

the farmington enterprise & observer

Wednesday, June 23, 1971

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

15¢ a Copy

today's hot line

Vol. 83 No. 74 44 Pages 4 Sections

what's inside

Nowak Almost Wins

It took 21 ballots to beat him, but Pat Nowak of Farmington finally lost his bid for presidency of the U.S. Jaycees. Details of Nowak's almost successful bid in Portland, Ore., is reported inside.

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Clark's 2nd Trial

Trial has been scheduled for Dr. Ronald E. Clark, former Farmington physician who faces a manslaughter charge for the death of a former patient and employee. While the second trial goes on, an appeal will be pending before the U.S. Supreme Court on Clark's first conviction of manslaughter in the death of another former employee-patient.

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An Indian Visits

A former member of the Ottawa Indian tribe, Moses Bailey of Redford, visited Farmington last week to decide whether the historic maple tree on Gill Rd. in the city was used as an Indian marker tree. His findings are reported inside.

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To The Dogs

Photographer Harry Mauthe "went to the dogs" and came back with some interesting results. It takes all kinds to make up a dog's world.

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JUST A
NOTE



Just a note to remind you that when your Observer Carrier collects this month he will leave a receipt. Remember to keep it—it's worth face value toward an Observer Want Ad. If you have already become a member of the "Observer Coupon Savers Club" and have your April and May coupons—this month's will make three and means a free want ad for you!



TALKS BUSINESS—A couple of department heads seem to be talking business during the open house - dedication ceremony held Saturday for the new plant of Observer Newspapers Inc. at Schoolcraft and Levan in Livonia. Shown talking are David L. Jones (right), DPW director for the City of Farmington, and Duane Rosenthal, controller of ONI. (Observer photo)

500 Visit ONI Plant Dedication

More than 500 state and community leaders participated Saturday in ceremonies marking the dedication of Observer Newspapers' new \$3.5 million central printing and publishing facility.

On hand to present an American flag previously flown over the U.S. Capitol were U.S. Sen. Philip A. Hart and 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald.

A Michigan state flag was presented by two former governors and now justices of the Michigan Supreme Court—John B. Swainson and G. Mennen Williams.

Publisher Philip H. Power read a telegram from Sen. Robert Griffin, regretting that the press of business in Washington prevented his planned appearance.

Both flags were presented to Power, who presided over the ceremonies held outside in the parking lot of the new plant located at the intersection of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads, in Livonia.

WELCOME TO THE City of Livonia was given by City Council President Robert F. Nash, representing Mayor Edward McNamara, who was unable to attend owing to unavoidable prior commitments.

Nash called the new Observer plant "a remarkable asset, not only to Livonia but to other communities in this area so well served by the Observer organization."

The Observer Newspaper group, Michigan's largest twice-weekly community newspaper organization, publishes newspapers in Livonia, Southfield, Farmington, Plymouth, Redford Township, Westland and Garden City.

Justice Williams called attention to the present needs of our society for a free and fair press, and praised the far-sightedness of the Observer group in planning so well for future growth. Sen. Hart observed that he was tempted to ask for the new building.

RESPONDING, Power pointed out that the new Observer building was "one of only three or four newspaper buildings in the country specifically designed and configured to suit the particular needs of suburban newspapers."

"Just as the suburban communities we serve are entirely new kinds of communities," Power added, "they warrant entirely new kinds of newspapers,

published and printed in entirely new kinds of newspaper buildings."

JOINING Observer employees and other guests in the flag presentation ceremonies and afterward in special tours of the Observer building were: State Sen. Carl Pursell; State Reps. Marvin Stempien, James Tierney, Richard Young, and John Bennett.

Southfield Mayor Norman Feder; Westland Mayor and Mrs. Eugene McKinney; Redford Township Supervisor Bill J. Robbins; Plymouth Mayor James McKeon; Lathrup Village Mayor Richard N. Cogger; Wood Creek Farms Village President William B. Smolek; and Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples.

Members of the Livonia City Council present were: Jerry Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCann, Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Milligan, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Raymond, Peter Ventura. Mrs. Edward McNamara also represented her husband.

Representing the Oakland County Board of Commissioners were Delos Hamlin and Lawrence R. Pernick. The Wayne County Board was represented by John J. McCann and James R. McCartney.

Another was Mrs. Myra Chandler, previous publisher of Observer Newspapers, who flew from her home in Florida to be present at the ceremonies.

The last was in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis, former Publisher of The Southfield News. Power praised Mrs. Lewis, who died the day of the ceremonies, as "a remarkable woman, who combined courage, vision and personal warmth into an outstanding newspaper woman."

Power also introduced representatives of the architect-engineers, Lockwood, Greene, of New York, and of the general contractor, Barton-Malow, of Royal Oak.

He also introduced his fiancée, Miss Sarah J. Goddard, pointing out that getting married was often difficult, building a new building was often aggravating, but doing both together was a delight.

THE PARKING requirement for 30 spaces was waived, and the council granted permission for trucks serving the building to load and unload merchandise in front of the former National Bank of Detroit building on Grand River.

The city will adopt traffic control orders limiting loading

Will School Tax Return On Ballot?

The Farmington Board of Education is now studying what alternative to take in the aftermath of the June 14 vote defeating the district's request for 4.5 (\$4.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) new operating mills.

Three distinct alternatives are being studied by the board, according to Dr. Roderick J. Smith, Farmington schools superintendent. They are:

- Accept the vote of the people as being their decision and, therefore, trim the educational program accordingly;
- Return a similar millage

proposal for another vote; or

• Submit a modified proposal of reduced millage and the reduced educational program it will provide.

