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City OK's New Park Purchase

The City of Farmington moved a step closer to the purchase of the land for a 10-acre public park Monday night when the City Council approved both the purchase price of \$36,000 and the necessary resolution empowering the city to condemn the property.

Location of the new park will be on Drake Rd. adjacent to the Longacre School. It is currently owned by the Oldenburg family.

City Manager John Dinan told the council that the family had agreed to

the purchase price and that he did not expect the city to be forced to condemn the land.

HE PUSHED, HOWEVER, for the adoption of the condemnation resolution "to avoid any future delay if our negotiations run into an impasse."

Dinan told the council that the \$36,000 sales price had been confirmed as market price not only by an appraiser, but by the sale prices of adjacent property on Drake Rd.

The city has obtained authorization

from the federal government for a matching fund program of up to \$40,000 cost. The total cost will include the appraisal price, survey title cost, legal fees and administrative costs.

Dinan said that he believed the total cost would be within the money allocated for the purpose.

The property lies in the newly annexed section of the city.

Cole LaBarge to move a home from 34715 Grand River to a lot on Whiteaker just south of Grand River. Under the city ordinance a public hearing must be held on this proposal and the council set the hearing for 8 p.m. Monday, May 6.

Gave the city manager's office the authorization to take bids May 2 for the construction of a 12 inch water main on Drake Rd. The necessary public hearings for this project have been held.

IN OTHER ACTION the council: Approved a request by Mrs. Adeline

today's hot line

observerland

PLYMOUTH — Due to the lack of orders for freight cars, Evans Products Co. has been forced to lay off 500 men and drastically cut back its operations. In addition, the office staff has been shifted to a smaller building and the new, large office is now available for lease.

PLYMOUTH — The high cost of education was revealed anew Monday night when the board of education opened bids for the new high school No. 2. The three main bids for construction, mechanical and electrical equipment totaled close to the \$8.5 million bond issue that was approved by the voters.

PLYMOUTH — Russell Isbister, one of the most highly respected educators in the state who retired as Plymouth superintendent of schools last June, was paid another honorarium by the board of education decided to name Elementary School No. 9 for him.

WESTLAND — The Wayne Community Board of Education has "vowed a last-ditch" battle to avoid having the smaller Nankin Mills School District absorbed into the Wayne system. In the past, Wayne has expressed willingness to split the district in half if Livonia accepts the portion north of Hines Parkway and Wayne the area south of the parkway.

GARDEN CITY — City officials expressed criticism about the poor turnout of voters at the special April 9 election on six charter amendments. But the mayor and two councilmen indicated that they will accept the voters' decision on the defeated pay raises and longer terms for officials and not schedule another election.

LIVONIA — The City Council said this week it will appoint a citizens' blue-ribbon committee for "protection of the civil rights of minority groups" in the community. Committee of civic leaders in industry, commerce, politics and religion, the committee is the newly-inaugurated council's first move toward breaking the moratorium on several legislative bills pertaining to possible civil disorders during the coming summer months.

LIVONIA — The city is moving onward in its road-improvement plan. Mayor Harvey W. Moelke has notified the City Council that Farmington Rd., between Five Mile and Schoolcraft, and Merriman Rd., between Schoolcraft and Plymouth, will be widened and resurfaced during the summer.

REDFORD — The State Senate Elections Committee held township level hearings here Tuesday, aimed at possible re-codification of election laws. Other hearings are being held on county and city levels elsewhere.

REDFORD — The rubbish transfer station's permanent building in the township will be still under construction by its deadline date of May 3, due to governmental processing delays, unforeseen ground conditions and protests from neighboring citizens.

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OUT OF BREATH?

Tired of peddling miles every night in your own bedroom? Perhaps you've graduated to more mobile forms of exercise - or simply adjusted to your bulging midriff. Put somebody else aboard that exercising machine! For only \$4.44 you can advertise it for sale in a Twin-Ant Ad. Observer Want Ad. Phone GA 20900.

Fleming Paving Sought

The city's street improvement program for the Alta Loma subdivision took a step toward including the entire development Monday night when the council accepted petitions requesting paving on Fleming between Alta Loma and Freedom Rd.

City Manager John Dinan told the council that this included all of the main streets in the subdivision in the improvement program. The only streets not slated for some work are Hamilton and Lane Courts.

A total of 11 of the 12 property owners on Fleming signed the petition, according to Dinan.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE several inch asphalt paving with minor drainage work and no curbs or gutters. The city has quoted a price of \$5 a front foot and Dinan said Monday that this price would be held.

Public hearings on the necessity of paving have been scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday, May 6, in the council chambers for the pending projects on Fleming and Cass.

THE CITY'S ROAD improvement program in Alta Loma caused some city officials when the leadership of the subdivision charged that the city was trying to force the entire subdivision into having work done on the roads.

Representatives of the road committee agreed that there was a problem in the subdivision, but contended that it was the city's responsibility to make the roads better and not set up special assessment districts for construction work.

The city contended, however, that its maintenance costs for the subdivision were running higher than the rest of the city and that the only solution was capital improvement to the roads.



AWARD WINNER—James A. Lanigan (center), principal of the Farmington's Larkshire School, has been named winner of this year's Farmington Outstanding Young Educator Award. Lanigan received the award last week from Joycece President Charles Williams, while Project Chairman Craig Rockefeller watches.

Larkshire Principal Chosen For Young Educator Award

James A. Lanigan, principal of Farmington's Larkshire School, has been named the recipient of the Farmington Joycece Annual Outstanding Young Educator Award.

Presentations of the award were made at a meeting of the Farmington Teachers Association.

