

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Seats Go Unwanted

Where Are City Council Candidates?

The election for Farmington City Council may be a mere formality if more people don't take out — and return — petitions for office.

The problem has City Clerk Mrs. Elizabeth Brines worried. The last city election was in April 1969. Under new state laws, cities were allowed to move the election to the fall. The election in Farmington will be held on Nov. 2. Deadline to register is about 30 days before that date.

Allen said he had enjoyed his two terms very much.

"I feel it is important to take a position that Farmington as a little city is valuable, and that we maintain a budget we can afford and an environment we can raise our kids in," he said.

Allen praised his fellow councilmen, noting "we get along although we have different viewpoints. Each respects the other."

Allen said he felt the city was "keeping the price of living down, and the quality of city services up."

THOSE seeking to run must sign out petitions from Mrs. Brines and get "not less than 50 and not more than 75 signatures."

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today's hot line

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what's inside

Top Teams

South Farmington and Garden City Little League teams are in the semifinals of this weekend's state tournament in Bay City. South Farmington is the defending state champ. Here are the past results and the prospects.

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Good Guys

Farmington Township residents held a special dinner to honor 12 township policemen. For who was honored, and why, see our story on

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Not Jobless

Are Farmington's students able to find full-time jobs if they want them after a high school education? Martha Mahan has unraveled some statistics and has the story on

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Your Refund

Residents of two subdivisions will be getting refunds for overpayments in a special assessment district. See if you are affected by reading our story on the township audit report.

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A BEAUTIFUL IDEA...

Women and want ads go together. The ladies love the money they can make with Observer Want Ads. That's why we want to remind them to save the Observer carrier collection receipt, their husbands get when they pay the new 60¢ a month on the Carrier Subscription Plan. The receipt is also a coupon worth 60¢ toward an Observer Want Ad. Beautiful idea? We think so.

Volunteer Teens Find There's Plenty To Do

About 30 high school and college age young people from Farmington are spending this summer as volunteers at Eagle Elementary School, helping with special education children.

Fred Parker, director of a pre school special education program there, landed the volunteers as "another hand and arm" to the two teachers who handle the 37 youngsters for four days every week. "The volunteers put in 20 hours per week," Parker said, "helping youngsters who may need special attention in carrying out a teacher's assignment."

The volunteers supervise game time, help with finger painting, telling time, coordination activities and a host of other chores. There are deaf children too, who need special attention as they learn to play and get along with other children.

The volunteers help make school during the summer fun for these youngsters — and they do it with a smile, Parker said.

Some volunteers, like Kathy Simonson, are training to be teachers themselves. Kathy wants to teach deaf children after graduation from college.

Last year she worked in the summer special education program on salary; this summer, since finances are slim, she works for nothing. "I just want to be with the kids," she said.

A tour of activities on a regular summer school day might take you to the playground at Eagle where some simple but deceptive games are going on. The volunteers, perhaps Wendy Sharp and Peggy Fournier, will be playing a kick ball game with the children that is really designed to determine domination in coordination — whether the child uses his right or left hand or foot.

"This," according to Mrs. Florence Sharp, "is becoming more and more important in educational circles. It may make a difference in how a child learns to read and comprehend."

MRS. SHARP, along with Mrs. Joan Harris, also of Farmington, place great emphasis on games that involve all the senses. Lip reading, gestures, sounds all are incorporated into the day's activities.

In another classroom at

Eagle, two speech therapists, Marcella McKewon and Georgine Johnson, help children overcome speech handicaps in the speech and language program. Their special volunteer helper is 17-year-old Denise Skafica of Farmington.

Denise became interested in the special education summer program through her little brother who is involved in the sessions himself. The children Denise aids put on a production of "Winnie the Pooh" for their parents Aug. 5.

Even the Boy Scouts of Troop 48 get into the act as supervisors of the gym program at Eagle during the summer. The pre school gym program was designed by Mike Sharp, son of Mrs. Florence Sharp, a 16th grader, and is run solely by the Boy Scouts.

