

# Perrin Leaves; FEA Election Support Hit

Kenneth Perrin, former chairman of the Farmington Board of Education, challenged the Farmington Education Association's backing of board candidates in elections during his final remarks at Tuesday's board meeting.

Perrin lost his bid for re-election on June 11 to Emma Makinen and Gary Lichtman, both of whom had received FEA endorsements. The Tuesday meeting was the last for the old board.

Perrin also criticized an alleged unwillingness to compromise among certain board members whom he didn't name. His remarks were made at the conclusion of the meeting which he adjourned before giving board members an opportunity to respond.

Trustee William Corliss attempted to refute "the allegation that I am a liar," but Perrin wouldn't recognize him. Corliss asked for time at the next meeting to answer the allegation. He did not elaborate on the allegation.

Perrin noted in his remarks that four of seven members on the new board were endorsed by the FEA, and "owe their elections in various degrees to the support of the FEA."

Dr. Mervyn Ross and Corliss were endorsed by the FEA last year's election. He can only hope that the community will wake up to this situation and recognize how unhealthy it is," Perrin said.

Perrin criticized some board members for being unwilling to compromise. "I have been dismayed by the unwillingness of a few members of the board to accept one of the basic tenets of the democratic process—the acceptance of the decision of the majority."

"All too frequently when there have been differences of opinion this past year, the majority of the members of the board have been willing and ready to accept compromise positions."

"However no matter how grandly the other three members have talked publicly of compromise, whenever we were in a position to take action they seldom moved from their own positions."

Although Perrin didn't name the three trustees he referred to, it was assumed he meant Vagnozzi, Corliss, and Dr. Ross who frequently vote the same way.

"It was almost as if they wished to keep the pot boiling and create issues and controversy rather than get down to the brass tacks of board concerns."

He urged the board to adopt a code of ethics adding that "even a formal acceptance of this code of ethics is only as good as the acceptance of the provisions of individual board members."

Citing an example, he said that Vagnozzi had informed the board "that he had held private conversations with the executive director of the FEA about a grievance which had reached the board level."

"Who can tell what harm resulted in this specific case?" he asked, saying the alleged action wasn't authorized by the board.

"I don't know what he is talking about," Vagnozzi said later. "I have talked with all groups to get various views in order to make my decisions. Mr. Perrin would have benefited if he had done the same."

"I'm sorry Mr. Perrin has taken his defeat with so much bitterness," Vagnozzi said.

Perrin also said, "I do not want to congratulate Mr. Vagnozzi on the extraordinary award he received from the FEA on his retirement."

Vagnozzi said the award is a plaque which commends him for his work on the board.

Despite his criticisms, Perrin noted "the community can be proud" of the school system.

"It is a fine system — one which is equal to, and in many areas far surpasses, any other school system in Oakland County."

He also thanked the residents who supported him.



FRANCES GRAINER got tired of collecting autographs on his cast and tried this American Flag approach instead. (Photo by Fran Evert)

# Deed Restrictions Tested In Suit

A law suit now before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Farrell Roberts is destined to test the strength of lot size deed restrictions on Farmington residential property.

The question Judge Roberts will have to rule on is which has top priority, the zoning requirement or the deed restrictions. Lots in the Ridgewood - Ridgewood Manor subdivision are protected from being divided by a deed restriction. Yet, many of them could be divided and still meet the zoning requirements.

Builder Larry Ferguson constructed a house on one such lot in the Ridgewood Manor sub on the corner of Philsbury and Farmington Rd.

He has enough land left over to divide the lot and build a second house. Each lot would meet the zoning requirements.

But, the deed restrictions stipulate that there may be only one single family residence on each lot in the subdivision, no matter what the size of the original.

Ferguson submitted plans for a second house to the homeowners board for approval and applied for a building permit from the township.

Ridgewood association president, Al Gorczynski, says the township was ready to ignore the subdivision building restrictions and the fact that the blueprints were not signed by the approving group and issue Ferguson a permit.

