

New Swimming Pools Are Teaching Spots

Swimming pools for Farmington's senior high schools came a little closer to reality last week when the Board of Education approved final plans.

These plans proved to be pace setters in new swimming pool concepts, leading to greater versatility in teaching.

Pool at the two existing high schools are scheduled to open about Jan. 1, 1969.

Farmington has adopted a two-pool concept rather than the traditional pattern of one pool-shallow at one end with a diving board at the other—or an L or T shape.

"This multiple pool idea permits at least four teaching stations with a four-foot diving board at each end," says John K. Cotton, Physical Education Director. "We're not going along with the sacred cow of depth either."

"Most pools have a three-and-a-half-foot shallow end. We're going to have two shallow ends, each three feet deep. There is a definite educational value behind this idea because the community swimming program for youngsters can begin six inches younger (42 inches tall)," Cotton explained.

The larger of the two pools is 75 feet long and 42 feet wide. Each end is a shallow three feet to permit instruction of beginning swimming in two areas. The beginners' sections can be roped off with buoys if necessary.

The center side areas of the large pool are four feet six inches deep, dropping to a depth of five feet, which should adequately serve adult recreational needs. Intermediate and advanced swimming instruction will be in this area.

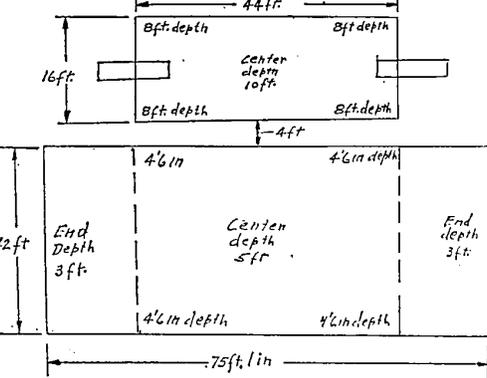
The large pool is competitive in size and the appropriate length for swimming meets.

Cotton says that he has checked with top authorities in the area who have worked with a three foot depth and he anticipates no problems for swimmers making flip turns, a factor over which some Board members had expressed concern.

One such example, Cotton says, is Corey VanFleet who is coach for Birmingham schools produced five state champions in five years in pools with three foot shallow depths.

The diving tank has a one-meter board at each end with an eight foot end depth, tapering off to 10 feet in the center. It is 44 feet long and 18 feet wide.

"Recreationally the diving tank can be used for adult swimming with the board and all," Cotton says. Another advantage he lists is the multiple use possibility of having a swim meet in the larger pool and



THIS IS a sketch of the swimming pools which will be built in the three Farmington Senior High Schools. The plans were approved by the Board of Education last week. Approved by the voters last June, two of the pools—at Farmington High and North Farmington—are expected to open about Jan. 1, 1969.

Study Group Seeks 'Citizen' Direction

What are the objectives and goals of the future Farmington Study Committee? This is the biggest question being asked by the bi-partisan citizen's group involved in the study of the future development and growth of the area.

If you have any questions the committee would be happy to hear them.

Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the group, told The Observer that any suggestions and wishes on the part of the general public are currently being sought. If you have a suggestion, contact the Farmington Board of

City Starts The Wheels Turning for Facilities

The Farmington City Council took steps Monday night to set the legal process in motion for providing water and sewer facilities to the residents of the Woodcroft and Valley Hill Subdivisions.

Farmington Township contends that under its agreement with the Oakland County DPW the City must provide facilities provided by the County and charge the residents the same tap-in fees that would be required if the areas were still a portion of Farmington Township. It has estimated a loss to the Township of \$250,000 for the Tarabusi Industrial area debt if it loses the case.

The City has facilities to extend its present system up to Drake Rd. and can do this at less cost to the homeowner than utilizing the county system.

In fact during the annexation campaign the City Council went on record that it would provide water and sewer facilities to the residents of the Woodcroft Subdivision at a total cost of \$1,175. The City estimated that the same facilities would cost the homeowner \$2,934.45 if provided by the township and the County.

