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Residents Seek To Have Area Declared 'Disaster' On Roads

Members of the Farmington Township Volunteer Road Committee were rebuffed at every turn as they tried for three days over the weekend to telephone state, federal and local officials for emergency road relief.

Mrs. Catherine Vignoe, secretary for the group, said, "Everybody passed the buck."

New Format In Town

Contrary to rumors, the Farmington subcenter of the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity (OCCOE) at Grand River off Farmington Rd., has not been phased out.

Under this new format, the war on poverty has been stepped up to reach more deeply into rural areas.

While Farmington does not constitute a true rural area, many sections of the township are isolated. This isolation puts the poor in these segments in a worse position than if they were in a city where transportation is available to OCEP centers.

THE FARMINGTON subcenter is now a one-woman office with Mrs. Willow Lippert handling the case load as a community aide.

Mrs. Lippert now spends most of her time out of the office in field cases because it is felt the local location is inaccessible for those without means to reach it.

She works mainly on referrals and now has a caseload of 95 families.

Services available are a full range of services which include counseling on health, employment, financial and social problems.

Referrals to the local subcenter come from churches, county officials or schools.

The biggest problem in servicing clients is providing transportation so that they can be taken to doctors, to OCCOE offices, to welfare agencies and so on.

Various officials the group attempted to contact included, Gov. Romney, Sen. Philip Hart, Rep. Raymond Baker, State Sen. Sander Levin, Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley and state and county highway department chiefs.

Last weekend's weather compounded township road problems.

Object of the committee was to get the section around Westbrook School declared a disaster area. This would make federal funds available for repairs to Robinson St., whose condition has kept the school closed. Although Westbrook is a member of the Clarencville School District, the school is located in the township.

Children who attended Farmington School District's Alameda School had to be walked into the school from Orchard Lake Rd. on Monday.

What residents on the most impassable township streets fear is fire equipment not being able to get through in case of a fire or other emergency help not being able to travel the streets.

Near tragedy was averted Sunday night when a 39-year-old man suffered a heart attack. His family stated that if he had been older he might have died before he could be taken from his home to the hospital.

Toney Saylor, Jr., 20001 Parker, had the heart seizure in a field near his home. Police were called, could not make it to his home on Eight Mile Rd., and spent precious time traveling back to Nine Mile Rd. to gain entrance to Parker.

Saylor was in intensive care on Monday and his condition was listed as "fair."

A 70-year-old resident, Arthur L. Revette of 29567 Stocketon Dr., suffered a heart attack Saturday while shoveling snow. Police were forced to carry Revette 100 yards to a waiting ambulance, but he died in Botsford.

After this latest incident, Mrs. Vignoe sent telegrams on Monday to Romney and Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall. The wires state, "Because of one death due to ambulances getting stuck in the mud and another heart attack victim having to be carried from Parker St. Sunday night, we are not appealing, we are demanding your action to do something about these roads in southern Farmington Township immediately. It is a completely ineffective government that does not heed the cries of its own citizens."

Special Road Plan Eyed By Township

Farmington Township trustees talked road construction with a small group of residents Monday night on what Supervisor Curtis H. Hall conceded was a utopian plan.

The residents would pay the entire cost themselves. Petitioners from Stonewood Ct., north of Northwestern Highway and east of Middle Belt Rd., had asked a public hearing on the question of surfacing their present dirt road, and creating a special assessment district to handle financing.

Hall told the property owners that township consulting engineers estimate cost of providing drainage and asphalt at \$162,300, which comes to more than \$3,500 for each lot on the street.

Although Hall called the cost per homestead "shocking" and "astronomical," the principal reactions of Stonewood homeowners were to ask when they themselves could meet with the engineers and how quickly could the project be accomplished.

Their conference with engineer consultants from Pate, Hirm & Bogue, Inc., hopefully will be arranged for April 1 or 2, and meanwhile the same property owners want machinery put in motion which will give them water mains at a total cost of approximately \$1,100 per homestead.

The entire amount of both undertakings would be paid by personal special assessments.

It wasn't all this easy for the trustees Monday, however.

In response to a telegram from the Farmington Volunteer Road Committee "demanding" improvements in the roads in the south end of the township, Hall made these remarks:

"This problem is recognized by all of us as being very serious, but no one here or at the county or state level has come up with a solution."

"It would take close to \$10 million in this township alone to do an adequate job."

"Our township roads are completely under the county's jurisdiction, and the road commission does the best it can with the funds available. However, whenever there is a road problem the finger is immediately pointed toward local government because we're closest to the people."

In one final matter dealing with roads, the trustees voted to concurred with the county road commission's decision to award the contract for work to be performed this year on Power and 11 Mile Rds. to the D.J. McQuestion Co.

The company submitted the lowest of six bids, \$191,000, for the 1.4-mile blacktopping job.



DESERTED — The intersection of Grand River and Farmington Rd. was deserted Saturday morning as a late season snow storm blanketed the area with up to eight inches of snow.

Long Wait In Vain

Ten persons, representing the executive body of the Farmington Township Volunteer Road Committee were loaded with questions about impassable roads for Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall Thursday night, but he never arrived to answer them.

A meeting was set in Clarencville High School for the primary purpose of meeting with Hall.

FRIDAY MORNING, Hall explained his absence at the Thursday conference by saying that another meeting he had attended earlier in the evening did not break up until nearly 10 p.m.

