

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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what's inside

Teachers Learn

Workshops have been sponsored by Farmington Schools which have helped teachers learn new tricks in teaching math and teachers and parents better understand how youngsters learn to talk.

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Den Observations

Daniels Den has two observations about last Monday's Farmington Township board meeting - it lasted too long and trustees tend to be plutocratic in their thinking. The Den has a few more observations too but you'll have to turn inside to find out.

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Twice For You

Farmington Community Calendar printed twice-a-week continues to be one of the best ways of letting you know what's going on in Farmington. Check the calendar inside and stop to read Wood Creek Farms and Local News.

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Original Musical

Can an original musical succeed in the suburbs? Schoolcraft College's "Little Man with Star" has a lot going for it, and only one thing, time, against it.

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Adventists

A denomination that quietly provides a great deal of service could use just a little assistance. See how you might help - or be helped - in today's Church Section.

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This week FOCUS: Suburbia salutes the mighty little wonder, the WANT AD. Don't miss it... and don't forget to ask your Observer Carrier for your receipt when he collects this month. It's worth its face value toward - you guessed it - a mighty little wonder: an OBSERVER WANT AD!

522-0900

County Study Lists Priorities For Township Road Millage

Oakland County has released this week a priority paving study for primary and mile roads in Farmington Township.

The report, requested by the township board, indicates the major unpaved roads in the township would be improved with a two mill (\$2 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) levy for seven to 10 years.

The paving of all "mile or major collector type" unpaved roads in the township could be accomplished with two mills within seven years depending upon the increases of tax base and construction costs.

THE COUNTY road commission said the roads listed in the priority study are on the "local road system" and could not be improved until the township or some other source came up with 50 per cent of the cost.

"Several townships in the county have initiated long range programs and financing to accomplish this type of work," comments Paul Van Roekel, county highway engineer, "and we suggest Farmington Township give serious consideration to including this road improvement along with your capital improvement programs."

The county established four priority groups to indicate where the need for paving is greatest and to guide trustees in deciding which roads would be paved first if voters were asked to approve a road improvement millage.

TRUSTEE David L. Stader has been prodding the township board to come up with an overall paving plan for primary roads and go to the voters to seek millage approval.

The rest of the board are uncommitted about placing a road millage proposal on the ballot but

did agree to asking the county to come up with a priority list.

The list was released April 10 by the county and received the next day by Supervisor Earl Teeple. The board now must decide how much millage is needed, how many years it should be spread, and whether such millage should even be requested.

Trustees have been near unanimous, however, in agreeing any road millage sought should be for improvement of major roads only and should not include residential streets.

LISTED in the first priority group by the county are: 14 Mile from Middle Belt to Inkster; 11 Mile from Farmington to Powers; Drake from 11 Mile to 12 Mile; Gill from Eight to Nine Mile; and Tuck from Eight Mile to Folsom.

In the second priority group are: Nine Mile from Drake toward Gill; Halstead from Eight Mile to north of Nine Mile; and Folsom (bituminous overlay only) from east of Farmington Rd. to Tuck.

The third priority group includes: Drake from 12 to 14 Mile Rds.; 13 Mile from Haggerty to Halstead; 11 Mile from Halstead to Drake; Nine Mile from Haggerty to Halstead; Tuck from Grand River to Shiawassee; and Lytle (bituminous overlay only) from Drake to Gill.

The fourth priority would be paving of Howard Rd. from Drake to Haggerty Rds., a project which would require the estimated income which could be raised by two mills.

WITH THE present township's tax base, two

mills would raise about \$400,000 income per year for road improvements.

If the county's priority list were followed, and voters approved a two mill levy, the first priority group could be completed in the first two years.

In the third year, the second priority group could be paved. In the fourth year, Drake could be paved from 12 to 14 Mile Rds., and the next year 13 Mile could be paved from Haggerty to Halstead and 11 Mile paved from Halstead to Drake.

During the sixth year of the levy, Nine Mile could be paved from Haggerty to Halstead, Tuck from Grand River to Shiawassee and Lytle improved from Drake to Gill.

IF THE BOARD were to decide the millage would also be used for residential street improvements, \$120,000 a year could be available for subdivision streets if a 10-year levy were approved and the major roads completed in seven years.