Dr. Smith did not specify, because the board is still studying action to take, whether "a similar millage proposal" would involve the same proposal defeated June 14 or a request for 4.5 mills for fewer years.

THE DISTRICT is faced with the problem of how quality education can survive, Dr. Smith says.

"Is quality education for the youth of our community as important as snowmobiles, motorcycles, outboard boats or even a 'good time on the town'?" he asks.

"There is nothing wrong with the several items mentioned but if one finds it necessary to limit the activities, to which do you say 'yes' and which receives a 'no'?"

In a prepared statement released Monday, Dr. Smith states: "Quality education must include a comprehensive

program, covering a wide scope of basic skills, sophisticated technical areas, the arts, languages and highly motivational specialties.

"Whenever budget restrictions make reductions necessary," Smith continues, "the deletion of any significant part of the educational program becomes an immediate challenge to that word 'Quality.'"

"Farmington has enjoyed a reputation of having 'quality education' as a result of expectations by the community as well as aggressive planning by the professional staff. Quality is maintained by constant vigilance of instructional techniques as well as the relevance of subject matter."

The board has been meeting in secret study session since the defeat of the millage question.

Although no indication has been given by the board, it is expected the earliest trustees will report what alternative has been decided upon will be the June 23 regularly scheduled board meeting.

THE CHALLENGE now facing the district, Smith continues, is "the task of making substantial reductions in the overall program and yet protect the basic ingredients."

"It does not seem possible to reduce programs such as elementary music, art and physical education by 50 per

cent and still claim quality education.

"Interscholastic athletics involve a limited number of individuals and yet the influence on the entire high school is substantial.

"Does the Farmington community want quality education?" muses Dr. Smith. "Some requests, which have been virtual demands by students and parents, have led the school authorities to believe that quality education is wanted in Farmington."

"The vote of the electorate on June 14 would raise some question. Do 1,329 votes clearly speak for a community of approximately 22,000 registered voters? Were there other issues which confused the real issue of quality education?"

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ATTENDS DEDICATION—Attending the open house - dedication of Observer Newspapers' new plant at Schoolcraft and Levan Saturday were 500 community leaders including (from left) Farmington City Councilman John Allen; Farmington Township Clerk Floyd Cairns; and ONI Publisher Philip H. Power. (Observer photo)



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Mini-Mall Variances Given; Cluster Plan Spurs Debate

The Farmington City Council Monday night approved a variance on parking and loading requirements to make possible conversion of an old bank building at Grand River and Farmington Rd. into a mini-mall.

After approval of the variance, a lengthy public hearing ensued on a rezoning request for cluster housing made by Bruce Polozker for 22 acres on Drake north of Freedom. After the hearing, decision was tabled until the July 6 meeting.

THE PARKING requirement for 30 spaces was waived, and the council granted permission for trucks serving the building to load and unload merchandise in front of the former National Bank of Detroit building on Grand River.

The city will adopt traffic control orders limiting loading

activity to 15 minute periods and between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and after six p.m.

Paul Barron of Livonia told the council his plans to lease the building and spend about \$100,000 in major improvements and architectural renovations.

A shopping arcade will be designed inside the building with cobblestone corridors, open display areas on the first level, and a mezzanine for specialty shops selling such items as tobacco, wine, candy, millinery, leather, candles, etc.

A PUBLIC hearing attracting controversy was held on a request to rezone from "planned unit development" (PUD) to "deluxe multiple" (PUD) a 22-acre parcel on Drake north of Freedom Rd.

Polozker wants to develop a cluster housing project which

would have a density of 4.9 units per acre which, City Manager John Dinan says, is similar to the density in Bel-Aire, Floral Park and Warner Farms single-family subdivisions in the city.

The cluster housing concept involves attaching single-family homes together to provide for more open space. By clustering the buildings, open space can then be pooled, Dinan explained.

Polozker stated it is a problem to develop single-family housing because the land has an extreme terrain—it is 60 feet lower in elevation on one end than the other.

The city's planning commission has recommended denial of the request but is now studying the cluster zoning being used in such communities as Farmington Township, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield Township, Southfield and Birmingham.

PETITIONS in opposition were presented to the council from Drake Heights, Woodcroft and Chatham Hills subdivisions plus another said to contain the signatures of 50 merchants in the downtown business area.

Max Goldman, a downtown family housing merchant, said the increase in density would ruin the city's small town atmosphere and have a negative effect on the downtown area.

Dinan reported the PUD zone has a density of about two units per acre while the R1A (lowest single-family zone) has a density of four units per acre. The deluxe multiple zone allows a maximum of 10 units per acre, but the developer has promised to provide a deed restriction limiting his project to 4.9 units per acre.

Jerry Potter, Drake Heights subdivision resident, said that feelings of homeowners against apartments in the city

are beginning to swell, primarily because of fears about devaluation of single-family home property.

COUNCILMAN John Allen commented the city was a small community, lacking in strong industrial and commercial tax base, and must either add multiple developments or raise the tax rate.

Apartment projects are paying the increased maintenance costs of the city, Allen said, and it would not be possible to keep the tax rate at 8.5 mills without the added revenue from multiples.

Apartment dwellers on an average have \$1,000 more annual income than single-family dwellers; Allen said, and provide fewer school-age children.

Allen stressed, however, that a cluster housing project

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