

Vision

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The challenge was to bring the area's disparate historical, commercial, and residential elements together. Students did, using canopy trees, three-foot pedestrian lamps, and crosswalks in their designs.

Students concentrated on Farmington's entry points.

One plan called for creating a gateway into the historical area at Grand River and Shilawasco. This would include planting two red maple trees and having a small park area.

Another design had an American beech tree planted as a focal point. Once a person reached the marker, students said, they would have a clear view of the historic area.

Grand River and Orchard Lake was the inspiration for several ideas.

Plans called for a crosswalk to make the area pedestrian friendly and having a row of canopy trees planted along Orchard Lake. The Winery — also known as the old railroad station — was zoned up to include a river walk and park area.

"It presents itself pretty naturally as an entry point," LTU student Brent Folkert said.

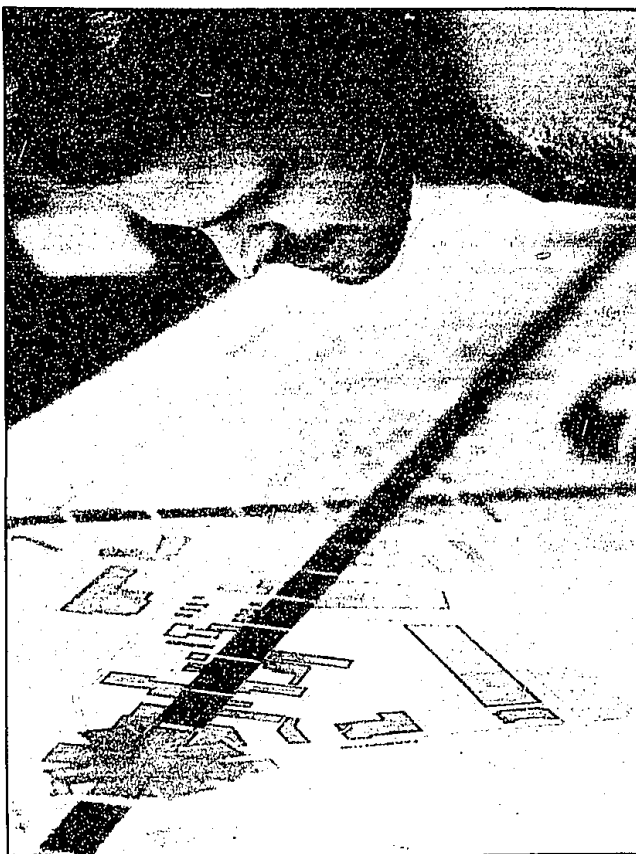
The Farmington River Walk Area would include an amphitheater, picnic area, volleyball courts and a bike path. The design is one of several that had people buzzing.

"That should be the front door to Farmington," said Michele Jakacki of Focal Point Studios.

Jakacki was also impressed with student Bonnie Wolfe's rendering of the Masonic Temple corner. Wolfe's conception included a contemplation area for the war memorial and a paved brick walkway for small concerts.

Historical Commission Member Dick Carvell was intrigued by the design students devised for the Warner Museum. Crabapple trees and spruces would be planted and a parking lot added next to the carriage house.

"Some of the things they've said are some of the things we've been thinking about," Carvell said.



Looking it over: LTU student Rick Konik of Farmington, checking out the work of his peers, says classmates often ask him questions because he lives in Farmington.

Race

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ago helped organize the Citizen Alliance for Responsible Education, which garnered 200,000 signatures on a petition to maintain school financing.

"I'm exploring it," Barnett said Friday. "I know what you're saying. You only have 72 hours. I know that."

Barnett also ran as a Democratic challenger against David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, for State Senate last fall. The thought of another campaign is weighing on her mind, she said.

"If I feel I can better serve the community and the school board, I will run," Barnett said.

John Schmidt, a Farmington Hills resident with three children — two of whom are home schooled.

"I haven't committed to running yet. I might," Schmidt said Thursday. "I wanted to see what the process is like."

Jennifer Teper, a Farmington

Filing deadline is 4 p.m. today. The election is June 5. One seat is open after Susan Lightner announced she's not running for re-election.

Hills attorney who was out of town Friday. Her husband confirmed she has a petition but would not elaborate.

That leaves Enberg, who has lived in the district for 11 years. Her son, Shaun, is a sophomore at Farmington High where she is president of the Parent Advisory Board.

"I hope somebody turns theirs in," Enberg said. "I think it's unfortunate if we don't have another name on the ballot."

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Parents

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"We think we can do better for the kids by having them mainstreamed into kindergarten."

Changes in the kindergarten to grade 2 curriculum to make it "developmentally appropriate" make a difference. "We know we can meet the needs of those children," White said.

Early 5s' numbers have dwindled from 130 in 1990 to 54 students. The decline corresponds with a countywide trend, officials said.

In Oakland County, five districts offer similar programs compared to 20 in 1990.

One reason for the decline is

the district changed the screening process in 1991. Gesell tests, which measure a child's motor skills and attention span, were made voluntary instead of mandatory.

Of the 54 students in Early 5s, 50 are boys. Studies have shown boys mature slower than girls, but they usually even out by the third grade, officials said.

Also, the program doesn't fit in with the district's equity and excellence goals, officials said.

"This is an early form of tracking," White said. "When you identify and sort them out, you start them on a track they may

never get off."