He said he simply was too tired to drive to the Clarencville school, and added that he had met for nearly two hours with some of the same people that morning.

The group waited an hour and a half Thursday for Hall and then gave up.

Some of the time waiting for the supervisor was spent in discussion with Gene Scholes, administrative assistant to the Clarencville School District superintendent.

WOODBROOK SCHOOL, in the Clarencville district, has been closed because Robinson St., in the township, is impassable.

Scholes will provide the committee with statistics on price of repairs for school buses traveling township roads.

He suggested the committee solicit the help of the Farmington Board of Education in its efforts and pledged the support of the Clarencville School District.

"Sometimes," he said, "schools have to take an interest in things other than educational. We have to help the people have a stronger voice."

Scholes' meeting with the committee has given yet another direction to the committee's labors to get remedial road repairs.

The group now plans to enlist the support of the Farmington School District.

Work will continue on voter registration, contact with state representatives and an all-out drive for signatures on petitions.

GOP Ladies Hear Official Plead Case For Year-Round Schools

A strong plea for the year-round school was made by James F. O'Neill, state Board of Education member, when he addressed the Republican Women's Organization of Farmington Monday afternoon in the Independence Green Clubhouse.

"No business in the state produces all its products in one month as the educational system does," said O'Neill. "We have all the kids on the street at once in the summer."

"Fifty per cent of Detroit's sixth graders are school dropouts. The 50 per cent who make it through school are the real achievers. When they can't get jobs upon graduation, they naturally feel resentment," he went on.

"THE SUMMER of 1968 will be the most crucial summer we'll ever have. We might get through it if we have industry, business and society meeting their moral commitments," added the Board of Education trustee.

When asked where the personnel would come from to staff a summer program, O'Neill pointed out that he felt year-round curriculums would eliminate the teacher shortage.

He said, "The primary reason we can't pay teachers adequately is because we don't use them adequately."

O'Neill said that education is finally getting geared to contemporary needs, but the real problem with society was not only in the schools, but in the home.

HE DISCUSSED at some length a recent resolution passed by the State Board of Education calling on education to stress morality and citizenship.

Passed unanimously, the action asks for stress on the development of self-respect, respect for others and respect for law and citizenship.

"It is particularly important that we do this now if we hope to avert a repeat of last summer's tragedies and overcome the increasing rate of crime and delinquency that is increasing at an ever higher rate in the suburbs than the inner city," said the trustee.

Revette, a retired employee of Bulldog Electric Products, is survived by his wife, Ruby, and a son, Larry of Farmington. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, March 27, in Bay City. Burial was in Kawkawlin, Mich.

A native of Bay City, he had lived in the Detroit area for 33 years. Also surviving are two brothers, Wilbur and Walter of Bay City, and a sister, Mrs. Allie Goldsmith of Detroit.

On the highways, however, no traffic fatalities were reported as the motorists either stayed off the roads or exercised extreme caution while driving.

State Police reported a total of five fatalities throughout the state, about one-fourth the average of a warm weather weekend.

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AFTER THE STORM — Some of the beauty of fresh snow is reflected in this shot of a "snow-tree" in Farmington Township. However, the eight-inch accumulation on Saturday wasn't so pleasant for motorists and home owners as they dug themselves out.

today's hot line observerland

LIVONIA — The Livonia City Council's recent approval of a liquor license for the new \$1.5 million Holiday Inn under construction at 30375 Plymouth Rd. has refocused electors' attention on the liquor-license controversy. Records show that 160 other applicants have been awaiting such licenses in the city — some since 1949. The question, raised in the Observer Newspapers constantly in the past decade, is how and why are recipients of liquor licenses selected in Livonia.

LIVONIA — Contending they've "already debated," Livonia's Mayor Moelke has declined Council President Ventura's challenge to discuss Ventura's "crime" issue in a formal debate. Moelke, opposed in the April 1 election by the councilman, says "facts and figures from the records" show that Ventura's "anti-crime" campaign is designed for "scare" purposes.

REDFORD — All South Redford district school teachers will be offered a new contract for 1968-69 except Steve Manchester, one of three faculty advisors to the Thurston Current Events Club and its foremost faculty spokesman. The school board decided Monday to accept the no-hire recommendation of its high school principal. Specific reasons were not revealed.

REDFORD — The masked credit union bandit struck again Monday night, robbing the St. Hilary Catholic church lending agency of \$1,500 at gunpoint. Last month a bandit wearing a similar Halloween nose and eyeglasses mask robbed Our Lady of Loretto credit union of \$1,181.

PLYMOUTH — The Board of Education was told Monday by Melvin Blum, assistant superintendent in charge of business, that the budget for the 1968-69 school year would be \$996,000 above the current year's. He also announced that the full 20.65 millage rate, voted some time ago, would be used. This is an increase of one mill in taxes.

PLYMOUTH — The Plymouth City Commission approved a new three year contract with the Teamsters Union for the Department of Public Works which calls for a 50 cent an hour increase over the three years.

WESTLAND — A new group has formed to back a resident in the Wayne Community School District in the June 10 Wayne County Community College trustee election. It is hoped that the group, headed by P.D. Graham, former Wayne Community school superintendent, can unite its efforts to elect a candidate from the district.

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