Lanigan joined the Farmington School system as a teacher at the Wooddale school in 1958. In 1961 he was named principal of the Longacre School and in 1965 took by his present position at Larkshire.

He is currently serving as one of the three administrative representatives during the bargaining sessions with the Farmington Education Association for the master contract for

teachers for the 1968-1969 school year.

Lanigan currently serves on the district's budget and finance committees and is president of the Farmington Association of Elementary School Principals.

He is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, the father vice president of the Cleveland PTA, and the YMCA Indian Guides program. He also participates in the activities of the Larkshire PTA.

In addition to the above activities, Lanigan is the sole

representative from the elementary schools in the district to the Secondary School Council of Farmington and is a member of the art and music consultant committee.

NOMINATED by William S. Mitchell of 3611 Saxony, the award winner is described as "totally committed with untiring devotion to his profession."

"Probably his most outstanding characteristic," Mitchell continues, "is his concern for the 'total' child. His first concern is for the child's education needs but he is equally concerned with the child's psychological and physical needs."

Mitchell observes that Lanigan "knows every one of his 600 pupils by name. It is a real pleasure to note the genuine affection in both directions between he and his children."

Lanigan was chosen from the field of nominees by a group of professors at the University of Michigan.

Agree To Replace Key Traffic Signal

The City of Farmington will kick in for its share of the cost of repairing the pedestrian signal at the corner of Farmington and Grand River, it was decided Monday night only after the councilmen repeated their contention that a traffic light was needed at the corner of Grand River and Powers Rd.

Cost of the repair work and to replace non-standard signals at the corner is \$500. Of this the state and the city split the cost.

Grand River is still a state highway and under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Department. Oakland County will assume jurisdiction of the road, probably within a year because of the completion of the state highway system.

TWO YEARS AGO the state requested the city's aid in repairing the signal, but the city father refused because of the state's refusal to place a traffic signal at the corner of Powers and Grand River.

The state contended that the traffic cost did not warrant the installation of a signal, while the city maintained that a light was required because of the students from Our Lady of Sorrows crossing Grand River at that point.

Since that time a turning lane has been installed along Grand River, and Police Chief Robert Deadman told the council that the situation "has improved" with the turning lane. The fact that the state will install a traffic signal at the corner of Grove and Grand River, also came under discussion.

City Budget Review Set

The city council has until May 20 to approve City Manager John Dinan's proposed city budget.

Dinan reminded the council of this Monday night and asked for a budget review session to be held on Thursday, April 25.

The councilmen agreed that such a session was necessary and the date was approved.

Five Young Authors Write Shiawassee Best Sellers

Editor's Note: Shiawassee is featuring a series of eight books written by five young authors who participate in Oakland University's Young Authors Conference. The others are Beechview, Eagle, Fairview, Forest, and Longacre and William Grace.

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

The Enterprise & Observer attended an author's conference this week.

The authors were 6 to 11-year-old pupils at Shiawassee School--which gave the conference an off-beat charm no press agent could dream up.

The conference also proved that children and make-believe go together like fairy godmothers and wishes--come-true.

It further proved that children like happy endings. Four of the authors' heroes had horrendous adventures, but were saved in the nick of time in the true tradition of the melodrama.

THE AUTHORS interviewed were: Jimmy Vassallo, 2nd grade; Cindy Kataja, 3rd grade; Kristin Ashby, 4th grade; Robert Bontz, 5th grade; and Kevin Kirttridge, 6th grade.

to a field trip. With wide, solemn brown eyes, he didn't have much to say about his book, "Pussy," which he wrote in two days.

But Jimmy's story is complete with villain—a spider in a dark cave which frightens the Pussy. Of course the story ends happily with a little girl taking Pussy home to a good life.

Jimmy's creation is complete with illustrations, as are all the books.

CINDY, the 3rd grader, was excited to draw her bunny hero with two different kinds of ears because he is known as "Short Ear."

Short Ear's brothers and sisters—Furry, Wuzzy, Tuzzy and Buzzy—are just average rabbits with ears the same length. Unhappy with his lot, Short Ear runs away from home and wanders around until he finds a fairy princess who evens his ears out with magic.

FOURTH GRADER Kristin's hero is also an animal, "Step-by, the Dog Who Could Not Bark."

Kristin loves animals and it is apparent in her tale of a woolly dog that "meows" because he was brought up with cats.

Her plot follows Shippy through conversations with a Russian Wolfhound who says, "Dad!" and to a dog school where Shippy's bad habit is corrected and finally to Shippy happy in bed in a triple bunk arrangement with his best friend.

AS THE OLDEST of the pupils, Kevin, the 6th grader, wrote a hair-raiser Edgar Allan Poe would take pride in.

The plot concerns a doll who talks, adored too much by a little girl. The girl's parents destroy the doll (Kevin's words) and the heroine grieves herself into a sanatorium.

Just when the reader thinks doom is about to befall fair heroine, she wakes up to discover it was all a dream.

Kevin opines he "has written 20 books; all together and maybe 10 paragraphs this year alone."

With his four author-colleagues, he would be an interesting child to have around the house. One of his paragraphs, he says with mischievous in his too-pleasant eyes, "Tells of an ostrich with no neck."

(New York Times book reviewers take note.)



CREATIVE CHILDREN — Because they write such good books, these four children have been selected by their classmates to represent Shiawassee School at the Young Authors' Conference at Oakland University April 22. From left with their manuscripts are Cindy Kataja, 3rd grade; Kevin Kirttridge, 6th grade; Kristin Ashby, 4th grade; and Robert Bontz, 5th grade. (Also selected was Jimmy Vassallo, a 2nd grade pupil, who was on a field trip when the picture was taken.)