The estimate provided by the City Engineers, John E. Hiltz & Associates Monday night as well within the original estimate of servicing 133 lots in Woodcroft and

City Starts The Wheels Turning for Facilities

Valley Hill Subdivisions," according to Dinan.

Dinan estimated that the total cost of the combined water and sewer projects would be \$136,970.50.

Special Assessment Districts in the City are initiated by petitions of 50 percent of voters. These were filed some time ago with the City Council.

The assessment would be paid over a 10-year period with six percent interest due on the unpaid balance.

The March 20 hearing is on the necessity. Another hearing will be scheduled on the assessments when they are set.

Worker Loses Leg in Mishap

Lyle Maloney, 21, of 21109 Gilt Rd., Farmington, is in the Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital following an accident March 1 which required the amputation of his left leg.

Maloney was working for a tree-cutting service in Spencer Field on Pontiac Trail in Wisconsin when he apparently slipped and lost his footing. He fell under the treads of a bulldozer driven by Russell Fawcett of Livonia.

He was rushed to the Hospital where the leg was amputated. On Monday Maloney was still a patient in the hospital. No report on his condition could be obtained.

Wiscom Police Chief D'Arcy Young said that Fawcett possibly saved Maloney from bleeding to death by applying a tourniquet.

City Police Nab Juveniles

Four juveniles were arrested by Farmington City Police over the weekend in connection with three breaking and entering in the city.

City Police Chief F. Dearden reported that three youths were arrested for the B & Es at Ken and Pete's Barber Shop and at the Farmington Junior High School.

Another youth was arrested for a B & E at the 10th Elementary School.

All four have been referred to the juvenile authorities.

City Police Nab Juveniles

The group was originally organized by the Farmington Board of Commerce, the Farmington Jaycees and the Farmington chapter of the League of Women Voters to explore the possibilities of future governmental structure of the community.

It is currently gathering data on population and land use along with governmental services and tax levies. The City, Township, Village of Quakertown, Village of Wood Creek Farms, and the Farmington Schools are all cooperating on supplying the necessary information.

The group is a study committee and has taken no stand on possible consolidation of the area. No stand has been taken on any incorporation or annexation proposals in the community either.

Last week Paul Reid, director of the Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission, spoke at the organization on the necessity of regional planning for the future.

The next session of the committee is set for Thursday, March 23, at the Farmington High School Library. The meetings are open to the public.

City Reports Two B & E's

Two breaking and entering were reported during the past week in the City of Farmington.

According to police records an estimated \$160 was taken from a cash box during the early morning hours of March 5 at Holmes Market.

Officer M. Switzer discovered a broken window while on patrol at 3 a.m. March 2, at Mooney Process Equipment on Eight Mile. A check of the building revealed that a cash box had been taken from the office. The contents of the box were not known.

What's Inside FARMINGTON

- Amusements 67B
- A&P Food 5C
- Business Directory .. 4D
- Church Directory 67C
- Editorial Page 4B
- Kreger Food News .. 8B
- Sports Pages 23B
- Home Improv. 8B
- Want Ads Sec. D
- Women's News Sec. C
- Your Better Food News 5C

Reading Is Topic

"What You Can Do to Help Your Child Read" will be discussed by Miss Ethel Killgrove, reading specialist in the Farmington School District, on Tuesday evening, March 14, 8 p.m., at Longacre School's March PTA General Meeting.

Yoder Says City Is Not 'Obstinate'

Asserting that "I would rather be obstinate than inept," City Councilman Ralph Yoder commented Monday night on the charge leveled at last week's Township Board meeting that the City was "obstinate" in its stand on the reorganization of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

Yoder stated that he "owed an apology to the City that if anyone was actually 'obstinate' it was me who was and not the City."

The charge was made by Township Trustee Earl Oppenheimer who reported last week that Yoder had indicated that he would not accept the Township's proposal for a "one man one vote" stand on the FARC reorganization.

When asked just what the word inept meant Yoder commented that "it has a half dozen meanings and you can take your pick."

