mulwood Square Center

476-1190

Finally, A Good Deli on the Westside!

We Now Have BREAKFAST at 7:00 a.m.

2 EGGS, HASH BROWNS & TOAST \$99¢

Price Buster

Only Monday thru Friday

Hours: Everyday 7 AM - Mon.-Thurs. 'til 9 PM, Fri.-Sat. 'til 10 PM, Sun. 'til 8 PM

VALET PARKING

Forget the parking hassle when you shop at Jacobson's. We'll do it for you.

Just drive up to the Bates Street entrance. Our valet will do the rest.

One dollar fee.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA, and American Express.

Shop until 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Limit 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. Shop Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Sizzling Summer Deals

NOW SAVE 35% AND RECEIVE A FREE \$950 Howard Miller Grandfather Clock 1 WEEK ONLY!

Classic Interiors Presents Summer Savings of 35% on:

Thomasville

Pennsylvania House

Harden

Century

Exceptional storewide savings AND NOW

1 week only — A FREE Grandfather Clock with your purchase of \$2,500 or more.

The Handsome Howard Miller clock will be delivered to you free of charge with a qualifying purchase. This offer is good now thru Sunday, August 16th, 5:00 p.m. and only one clock to a customer.

Store Hours: MON., THURS. 9:30-9:00 TUES., WED., SAT. 9:30-5:30 SUN. 1:00-5:00 Thru Sept. 13th, excluding Labor Day Weekend

Classic Interiors

20292 Middlebelt, Livonia • (South of 8 Mile) • 474-6900

Credit Terms Available

All discounts are off manufacturer's suggested retail prices. Sales price does not apply to previous or pending sales. Sale ends Aug. 16, 1992. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotional discounts.

Sultan's Middle-Eastern Cuisine

SPECIAL DINNER Mon. & Tues. Only

BABY BACK RIBS \$8.95

BAKED WHITE FISH \$6.95

Above dinners served with Salad, Vegetable, Potato or Rice and Pita

SPECIAL LUNCH Soup & Sandwich

• SHISH KABOB

• SHISH TAWOOK

• SHISH KAFKA

• SHAWARMA

• TURKEY

• ROAST BEEF

\$3.50

SPECIAL DINNER Fri. Only

16 oz. PRIME RIB \$8.95

Served with Salad, Baked Potato, Vegetable & Pita

SPECIAL DINNERS Wed. & Thurs. Only

• SHISH KABOB

• SHISH TAWOOK

• SHISH KAFKA

• SHAWARMA

• WHITE FISH

\$6.95

SPECIAL LUNCH

• CAESAR SALAD

• GREEK SALAD

• CHICKEN FATTOUSH

• STEAK FATTOUSH

• WHITE FISH

\$4.25

\$5.00 OFF CARRY OUT

Not Valid With Any Other Promotions

Enjoy Tableside Cooking at Sultan's

Steak Diane • Rack of Lamb • Flaming Desserts • Caesar Salad • Spinach Salad Flaming

14 Mile & Orchard Lake Rd. • West Bloomfield 737-0160

Northside of Robin's Nest Shopping Center