

# Neighbors Are Digging Themselves Dry Streets

By JAN WILLIAMS team in Farmington has spir- The "Operation Shovel" it, and apparently that's



NORM MATHEWS, Parker St. resident, directs shovel operations during the ditch digging.

what it takes to win the ball game.

"It's good to see people working together and accomplishing so much," said Mrs. Thomas Seabolt, project coordinator. "We stated before, if we work together as a team we can do it. And I think we've proved it."

The project officially got under way last weekend, when digging began on the first block of Parker Street, between Colfax and Folsom.

The project was initiated last February when township residents decided to repair their roads in the south end. They are annually plagued by muddy conditions due to lack of culverts and ditches in draining water from roads.

It was decided by residents that roads in the area bounded by Grand River, Eight Mile and the Farmington city limits would require new ditches and culverts.

Total cost for each resident was \$53.94, which included \$49.94 for each culvert, plus a \$2 tax and \$2 permit fee.

It was up to the residents of each block to decide whether they want to do the digging themselves or hire someone else.

The 22 residents on Parker Street paid \$12 each for a ditch digger.

Dave Krause, whose wife is a Parker Street resident, ran the ditch digger while other residents helped.

"It was really a beautiful sight to see men, women and children out there working together," Mrs. Seabolt said.

The team worked continuously last Saturday and Sunday, and will work through this week as time allows. They plan to work through next weekend.

"We have the ditch digger rented for only one week, from last Friday to this Friday. But because of the Easter weekend, Hertz is letting us keep the digger through the weekend for free."

Mrs. Seabolt says most Parker Street residents will combine their usual Easter feast this year with ditch digging.

"I'm sure we'll be finished with Parker by next Monday," she estimates the street is now more than half finished. A good portion of the west side at the corner of Parker and Folsom will be taken care of by the county, according to Mrs. Seabolt, because the owner of the property is unknown.

The west side also has presented a problem because

the gas main is located there. The gas company has reported that it's only 24 inches deep in some places and Mrs. Seabolt says the digging will have to be done by hand.

"The women are doing most of that while the men handle the machines. Every 30 feet we check for the main."

Problems also have arisen on other streets concerning the surveying. Apparently there is some difficulty in determining which way the water flows from low points in the streets.

However, Mrs. Seabolt says Township Supervisor Robert McConnell is taking care of all the difficulties.

"He's the first politician I've ever met that isn't just all talk and no action. He's really doing a magnificent job."

The next streets scheduled for work programs, either this weekend or the next, are Hugo and Whitlock. Following will be Sunnyside, Colfax, Robinson, Cermis, Pow- ers, Mayfield, Lundy, Ruth, Dunkirk and Ambeth.

The 80 culverts ordered were delivered to Wright Sand and Gravel Co. on Robinson. Every street must pick up its own. Approximately 37 were picked up last weekend.



MRS. DAVE KRAUSE (left) and Mrs. Thomas Seabolt "dig in" as work progresses in the ditch digging project on Parker St. (Ever photo)

## Mini-Program Starts At 'Y'

FARMINGTON A six-week mini-program of 47 offerings will be sponsored by the Farmington YMCA starting the week of April 30.

Classes will include tot gym-swim, women's trimnastics, Hatha and meditation yoga, continuing adult square dancing, women's swimming instruction, parent-tot swim, beginning and continuing judo, girls' ballet, beginning and continuing fencing, and all levels of gymnastic instruction.

Several new offerings also will be given, according to Gary L. Unruh, executive director.

Beginning indoor tennis lessons will be offered, using the Cloverdale School facilities. A Wednesday program, beginning May 2, will schedule grade schoolers from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and junior high students from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. is open registration for all ages. Cued adults may enroll for a 7:30-8:30 p.m. class or an 8:30 p.m.-9:30 class.

A new spring program will be golf instruction with professional Bob Esler. Classes will be on Mondays, starting April 30, at Top-of-the-Tree Golf Range. Instruction will be offered for 8-12 year olds from 4 to 5 p.m. and for those 12 and older from 5 to 6 p.m. The 7-8:15 time slot is reserved for women.

Another new program is a certified driver education class for teens aged 15½ and over. There will be 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. The student will receive a certificate from Lansing upon successful completion of the course. Classes are limited in size and details may be secured by calling the YMCA.

## 2 Students Are Honored

FARMINGTON John E. O'Connell and Bettie A. Perry, both of Farmington, were among University of Michigan - Dearborn students cited for academic achievement at an all-university honors convocation in Ann Arbor.

Both were recognized for achieving a 3.5 or better grade point average from a possible four points in one calendar year.

O'Connell's home is at 21258 Larkspur. Miss Perry lives at 22354 Treadwell.

## Spring Fling Is Scheduled

FARMINGTON The second annual "Spring Fling," sponsored by the Farmington Falcon Booster Club, is scheduled May 5 in the Lady of Sorrows Hall, Powers and Shawasssee.

The evening will feature a gourmet dinner, dancing and beer.

The Falcons is a service organization from Farmington High School which handles sports awards presentations, crowd control and ticket taking at athletic events.

## 2 Arrested In Breakin

FARMINGTON James E. Smith, 15717 Pinehurst, and Gerald Thomas Cholea, 18900 Greyfield, both of Detroit, were arraigned recently on charges of breaking and entering before Judge Michael Hand.

They were charged with breaking and entering of a Farmington Township residence. They were arrested by Farmington Township police April 10.

Both stood mute at the arraignment. Judge Hand set bond at \$1,000 for both.

## Exhibitors Are Wanted

FARMINGTON The Wooddale Elementary PTA is looking for exhibitors of handcrafted and original art work for the 1973 arts and crafts show May 20, from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Those interested should contact Mrs. Merry Derrick, 35118 Gary, Farmington.

## David Thomas Named PBK

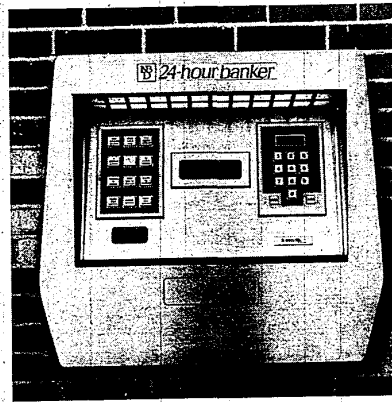
FARMINGTON David G. Thomas, Albion College senior from Farmington, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, national scholastic honor society.

A candidate must be in the top 10 per cent of his class and have at least a 3.4 overall grade point average in a liberal arts course.

Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Thomas, 20227 Bonnet Hill, is psychology major.

He also is a member of Albion College Fellows and Phi Eta Sigma. Albion College Fellows, the highest academic society at the college for honors students who have attained a 3.7 or better average for three consecutive semesters.

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