the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Vol. 83 No. 30 40 Pages 4 Sections

Sneak Preview

The new Farmington Public Library on 12 Mile is nearing completion and community leaders were given a sneak preview this past week. The preview is reported inside along with details on a $1,500 donation to the library.

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New Citizens Council

Farmington Township Board has established a citizens committee to investigate the need for sidewalks along main thoroughfares in the township and what practical problems might prevent immediate installation.

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Just For Kids

The Farmington Community Center is sponsoring a special bus trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts to provide entertainment for the younger set.

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Hawks, Raiders Win

Harrison and North Farmington win on the basketball courts and Farmington places third on the mats. For complete details, read today's sport section.

Pages 3-4B

Bars Vs. Business

Taverns and politicians are eagerly accepting the interest of Michigan's new adults, the 18-20-year-olds, but money lenders and other businessmen are cooler. Kathy Moran surveyed the Observerland scene and reports.

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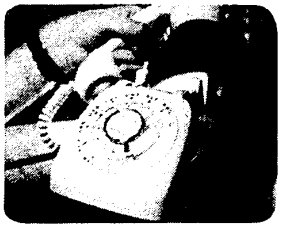

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2 Fired, Attorney Resigns Over Village Zoning Action

DAVID GOLDMAN

By EMORY DANIELS

The village attorney has resigned and two administrators were fired over the weekend in the midst of a controversial rezoning decision by the Wood Creek Farms Village Council.

David Goldman, village attorney for the past five years, submitted his resignation Jan. 17 because the council ignored his advice to hold a public hearing before voting to rezone Outlot D to office. A replacement for Goldman has yet to be made.

On Saturday, Village President William Smolek fired village administrators Richard Krandle and Dan Abbott because they had been critical of the council's rezoning decision.

Smolek fired Abbott after reading an article in the Jan. 22 edition of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer which included critical remarks made by Abbott.

On Wednesday (today), petitions were filed in court by village residents asking the court to order the council to act in a lawful manner.

KRANDLE was fired as parks and recreation commissioner and Abbott as building supervisor. Both positions are appointed by the president and confirmed by the village council.

Ironically, Abbott was confirmed as building supervisor at the May 11 meeting when councilmen voted 3-1 to deny rezoning of Outlot D near 13 Mile and Northwestern Highway.

Smolek stated Monday that the council had never denied the rezoning and that the May 11 meeting was actually a meeting of the village's zoning board of appeals. (In Wood Creek, the council and zoning board consist of the same persons).

The denial was improper, Smolek maintains, because the zoning board lacks authority to vote on rezoning requests. It appears, also, that the zoning board lacks authority to confirm appointments of administrators.

Smolek said depositions were being taken from the village clerk and Goldman which he hoped to present at the Jan. 31 annual dinner meeting of the Civic Association's in Botsford Inn.

OUTLOT D is owned by Mrs. June Inman of Inman Associates, Wood Creek Farms, and the firm wants to build a two-story office building which it would occupy along with a Detroit law firm.

The village planning commission had given a verbal recommendation to approve the rezoning last year and the rezoning was also recommended by the village planning consultants, Vilican-Leman of Southfield, who are also consultants for Farmington Township.

The council (zoning board) on May 11, 1971 voted 3-1 to deny the rezoning after holding a public hearing on May 3 at which a majority of the about 90 residents present expressed opposition to the office use.

On Jan. 11, 1972, the council voted 3-2 to approve the rezoning after being served notice on Jan. 10 that the village was being taken to court by the developers.

A second public hearing was not held prior to the Jan. 11 council vote, in spite of legal advice given by Goldman that a second hearing should be held.

GOLDMAN TOLD this newspaper Monday that he resigned because the council ignored his advice that a second hearing should be held.

"I gave the council my advice that a public hearing was required before they could vote on this rezoning. Although I don't question a councilman's right to vote his conscience, when my advice is completely ignored, I don't see any point in continuing to act as attorney for the village."

Goldman, 56, lives on Millbrook Rd. in the village and is a member of the Detroit law firm of Levin, Levin, Garvett and Dill.