Actually Webster's has three definitions for the word. In the order listed, they are: "not suitable to the purpose; unfit; unreasonable; foolish; absurd; and awkward; clumsy; inefficient."

Councilman Howard Thayer told Yoder that he had done "a good job" on the reorganization and (Continued on Page 4A)

Police Nab Livonian In Robbery

A 25-year-old Livonia man was arrested by Farmington Township police last week on the charge of armed robbery.

Police declined to release the name of the person until after examination in the Township Justice Court. This is set for Friday, March 10.

Russ Conway, chief of detectives in the Township, said that the man is being charged with the robbery of a store on Grand River. He added that with the arrest the police had closed three armed-robbery cases dating from last November.

School Board Sets Special Meeting

The Farmington Board of Education met in a special session on Tuesday night.

At the announcement of the meeting speculation arose that the Board would name a new Superintendent of Schools at the session.

Press-time for The Observer is Monday night, however, and this could not be confirmed at that time.

Some weeks ago the Board narrowed the field of candidates for the Superintendency which opens up June 30 when the incumbent Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison retires.

More than 50 applications were received for the post which pays "approximately \$20,000" a year. The entire Board of Education has been involved in the screening process and in-depth interviews were reportedly conducted with the final choices.

Harrison announced his resignation last spring. He has been Superintendent for the past 10 years.

During this time, the school district enrollment has grown from 6,082 to 14,337. This year's operating budget for the schools is \$7,694,696. Total valuation of the District is \$140,414,591.



FARMINGTON RESIDENT Kelly Burke, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Burke, of 22715 Burke, appears as Thomas Mendip, the central male character in the University of Detroit Theatre current production of Christopher Fry's comedy "The Lady's Not for Burning," which will continue on the Friday through Sunday weekends of March 10 to 12 and 17 to 19. Performances are at 8:30 p.m. in the U. of D. Theatre, McNichols Campus Library. For ticket information, call the Theatre, 342-1000, ext. 207.

City Annexation Move Prompts Quakertown

(EDITOR'S NOTE: With all the current talk about annexation, incorporation and consolidation of the community, The Observer had decided to do some research into the 1958 letters in Farmington about annexation and incorporation. This is the second in the series. This week we will examine the proposed final sum of the 'case' in the letters.)

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Farmington's 1958 battles over land achieved some fame because an account of the events were included in a case book entitled "Profile of a Metropolis."

The work was compiled by a then-Farmington resident, Robert J. Mowitz who was a professor at Wayne State University; and Del S. Wright of the State University of Iowa.

Mowitz, who is presently teaching in Pennsylvania, led the Farmington case study. What follows is a summary of his ideas and thoughts about the people involved and the actions.

(The book, incidentally, is in the files of the Farmington District Library if you wish to read the account firsthand.)

According to the author, the City of Farmington was rapidly running out of space for expansion in 1958 and both the City Manager Earl Scheffers and the City Council recognized the need for more commercial and industrial development to help balance the city's residential tax base.

The Township, on the other hand, was starting to plan a check for the inevitable growth of the area which would change the Township from predominately a rural area to a suburban one.

During the spring of 1958 the township hired a planning consultant to prepare a master plan for the area. One of the recommendations was to allocate more than 1,100 acres for industrial use. This was strongly opposed by some of the Township residents.

The City made plans for an annexation attempt, but the secret was no longer kept than the most recent move. Two days before the City filed its petition, residents of the Village of Quakertown filed to incorporate as a village. Two days later the city officials were in Pontiac with a proposal to annex 7.8 miles south and west of the city limits.

Included in the area which the City wished to annex were the Heather Hills and Woodcroft Subdivisions.

The city conducted its campaign through public meetings, open invitations to residents to visit City Hall with any questions and a printed brochure. The brochure said in part:

"The problem you are faced with is not 'if'—rather, 'when' and 'with whom' you will form your new city government. We believe that if city of the other township positions were held by Republicans. Divided as the Board was on many issues, it was united on the annexation attempt."

The township authorized a study to be conducted by two (Continued on Page 4A)

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