



About Indians: Wayne Jackson speaks against stereotypes of Native Americans at Tuesday's multi-cultural/multi-racial forum in Farmington.



Talking it over: Wayne Jackson (left) chats with Farmington Hills Fire Lt. Tom Shurtleff. At right are Al Qualman of Northville and Ronaele Bouman of Livonia, both members of local diversity groups.

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both said hasn't been relayed with accuracy. Brant James told how she read an article in a Detroit daily newspaper. The story referred to the Farmington Historical Society and how the area was settled in the 1850s. She fired off a letter complaining. "It's one of our concerns, and it should be one of your concerns," Brant James said. "The history... Europeans didn't found this land. We've been here for thousands of years. Let's recognize that." Native North Americans (Indian nations do not recognize borders) led the way in discovering what now is aspirin. Their farming methods developed 60 percent of food grown today. And, the U.S. Constitution includes Indian prescribed elements of liberty, democracy, and caucus. Much information on hundreds of Indian nations is just coming to light, Brant James said. Several nations were depleted or wiped out due to starvation and diseases brought by European settlers, Thomas said. Four-fifths of the Indian population was lost between 1492 when Christopher Columbus landed to 1890. By then, those who were left were sent to reservations. Children had to go to boarding schools where they were stripped of their culture and language, which there are 2,000 dialects known. None of those carried the words for good bye, Jackson said. Both said they don't mind displaying Native North American culture in museum exhibits. They take exception, though, when they include items that dehumanize Indians. More Indian skulls are found in the Smithsonian than there are Indians living today, Jackson said. Brant James and Jackson recite Indian history with bitterness and humor. Brant James suggested Indians themselves are partly responsible for their own downfall. "It was our mistake to have a bad immigration policy," she said drawing laughter from the audience.

Memorial Day parade planned

The Farmington Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, in downtown Farmington. As usual, the parade will travel northwest along Grand River Avenue from about Mooney to the war memorials near the Masonic Temple. This year's parade will be dedicated to the Farmington area's World War II veterans. They'll march — or more likely ride — in the parade, according to Wally Christensen, parade official. Some 250 area WWII vets have been rounded up for the parade, but Christensen is looking for more. Other veterans are needed to help with parade duties. Christensen is also looking for antique autos and convertibles to carry the WWII vets on parade day. Any volunteers? Call Christensen at 474-8554.

Road from page 1A

ing commission at its April 13 meeting. The developer did so, and although the planning commission had problems with the project being located in a much less dense area than the proposal called for, he decided to go forward and will bring it before the planning commission at its May 18 meeting.

Many hurdles ahead There are some hurdles to overcome beyond opposition by other residents. For one thing, the area is quite hilly, and water and sewer connections needed for such a project are not close, said Farmington Hills Director of Public Services Tom Biasell. "We had recommended that he wait until we could get a report together on this, but he declined," Biasell said. "He wanted to go forward with it and make a presentation at the May meeting. So we'll work as fast as we can to get something ready." The project would also have to be looked at in terms of how it would affect drainage in the area, Biasell said. Kernicky said Oakland Community College had originally wanted to build its activities center near Power Road but declined after engineering studies showed too high a water table. As to the utility problem, Kernicky said a church which had an option on the property a few years ago found that utilities would be too expensive to install. "We (Power Road homeowners) will be 100 percent in attendance at the May 18 meeting," said Kernicky.

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Sy Kernicky president

Where Farmington began The 30 families living in homes bordering on this half mile of unpaved road are located on lots ranging up to several acres. The road dead ends on a hill overlooking OCC's Orchard Ridge campus. It is near the spot where Farmington began, according to a historic marker at Power and 11 Mile roads. Town meetings were held in the nearby Philbrick Tavern, which also bears a historic marker, as early as 1827. "We have well over 4 1/2 acres per home. They're going to come in and build 41 two-story homes with basements on 90-by-120-foot lots," Kernicky added. "It's not in the scheme of things. We're all on well water and septic tanks. Our septic fields will be very susceptible." "Increasing the number of homes by 135 percent will create a traffic problem and the road will be destroyed. We figure at least 100 more cars per day. It's a concern of everyone," he said. Trupiano, president of Oakwood Hills LLC, says he has developed properties from Florida to Flat Rock. "I know their concerns are valid," he said. "As long as we meet the criteria that Farmington Hills sets forth, I think we can come to a happy medium. I'm a tree hugger myself. We want to minimize damage." Forced sewer system? Trupiano says he's hoping for a forced main sewer system, which he says would minimize reconstruction on Power Road. The subdivision will be built in an open space design, which he says would leave a large natural park area and preserve a lot more trees. Farmington Hills city planner Ed Gardiner says the planning commission on May 18 will be reviewing the preliminary plat proposal for the so-called Oakwood Hills subdivision. He said the smaller size lots proposed for the development could be a potential conflict the planning commission will review, along with utility placement. "The next step will be to grant or deny the plan," he said. "If it's approved, the next step would be to get all approvals from state agencies involved, such as the Department of Natural Resources." The final step would be approved before the Farmington Hills City Council. "If city council gives the OK, the builder could submit final engineering plans and ground could be broken. I couldn't guess the time frame involved," Gardiner said.

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