The emphasis is, again, on coordination games for the children. The summer special education program runs for four days a week during five weeks this summer. Most preschoolers will attend kindergarten in Farmington Public Schools this fall.



ALMOST NOON — Kan Ogosh's paper clock is almost real. Volunteer Lynn Bassacawen shows him how to tell time. (Evert photo)



FIRST TO FILE for what may be an unwanted job is council incumbent John Allen. He, like other would-be candidates, must file with city clerk Mrs. Elizabeth Brines (right). (Observer photo by Evert)

Supervisor Outlines Road Repair Program

Either special assessment districts or a township-wide millage program are the only two solutions to the problem of deteriorating roads in Farmington Township, according to Supervisor Earl Teeples. Teeples, in response to numerous inquiries about the conditions of some roads in the township, has compiled a survey of local needs and costs.

He released the information this week. "I hope people will gain a greater understanding of the road problem and can take the necessary action to get roads improved without delay," Teeples said. He outlined the background of the situation in his report:

IN JUNE of 1970, the Oakland County Road Commission (counties take care of roads for Michigan townships) reported that the asphalt roads installed in the early 1950s were deteriorating.

County engineers predict that about five per cent of these roads will go out each year. In a letter to township officials, they suggested that citizens embark on a replacement program using special assessment procedures.

Costs were estimated between \$300 and \$600 a lot. Some of these costs have risen as high as \$1,500 a lot, due mainly to labor costs increases in the road construction industry, Teeples said.

The township contains about 167 miles of local roads; 139 miles of these are in subdivisions. About 50 miles of the roads in subs are now paved.

If all of the deteriorated areas were to be repaired, the cost would approach \$300,000.

TEEPLES NOTED that the current budget for all forms of maintenance (including weed cutting, signs, grading, and salting) is \$149,000, for the entire 167 miles.

"There's simply not enough money for all of the desired improvements," Teeples said.

"Under Michigan law, there is only one answer," Teeples said. "About 2 1/2 miles of roads are estimated to be about to break up this year. This will continue until temporary repairs are no longer feasible."

The supervisor noted that Kendallwood and Westbrook areas had reached this point.

"Property owners are urged to work through their civic associations to establish special assessment districts to finance the repairs," he said. Costs can be paid over a 10-year period.

THE OTHER alternative is the millage program, as used in Commerce and Bloomfield Township.

"Those seeking new roads are urged to consider action early to allow sufficient time for processing the petitions, the hearings, and for scheduling the work in 1972," Teeples said.

Westbrook sub is apparently already considering such action, and a meeting was held Friday in the Oakland County court house in Pontiac to review proposed improvements there.

Here's a road repair priority list, as released by Teeples: Needs are reflected in a list, prepared by the road commission in 1970.

Woodbrook Sub, 1.97 miles, \$29,645.

Drake Farms, .29 miles, \$1,370.

Westbrooke Manor, 5.66 miles, \$73,145.

Greencastle Sub, 1.43 miles, \$15,211.

Kendallwood I, 4.08 miles, \$40,305.

Total, \$162,276.

Lower priority areas include Kendallwood 4, Stone Creek Sub, Briar Hill, Glenbrook, Lincolnshire Estates, Forest Hills, and such mile roads as Inkster, Folsom, Howard and Lytle.

Observer Article Aids Girl

Farmington residents have responded to requests for help, published in the Farmington Observer and Enterprise, for a young girl who needed a daily ride to a clinic.

Mrs. E. Reed Harnack said that nearly 20 persons will help get Miss Barbara Kudla from Farmington, who suffers from cerebral palsy, to a clinic each day.

"It has restored my faith in people," Mrs. Harnack said. She noted that between pleas in area churches and in this newspaper, more than enough volunteers were finally found. Among those volunteering is a 60-year-old retired school teacher, Mrs. Harnack said. Originally it was hoped that someone could drive her at least three times a week. But now enough Farmington residents have come forward that Miss Kudla will receive treatment every day.