

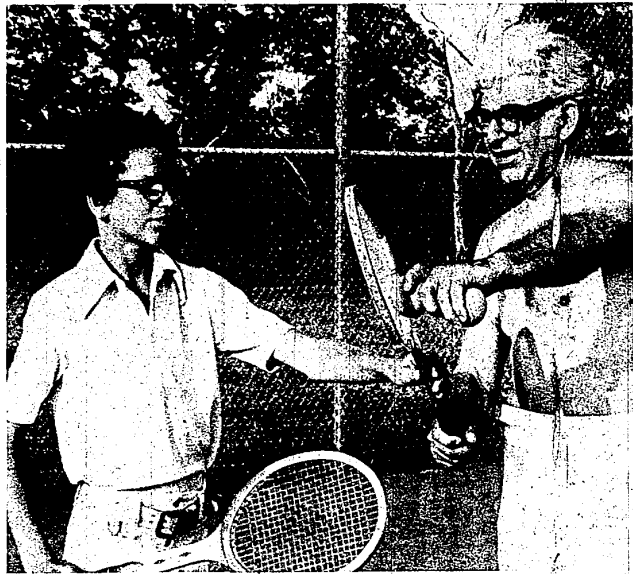
Tennis Time Getting Tougher To Find...



"WAITING FOR court time at one of the public courts are Arlene Gante and Maxine Weinberg. The pair are sisters-in-law and use tennis as an opportunity to meet.



"IS THIS THE WAY to hold a racquet?" asks Farmington Hills tennis enthusiast Sue Ennatt.



FATHER AND SON -- Stewart Bikson (left) loves tennis so much he plays up to five hours a day. Here he shows his father Alan Bikson the best way to serve. The elder Bikson

gave up golf for tennis; son Stewart took lessons from the Community Center last summer and now plays in tournament competition.

....Especially In Farmington

By DOUG JOHNSON

FARMINGTON It's tough to find a place to play tennis in Farmington, particularly in the evening hours. And it's going to get tougher.

The game itself is frustrating enough without the added problems of finding an open court.

Tennis looks deceptively simple when seen on television from the comfort of the family room.

But get on the court and try and keep the ball inside the white lines and above the white tape on the net.

Then the difficulty of the

game invented in the 16th century by the aristocracy becomes more apparent. In spite of the difficulties involved in learning to be good, the tennis boom is here.

There are courts in Farmington -- public, semi-private and private. Use of the courts is at an all time high, according to all reports.

Those seeking public courts are most often drawn to those owned and operated by the City of Farmington. There are two courts each at Cloverdale School, Ten Mile School, the city park and Flanders School.

Two more have just been completed at the Drake Park.

None of the city courts has lights nor do the courts at the three high schools.

Farmington, North Farmington and Harrison High Schools have four courts each. North and Harrison are in good shape and those at Farmington are being resurfaced.

Keeping the nets in repair is a problem at all the public courts.

"Deliberate damage is our biggest problem," says City Manager Robert Deadman.

The best time to use the public courts is early in the day.

The summer tennis program run by the schools did not materialize this year because of reduced enrollments. However, Farmington Community Center classes are running strong with lessons for all ages.

Those serious tennis players who can afford it may enroll in the semi-private tennis clubs in the area.

Haggerty Road To Be Repaired

The stretch of Haggerty Road between Nine and Ten Mile Roads will be resurfaced this fall.

This improvement, with an estimated cost of \$159,585.30, was approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners as part of a road improvement program that will cost \$1,547,936.

Southdowns on Freeway Park Dr. has indoor, air conditioned courts, clinics and lessons. Annual dues and an hourly rate are charged to members and there are openings.

Hours run from 6 a.m. to "very late," and ladies get a rate break.

A second tennis club -- The Farmington Racquet Club -- is under construction in the city on Farmington Rd. and should be completed this fall.

Ten indoor courts and eight outdoor courts are planned. Memberships are being taken at the site.

There are other places to play in the area. If you belong to the Beach View Swim Club, two courts are available there. And two more are being built.

Some people travel north to another club. The Court House located at Maple and Farmington Roads. Or they go east to the Franklin Racquet Club on Franklin Rd. in Southfield.

For private tennis, the most likely place is Franklin Hills Country Club located on Inkster Rd. The club features courts and professional instructors.

Other tennis action varies in the Farmington area. The YMCA uses the Ten Mile School to teach tennis. The city also runs a tennis program in the spring.

The high schools teach tennis in physical education classes but do not field varsity tennis teams.

Some Farmington tennis enthusiasts are very lucky and have their own courts in their backyards.

Photos By Fran Evert



THAYER FUNERAL HOME (NEW CHAPEL)

Grand River at Liberty Street - Farmington - GR 4-4131

Pony Is Victim In Odd Collision

FARMINGTON

The most unusual traffic accident of the year occurred Sunday night on Farmington Road, and the casualty was a runaway pony.

Shortly before 11 p.m. Allen Tawse, of Detroit, ran into the animal when it suddenly reared in front of his car between Eight and Nine Mile Roads.

The animal suffered such severe injuries that the Farmington police were forced to destroy it.

"We haven't been able to find the owner of the pony," the police stated. "Inasmuch as we have no horses in the city, it must have been a runaway. We have no idea where its home stable was located."

The driver escaped uninjured.

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