If a 15-year levy were approved and major roads paved within seven years, about \$210,000 would be available each year for local street improvements.

If the township incorporates, state gas and weight tax rebates revenues could be applied towards major road improvements freeing more funds for local street paving.

Stader believes homeowners are not automatically opposed to higher taxes but are primarily concerned with how government is spending money and what services residents receive for their taxes.

Stader feels a road millage proposal which spells out which roads would be improved, and in what order, would stand a good chance of passing.

Fire Hydrants Safer In City

By CRAIG GAFFIELD
Fire hydrants in the City of Farmington are wearing new threads these days.

The city is fitting all hydrants with a larger diameter coupling that will allow firemen a maximum flow of water through hoses. And even though a dog passing by its favorite respite won't notice the difference, some hydrants are already capable of more than twice the former output.

In the past, fire-fighters had to carry an assortment of different sized nozzles to be

sure of a correct fit for the hydrant nearest to the fire.

According to Robert Deadman, acting city manager, it sometimes meant a trip back to the truck for the right size hose coupling.

After all the hydrants have been changed, the fire department will keep the other smaller couplings as part of the truck equipment so they will be able to hook up to water supplies in other cities if they are needed for help.

"It's a real problem," Deadman said, "when each city has different sized fittings on their hydrants." It would

slow down the firefighters to have to worry about taking the right equipment to the scene to be sure they can match their hoses to the water supply, he explained.

IT WAS Deadman who came up with the original request for a standard fitting.

He asked Director of Public Services David L. Jones to try to come up with a method of making the changeover.

Jones' problem was devising a prototype adapter that would change the four-inch threads inside the

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HYDRANTS REVAMPED — The City of Farmington has renovated all its fire hydrants so each requires the same nozzle connection when fire-fighters hook - up for water. The standardization was accomplished by John Overfield (right), foreman of the water and sewer division, with assistance from David L. Jones (left), director of the Department of Public Services. The supplier who assists in the conversion is Norm Spanenburgh of East Gordon Iron Works, Inc. (Gaffield photo)

Drake Residents Are Suing City

Residents living on Drake Road are filing a lawsuit to prevent the City of Farmington from assessing them for the costs of paving Drake Road.

Legal papers asking a show cause hearing were filed Thursday in Oakland County Circuit Court by John O'Gurek, attorney for seven residents with property fronting or siding on Drake Rd.

If the judge orders a hearing, the city will be asked to show cause why the court should not issue an injunction stopping plans to pave Drake from proceeding.

The seven plaintiffs are: Albert Holm of 35253 Oakland; Robert Hilley of 23835 Drake; Frank Hart of 23965 Drake; Hebert Mussen of 35250 Oakland; John Gottis of 35252 Drake Heights Dr.; Christopher DiCicco of 35253 Drake Heights Dr.; and Mrs.

Elizabeth Brennan of 23955 Drake.

O'GUREK notes in his filings that on more than one occasion the residents on Drake Rd. have told the city council they are unanimously opposed to the paving of Drake and the manner and proportion of the special assessment to be levied.

The special assessment roll was established by council on March 20 to raise \$47,000 towards the cost of paving Drake. Payments on assessments are due in 10 equal installments at an interest rate below 8.5 per cent.

The residents want the court to stop the city from paving Drake because they feel the special assessment greatly exceeds the benefits they will derive.

In arguing that the assessment was arbitrarily and capriciously established by the council, O'Gurek notes the city included paving of Drake in its 1971 major road program and said it would be paved without special assessment against abutting homeowners.

But that proposal fell through when the state refused to classify Drake a major road, disqualifying it for improvements financed by state gas and weight tax rebates.

REASONS given why it is unfair to assess only the Drake homeowners, O'Gurek states, include the facts that: councilmen justified paving Drake by stating that "people are entitled to get in and out of the city park without having to travel a bumpy, country road."

The township board declined to join the city in completing the paving of

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PRESIDENT'S BALL — The Jerry Ross Orchestra, considered one of the best in the Detroit area, will provide the music for the first annual President's Ball sponsored April 29 by the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce. The six - person group, which includes some Farmington residents, features a female lead singer. The ball will begin with cocktails at 7 p.m., dinner at 8 p.m. and dancing afterwards. Tickets at \$13 each can be reserved by calling the chamber.