By eliminating Early 5s, the district has other early intervention programs in place — such as reading recovery — to help children who need it.

Money from the program will be funneled into the kindergarten program, officials said. That allows for additional paraprofessionals, teacher training and smaller class sizes.

Parents will be allowed to keep their children in preschool for an additional year if they choose. Preschool is not an option if a child is held back in kindergarten,

parents said.

Parents attest to program's effectiveness.

Cova has twins, Andy and Billy, 5½, who go to Fairview. Billy didn't want anything to do with reading or writing, Cova said.

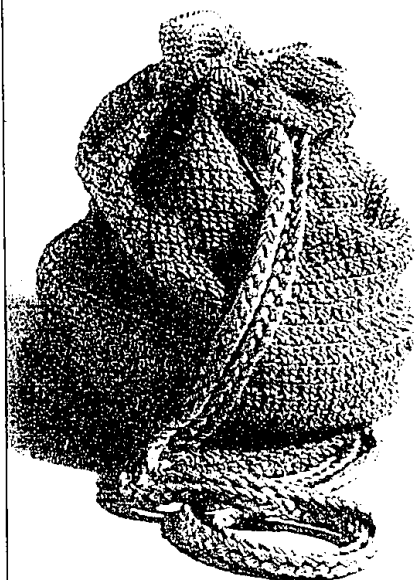
"Now he comes home, and they bring home their own little books to read," she said.

Kathie Boguslawski has had two of her five children in Early 5s. Her son Christopher, 9, is doing well at St. Fabian School. Her other son, Colin, 5½, goes to Fairview.

"It's invaluable," Boguslawski said.

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Safety

from page 1A

Her arguments, and those of others in Farmington Hills, were convincing enough for the Farmington Hills City Council to place a moratorium on new cellular antennas within a half-mile of any school or within a residential area, and to name a special committee (which it is scheduled to do tonight) to study the issue. Rowe has been named to the committee.

She points to a stack of letters, articles and communications from universities, journals and scientists.

"That's about a week's worth of what we get," she says.

Rowe said those in industry who compare the effects of radio frequency radiation from communications antennas to the effects of household appliances "are not

comparing apples to apples."

According to Mike Murphy, a scientist in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air and Radiation Division, "It is not known with certainty whether low intensity microwaves, such as microwaves from base station transmitters, have the potential to cause adverse health effects."

Those transmissions could be a concern for people who live or work near areas with antennas and the gap in knowledge about the technology makes it "too early to determine whether microwave emissions from base station transmitters are associated with increased cancer risks."

Some reports from Russia and

Eastern Europe have reported a wide range of low-level biological effects according to the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC licenses and approves equipment and facilities that generate radio frequency and microwave radiation. But because the FCC's expertise is not in the health and safety area, it relies on the EPA, which has not come up with a federal standard for exposure to radio frequency radiation and has deferred any guideline study because of budget restraints.

Communities from Massachusetts to California, including San Francisco, have restricted or banned the antennas until there are clearer, more reliable guidelines.

There have been several scientific and academic articles questioning the safety of the technology written in recent years.

Amid the controversy, Rowe said the frightening specter that the communication companies will be able to convince the FCC to override local control of antennas is very real.

To that end, the city of Farmington Hills has written a letter to the FCC protesting such a move. A similar plan to preempt local control is expected at the state level as well.

Rowe said as a teacher of applied technology, as a researcher with a background in engineering, energy systems and business, she would simply ask that those favoring the technology show scientifically that it is safe.

Registration starts for Y's camp programs

Registration has started for the Farmington Area YMCA summer camp programs for children and youth.

YMCA offers five summer day camp programs: Pal camp (3- and 4-year-olds), Five Alive (children entering kindergarten in the fall), Summer Fun (children entering first-fifth grades in the fall), Summer Express (youth entering sixth-eighth grades in the fall), and Specialty Camps (children and youth entering third-eighth grades in the fall).

"We provide a supervised alternative for kids to spend their summer days participating in a variety of experiences with other kids their age. We also ensure the programs we've designed are de-

'We also ensure the programs we've designed are developmentally appropriate.'

Sue Brooks
Farmington YMCA associate executive director

velopmentally appropriate," said Sue Brooks, Farmington YMCA associate executive director for program services.

Specialty day camp programs have proven to be very popular at the Y, officials said. They allow youth (grades three through eight) the chance to explore their special interests, such as golf, drama, ecology, in-line hockey, journalism, computers and art.

The day camp programs begin June 12. Weekly fees range from \$45-\$110 for Y members and \$60-\$165 for non-members.

For more than 80 years, the Y's resident camps — Camp Ohyesa and Camp Nisakone — have offered youth (ages 6-17) the opportunity to travel away from home and experience adventures they may not normally get, such as wilderness backpacking, equestrian

programs, arts, music, water sports and much more.

"Camping is a great way for kids to beat summertime boredom," said Rick DuRoi, acting executive director of the camping services branch of the YMCA. "Every kid gets the chance to have fun, learn new skills, make new friends and establish some very positive values."

Weekly resident camp programs run from June 17 to Aug. 25, and prices range from \$245-\$366 a week. For more information about summer camp programs, contact the Farmington Area YMCA, 553-4020 or Ohyesa/Camp Nisakone, 887-4533.

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