"They were going to issue it—it was just a matter of time," Gorczynski commented.

It was at this point that four neighbors filed suit. They are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bennett and Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Allen. An injunction was issued to stop Ferguson from building and the township from issuing the permit.

The Ridgewood - Ridgewood Manor property owners Assn. is paying the bill for the legal action which is being handled by Attorney James B. Zellen. Bennett is also an attorney.

Bennett blames the township for some of the problem: "They very surreptitiously passed an ordinance allowing lots to be split in the hopes of becoming a city like Southfield."

Judge Roberts has called for briefs, and the brief by the plaintiffs has already been submitted.

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### Summer Fun

The Farmington Youth Assistance summer program is beginning soon. For a complete schedule of activities, turn to:

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### Zoning Stalled

A zoning decision where the wishes of the planning commission were tangled by the law is the subject of a column in today's Enterprise and Observer.

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### Spree 23 Church

Two Ford Field church services for Livonia's Spree 23 coming up are the first major project for new officers of the Livonia Ministerial Association. Get the details in our Church Section.

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### Doubtful Still

It's still uncertain what will happen to the Women's Continuum Program at Schoolcraft college but a demonstration this week let the board of trustees at the college know how women of the community feel about it. The story is in Observing Life.

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### More Music

There may be more music in Observeland this fall. A group of interested citizens feel there's a need for a new orchestra in the north-west area. They'll welcome your help, whether you're a musician or not.

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## FOCUS: Suburbia

Salad days



Like salad? And other good hot weather menus? Then enjoy FOCUS: Suburbia today.

# Proposed Sign Law Delayed For Study

Signs will be shorter and smaller in the City of Farmington if the sign ordinance now under consideration by the city council is approved.

The council was on the verge of adopting the new ordinance Monday when it was tabled at a meeting with Chamber of Commerce representatives could be arranged.

Attorney Peter Prokop asked the review to discuss the new sign law with the chamber.

The city sign ordinance has been under review by the planning commission for nearly a year.

The review was prompted mainly by problems in enforcing the old one, along with a series of requests from several local businessmen for variances.

A string of these requests prompted an informal moratorium on sign decisions until the new ordinances could be written.

The proposed ordinance liberalizes some of the sign requirements, such as the number of signs allowed of any one structure.

It is more restrictive than the present ordinance in other areas, like limiting the number of free-standing signs in a shopping development to one per development. The old ordinance permitted one per building.

No ground sign may be higher than the building which it advertises under the proposal.

Wall signs are limited to 10 per cent of the area of the front face of the building, or three square feet for each foot of frontage.

Projecting signs are reduced from 60 square feet on a side to 30 square feet.

The height limitation is reduced from 10 feet above the roof line to the height of the building.

The ordinance also re-



CLEANUP WINNERS of the Keep Farmington Community Beautiful awards were 10 Mile Elementary, Westbrook, and Grace. Representing the schools are (from left) Jan Nolan, Mary Lou Schilfman, of Westbrook, Dave Perry, of Grace, and Craig Haive, of 10 Mile. (Evert photo)

# Woman Is Injured In Trailer Fire

A Farmington Township woman was injured Tuesday afternoon when her trailer home was destroyed by fire. Mrs. Francis DiRezze, 60, of 20741 Tuck, suffered injuries from smoke inhalation when her trailer caught fire at 1:57 p.m. She was taken to

# School Cleanup Efforts Honored

The Farmington Township Beautification Committee has presented its first honorary awards for Keep Farmington Community Beautiful.

First place was awarded to 10 Mile Elementary, second place to Westbrook, and third to Grace.

Honorable mentions were given to Eagle, Kenbrook, Flanders, Larkshire, Longere, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Wooddale.

Among programs set up by the schools were outdoor education, school ground clean-up, litter law enforcement, and bake sales to raise money to buy trees.