

the Farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, February 2, 1972

15¢ a Copy

Villagers Given Zoning Facts But Issues Still Contested

Vol. 83 No. 32 44 Pages 4 Sections

BULLETIN

Roger Wardle, attorney representing developers planning an office on Outlot D in Wood Creek Farms, informed the village council Tuesday night that he is discontinuing the lawsuit filed against the village.

The papers asking for dismissal were filed this morning (Wednesday) in circuit court and a copy was delivered Tuesday night to William Smolek, village president.

Wardle said that after Monday night's hearing, he became convinced the major concern of residents was that the lawsuit was challenging the village's entire zoning ordinance as unconstitutional. Wardle added he is convinced the council acted properly in rezoning Outlot D on Jan. 11 and is withdrawing the lawsuit because there is nothing to contest. That action will apparently prevent residents opposing the rezoning to intervene as party defendant in the suit.

By EMORY DANIELS
The sleeping village of Wood Creek Farms has awakened from a long nap and members of the family are now seating themselves at separate tables. The division, caused by differences of opinion over rezoning of Outlot D from residential to office, may close up in time but dissension prevailed at the annual meeting Monday night of the Wood Creek Farms Civic Association.

Outlot D is located on Northwestern near 13 Mile between Valley and Wellington Rds. An indication of how widespread the controversy has become is that a year ago only 20 residents attended the annual association meeting while Monday night's session was attended by about 100 residents.

The tradition that the association meeting is attended by men only was broken with about six ladies attending and voting in the election of association directors.

CONCERN was expressed at the onset of the meeting by Chuck Owen, president of the association which has been organized since 1943.

"Our community may be headed towards polarization. It would be a pity to have the community separate on this matter," commented Owen when announcing the purpose of the meeting was to allow both factions to have their say and attempt to arrive at the facts in the controversy.

William Smolek, village council president, said he felt the sleepy village of Wood Creek had been awakened primarily because of petitions being circulated throughout the village containing false information.

"That petition probably contains enough crap to fertilize all the outlots in the entire village," remarked Smolek.

The petition mentioned, signed by 254 villagers, was characterized by many speakers as containing false claims and unscrupulous criticisms against the council.

A second petition, read Monday night, is now being circulated urging intervention by residents in the pending lawsuits on the Outlot D

rezoning matter. The lawsuit, to be conducted by Richard Krandle, would ask the court to overturn the council's rezoning decision of May 11.

MONDAY'S meeting cleared up some facts but still left many issues unsettled as different interpretations were aired by Smolek and David Goldman, village attorney until resigning Jan. 17.

Roger Wardle, attorney seeking the rezoning along with Paul Inman of Wood Creek, made available to the meeting copies of the May 11, 1971, minutes which showed that:

1. At 8 p.m. on May 11, the village council convened and conducted council business until adjourning at 9:25 p.m.
2. At 9:35 p.m., the meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals was convened and the second item of business was 3-1 vote to deny rezoning of Outlot D.

The ZBA and council consists of the same persons. Goldman was present at both sessions as village attorney as was Smolek. Smolek did not vote at this time on Outlot D because the president only votes to break a tie.

3. After the meeting, Goldman sent a letter dated May 18 to Wardle informing him that the village council had voted to deny the rezoning request.

DURING intervening months, Wardle met with the council on various occasions and the council continued to discuss the rezoning request.

Wardle's law firm finally decided to begin a lawsuit to ask the court to overturn the denial vote. When the lawsuit was initiated, Wardle said Monday, he was given copies of the minutes of the May 11 meeting and discovered the vote was taken by the ZBA.

Up until this point, Wardle said, he was under the impression that the council had denied the zoning request.

Smolek said he was unaware that the May 11 vote was improper for seven months and realized it between the time the council met as the zoning board in December and on Jan. 11. In December, the zoning board voted to approve the rezoning

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CITIZEN AWARDS — Winners of the youth citizenship awards sponsored by the Farmington Soroptimists are (from left): first runner-up, Charles Cook of Robinwood, Farmington; second runner-up, Theodore Smith of Mooney, Farmington; and winner James R. Abowd of 12 Mile, Farmington. (Evert photo)

Abowd Wins Youth Citizenship Award

James Abowd of Harrison High School has been selected winner of the 1972 youth citizenship award given annually by the Farmington Soroptimists.

