

the farmington enterprise & observer

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what's inside

A Key Vote

An Observerland legislator provided one of the key votes when the House gave approval, on second try, to the transportation-transit package. Rep. Raymond Baker tells why he did it.

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Probing Prejudice

The program to foster minority understanding is being implemented in Farmington Schools with an adult education course on the nature of prejudice. The program is being partially subsidized by the teachers union.

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Brown On Tour

Barry Brown, director of the Michigan Department of Labor, was in Farmington last week and will return March 9. A report inside is given on his remarks before the Farmington Soroptimists and about his upcoming talk to the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Doers Learn


An often repeated educational philosophy is that students learn best by doing. Among the learning doers are elementary students in Farmington learning economics first-hand and David Abowd who is competing for top salesman position with Junior Achievement.

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Township Enacts Sign Law To Clear Cluttered Scenes

By Feb. 25, 1974, there should be a drastic improvement in the landscape in Farmington Township because that is the deadline for removal of a barrage of free-standing signs throughout the community.

That deadline was set when the Farmington Township board approved a sign ordinance Monday night establishing a two-year period for violators to remove illegal signs.

Owners of illegally placed signs have six months, or until Aug. 28, to make an appeal based on hardship.

If an appeal is filed before Aug. 28, an amortization schedule can be worked out; otherwise, the sign must be removed two years from now.

In other business, the board asked Oakland County to create an assessment district to pave Drake Road; appointed two more members to the sidewalk committee; re-

enacted the Detroit Edison franchise; and denied a rezoning request for a recreation vehicle sales outlet.

THE SIGN ordinance permits only one free-standing sign per premise and stipulates they cannot be located in the front yards.

Owners must obtain permits for all permitted free-standing signs and all real estate signs. The ordinance limits

the sizes of signs, such as provisions that signs shall be limited in height to the height of the building.

Any non-conforming sign still erected two years from now will be declared illegal and ordered removed unless an appeal is filed within six months. If an appeal is filed, a judgment will be made on the useful life of the sign and additional time given.

Discussion was held Monday night on desirability of

requiring an annual license for signs, renewable each year.

Motion to adopt the sign ordinance was made by Mrs. Margaret Schaeffer, supported by Earl Oppenheimer, and passed 5-0 with Tom Nolan and Fred Lichtman absent.

Another motion made by David Stader, supported by Mrs. Schaeffer, and passed 5-0 established the fee schedule at \$1 per square foot with a minimum of \$10 with performance bonds of \$100 for up to 64 square feet for residential signs and \$250 for light industrial signs.

Clerk Floyd Cairns appointed Fairfield, a Canterbury Commons resident and employed in public relations for Ford Motor Co. Fairfield has lived in the township since 1965, is vice president of the Future Farmington Association, was a charter commission candidate in the 1969 consolidation election, and lives at 2940 Fox Grove Ct.

Stader nominated Mrs. Stader, of 26615 Westmeath, who has a BA degree in political science from Oakland University. She is a Republican precinct captain for Precinct 12 and a candidate in the May 16 election for precinct delegate.

APPOINTED TO the citizens sidewalk committee were Fred Fairfield and Mrs. Shirley Stader.

TRUSTEES ALSO voted to

Continued on Page 4A



STEVEN YOUNG (left) explains to Dr. John Porter (center), state superintendent of public instruction, and Dr. Roderick J. Smith, superintendent of Farmington schools, the operation of

one of the special devices used to assist deaf students in Wood Creek Elementary School. Porter visited Farmington on Feb. 25. (Evert photo)



NEW FIRE STATION — Ronald Holko, public safety director for Farmington Township, accepts the deed for land donated for a fire station in the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park from William W. Bowman (right), executive vice president of Thompson-Brown Co., Farmington.

Earth Alive Speeds Recycling With Glass Crusher Machine



JOHN CUMMINGS of Union Lake feeds the hopper on his glass crusher. Cummings invented and built the crusher with his 15-year-old son from scrap steel and sheet metal. It is powered by one of two engines, a 1/3 horsepower electric or a 2 1/2 horsepower gasoline engine.

The invention of a new glass crusher has helped to handle the recycling process of the steadily increasing volume of glass collected by Earth Alive, a Farmington environmentalist action group which concentrates on recycling programs.

The crusher, built by John Cummings of Union Lake and his 15-year-old son from scrap steel and sheet metal, can take a basket of bottles at one time and can process about two tons of glass in an hour.

Apartment residents, Scout troops and high school ecology groups have been bringing bottles for recycling and Earth Alive now averages nearly four tons a week at the Orchard Ridge campus at Oakland Community College.

IN ADDITION to the glass crusher, Earth Alive has a paper-mobile which accepts newspapers and clean household aluminum such as TV dinner trays, cake or pie tins and other ready-to-eat food containers.

This aluminum is added to the lunch trays from three Farmington elementary buildings: Forest, Kenbrook and William Grace.

Since January, the group has been averaging about 50 pounds every two weeks, including pans donated by Northland Stouffers and aluminum brought by families with their newspapers to the Paper-Mobile located at Dem-

ery's Shopping Center, 12 Mile and Farmington Rds.

THE AMOUNT of paper has averaged between six and seven tons each collection. Earth Alive will use the funds received for environmental improvement.

Besides the glass, paper and aluminum recycling, Earth Alive is encouraging homeowners to use grass clippings and leaves as mulch rather than putting them out with their garbage.

The group is suggesting that gardeners fortunate enough to live near open fields begin co-operative compost areas where families with large lots could trade their huge volume of plant refuse and a little labor for rich soil the following year.

DAVID JONES, director of public works of the City of Farmington, has said that the yardage of solid waste collected in the city has decreased nearly 25 per cent since the recycling program began.

The primary function of Earth Alive is to increase public participation in recycling and to arouse environmental concern.

They aim to enlighten voters and consumers to recognize that it is essential to accept new social and economic concepts regarding the amount and direction of growth and as a primary goal to maintain ecological balance.

Township Owns Fire Hall Land

Farmington Township now owns the land for its first permanent fire station.

The station, being built in the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park, will replace the fire barn now located on the Star Cutter property on Grand River.

THE PARCEL, 156 by 346 feet, will be used to house a 4,100-square-foot building plus provide for parking.

The township board has already voted to accept the land as a gift on the condition that the township have clear title to the land.

The township board has also voted to authorize the department of public safety to begin site preparation for the proposed station and granted up to \$15,000 to begin making plans for the eventual \$125,000 station.

Holko says the site on Industrial Drive will provide an ideal area for training by the fire department. He adds that it might be possible to have a completed facility by next spring.

The industrial park, developed by Thompson-Brown in 1966, now contains about 40 industrial and commercial firms employing nearly 1,000 persons.