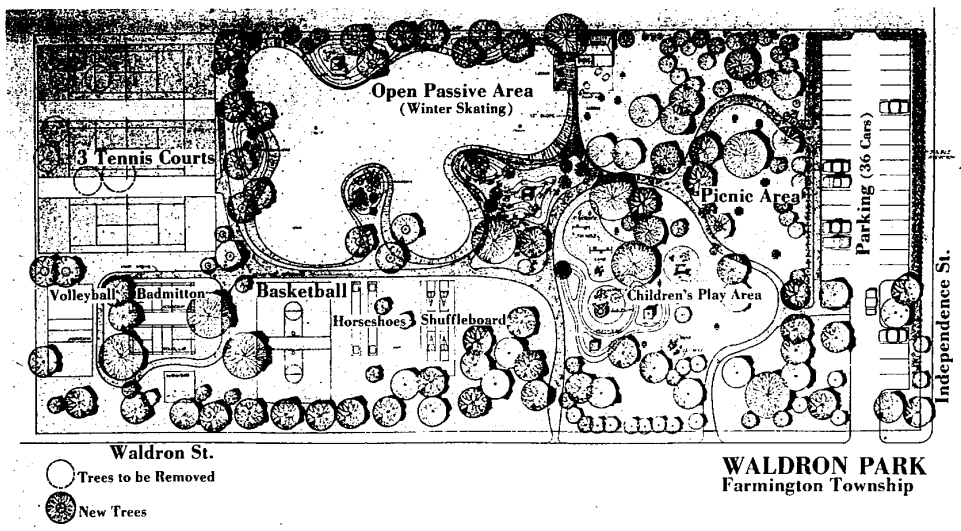
WHEN ABBOTT was contacted Monday, he commented:

"It's just one of those things.

"I'm concerned for the village for the moment. You might expect that kind of reaction from a politician if you hit his sore spot."

Abbott was especially concerned over the resignation of Goldman. "I cannot explain why the council took the action it did against the attorney's advice.

Continued on Page 5A



WALDRON PARK
Farmington Township

Township Park Plans Revealed; Public Hearing Set For Feb. 2

An open meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 2, to explain preliminary plans for Farmington Township's first community park to be located at Waldron and Independence streets.

The meeting, to be conducted by the township's parks and recreation citizens advisory committee, will begin at 8 p.m. in Edgewood Elementary School on St. Francis St.

A GRANT of $102,000 has been approved by the State Department of Natural Resources to acquire and develop a five-acre site.

The grant is part of the $100 million recreation bond issue approved by Michigan voters in November 1968.

A tentative site plan for Waldron Park has been drawn by Kent Smith of the Oakland County Planning Commission. Betty Frankel, committee member, has done preliminary landscaping design for the park.

The committee envisions facilities for picnicking, tennis, basketball, ice skating, volleyball, badminton, horse shoes and shuffleboard as well as a children's play area.

After presentation of the park plan, there will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions and discuss the plans with Smith, Supervisor Earl Teeples and park committee members.

ACTIVE members of the 15-person committee include Robert Beauchamp, Herb Moehlman, Stella Strye, Dorothy Cox, Virginia Jenkins and Mrs. Frankel.

The project must first receive approval of the township board which would fund $25,000 for an initial project cost of $127,000.

Beauchamp says the stone building now on the property will be torn down because the inside has deteriorated and is inadequate for any recreational use. An early suggestion to use the building for a drop-in center has been discarded because the structure us unusable.

Committee members feel the park will upgrade the surrounding area, bring the community together and instill pride. Moehlman says the committee would like residents near the park to be appointed to a board of directors to supervise maintenance.

The neighbors on the board could then arrange for neigaborhood scout troops to perform some maintenance and contract with an individual to mow lawns. Flower beds could be planted and maintained by one of the Farmington garden clubs, such as the Botsford Garden Club.

THE PRELIMINARY site plan shows a parking lot for 36 cars along Independence with a picnic area and children's play area immediately adjacent.

The center area contains an "open passive area" which could be used for skating in the winter. Below the passive area along Waldron are a basketball court and horseshoe and shuffleboard facilities. The far end of the park would contain a volleyball court, two badminton courts and three tennis courts.

The plans exclude any ball diamonds because there are diamonds nearby at William Grace Elementary and St. Alexander Catholic Church, Moehlman says.

Moehlman, stressing the need for recreation facilities, points out that Farmington Township spends only 25 cents per year per person on recreation compared to $7 spent by Northville.

The site is completely fenced now and contains a number of beautiful trees which will be saved. Of the many trees on the site, only six scrub trees will be removed.

When the committee applied for state funds last year, it was told that the southeast township area was the only area in the township which could qualify for funding. The area has a high - density population with a majority of its residents under 24 years of age.

PURPOSE of Wednesday's meeting is to hear out the wishes of the people, Beauchamp explains, before the board makes a decision on the project.

The committee is hopeful to start work in the spring so the park will be available for use this summer.

Beauchamp points out that the township must begin now to acquire parklands because open areas are fast being developed and open space for recreation will soon be unavailable.

He points out that the township now owns only one site, five acres near Glen Oaks Golf Course, for recreation.

Moehlman said one means of acquiring parklands is for residents to deed open space to the township with a life - interest clause which allows the owner to use the land while he is living.