Abowd will receive the \$150 award from the Farmington club on Thursday, Feb. 24, and then compete for the regional award of \$1,000.

FIRST runner-up in the competition locally was Charles Cook of Farmington High School who will receive \$100. He plans to become a medical doctor.

Second runner-up was Theodore Smith of Farmington High School who will receive a \$50 award. He has

applied for nomination to both the Naval Academy and Air Force Academy.

Youth Citizenship Awards are considered awards of merit rather than as scholarships. Abowd's views on his role as a citizen are: "Every day of my life opens the door to limitless opportunities to serve mankind throughout the world. Service to my community, and all of mankind, I look forward to as each day's challenge."

THIS YEAR'S judges were: Mrs. Shirley Berger, journalist and friend of the Farmington Soroptimists; Vernon Lunn, vice president of public relations, Alexander

Hamilton Insurance Co., Farmington; and Bernard Rielly, assistant professor and director of the reading center at Oakland Community College.

The honors award dinner will be held Thursday, Feb. 24, at 6:45 p.m. in Building J of Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College.

Speaker will be Berry Brown, secretary of the Department of Labor, State of Michigan.

Tickets are \$4.75 per person and may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Vivian Heathcock of 4177 Grand River, Novi.

A Good Buy

A Variety and Swim Show is being sponsored by Harrison High School to raise funds to purchase band equipment. Cost for tickets may seem cheap after you read the lineups for both shows reported inside.

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Oklahoma Coming

Farmington High School is planning to stage "Oklahoma" this spring on April 28, 29, 30. Mark your calendar now and look inside for a preview of the cast selected.

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Raiders Awakening

The Raiders are starting to come of age and the Falcons rolled over Waterford while Harrison fell out of the Western Six race. For complete details, see today's sport section.

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At OCC

If you've a yen to get out of the house one night a week, you could take the opportunity to bone up on Michigan history. OCC is offering a special course in Farmington.

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Home Needed FOR Student

A home in the Farmington area is needed for a youth attending a Farmington high school afflicted with muscular cirrhosis.

The student is doing well in school and is active in student affairs but may be forced to drop out if a home cannot be located.

Any resident interested in housing the student should contact Leslie G. Zalewski, social worker for Farmington Schools, at the district's special education office on Middle Belt Rd. Room and board can be paid and an electric wheel chair and special bed will be furnished. The student needs the privacy of a home and a single-level residence is preferable.



VOLLEYBALL BENEFIT — Teachers of Middlebelt Elementary of Farmington Schools are working out for the Middlebelt PTA Volleyball Game on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in East Junior High School. The game is being staged as a benefit for the school with tickets sold at \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. This will be the school's only fund-raising event this year. Spiking at net is Jerry Ross (left) and Henry Rahn; in background, Joe Oliver (left) and Dick Ruter. (Evert photo)

Isabel Haynes Honored By GOP Ladies

A memorial bookshelf in the new Farmington Library on 12 Mile, Farmington Township, has been purchased in honor of Mrs. Isabel Haynes, outgoing president of the Oakland County Council of Republican Women's Club.

Mrs. John Thoms, newly elected president, presented Mrs. Haynes a check made out to the Farmington Public Library to initiate dedication of a shelf to be known as the Dwight D. Eisenhower shelf.

The check was presented at the Jan. 27 meeting of the council in the Bloomfield Township Public Library. It was given to honor Mrs. Haynes for her continuing and accumulative benefits to the public.

Mrs. Haynes is contributing her personal volumes on the life of Eisenhower to the collection and future gifts and donations will be added to the shelf.

Mrs. Mary Allison, library board secretary, asks that gifts for this collection be



MRS. ISABEL HAYNES

specifically marked for the "Eisenhower shelf."

Mrs. Haynes passed the check on to Mrs. Allison and then began making plans for a mid-February vacation to Hawaii and the South Sea islands.