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# The Farmington

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today's  
**hot line**  
**observerland**

# City Urges Residents To Drop Barriers To Open Housing

By FRED DELANO  
Farmington got a meek substitute for an open housing resolution Monday night when the City Council "urged all citizens to support fair housing practice" and to abide by the civil rights laws of the State.

The council accomplished this with passage of a resolution supporting the period of May 5 through May 11 as "Fair Housing Week," and without turning to the trouble-

some issue of an actual ordinance.

The proclamation is one which had been urged by Governor Romney, and while it took the council off dead center in its approach to open housing it failed to take as aggressive a stand as the resolution sought by the newly created New Farmington Committee.

THE MEAT of the resolution adopted unanimously was

in the paragraph: "Be it resolved that all citizens of Farmington be advised that the City Council supports fair housing practice and urges its citizens and business people to abide by the civil rights laws in the State of Michigan."

"Be it further resolved that all citizens of Farmington voice their support on legislation to make human dignity, equal justice and equal opportunity a

reality."

The prelude to the resolution spoke of the Declaration of Independence and its statement that "all men are created equal," and said passage of legislation to insure non-discrimination in housing rentals and sales "is a vital part of the total commitment."

Although questions by New Farmington Committee representatives seemed to be derailing during the meeting, Mayor

Wilbur V. Brotherton expressed the view that because the governor's suggested resolution came along when it did the council's action:

"Put us on record where our feelings lie in this matter."

IN ITS principal other decision of the night, the council set May 16 for the date of the annual public hearing on the proposed municipal budget. The

session will start at 8 p.m.

Two more sections of the Alta Loma subdivision were advanced toward the summer re-surfacing stage when no objections were voiced in hearings on the necessity of the improvements.

The bid of the K. Stafford Excavating Co. of \$31,762.90 for installation of the Drake Rd. water main was approved after consideration of a total of 14 bids running as high as \$70,000.

**PLYMOUTH** — The City Commission, by a vote of 6 to 1, approved a \$136,781.94 street improvement program over the personal protests of more than 50 per cent of the property owners on the affected streets.

**PLYMOUTH** — The City Commission set something of a record Monday night when it concluded a public hearing on its first \$2 million budget in 15 minutes.

**REDFORD** — The Redford Township Police Officers' Association threatened to revive a dormant unfair labor practices suit against the township Monday when the Township Board declined to allow all "non-supervisory" personnel to hold membership by contract. The RTPOA also requested to begin negotiations for a new 1968-69 contract.

**REDFORD** — Jeanne Leonard, five-year member of the South Redford school board, announced she is not running for re-election, because she plans to move to LaGrange, Illinois. She has been board secretary for four years.

**GARDEN CITY** — A new restaurant is planned on the site of the Square Deal Club building on Middlebelt near Ford roads. The plans were revealed after a fire damaged the building interior last week and prompted city officials to take the attorney acting as trustee for the building to court for violating the city's public nuisance ordinance.

**GARDEN CITY** — Local school officials attended a conference in Washington, D.C., to hear Vice President Hubert Humphrey urge them "to think big." The conference was an annual event co-sponsored by Congressman William Ford.

**WESTLAND** — The City Council will hold its public hearing on the proposed fiscal budget at 2 p.m. Saturday. The budget calls for substantial increases of manpower in the police and fire departments.

**WESTLAND** — Drastic changes in the proposed zoning map are expected to be made by the City Council when it approves the map next Monday, just three days short of its legal deadline of May 16. The council agreed to limit the number of apartment acreage to its present level.

**LIVONIA** — Civil Service Commission bargainers and Livonia Police Officers' Association, negotiating since last July for a contract effective as of last Dec. 1, have just agreed on a two-year contract. It raises salaries about \$500 this year and an additional \$900 next year for 62 patrolmen, and to \$9,152 now for 13 corporals and \$10,088 next December. Patrolmen climb from \$8,216 to \$9,609.60.

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**BEACHED?**

Had your rowboat drydocked for the last couple of summers? Make some fishermen happy by offering it for sale in an Observer Twin-Action Want Ad. Dial GA 2-0900 and place your ad in two editions for only \$4.44.

## School Financial Outline Meets Millage Queries

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY  
Residents of the Farmington School District came to the Farmington Junior High School Monday night seeking the answer to the question of why an additional four mills would be needed to operate the schools.

They also wanted to know in exact dollar and cent terms just how much their taxes would be next year.

Whether or not they received satisfactory answers is open to question. Out of the half dozen people queried at the end of the session only one said that he was convinced of the necessity for a yes vote on June 10.

The majority of the other answers seemed to indicate that the people felt that they now had enough information to make an intelligent decision about the question.

APPROXIMATELY 150 people turned out for the public session. Assistant Superintendent James Read told The Enterprise & Observer that letters of invitation had been sent to representatives of all of the organizations in the area.

In addition Read pointed out that the emphasis was on the fact that the meeting was open to the general public.

Basic confusion existed over

the rise in assessments and its effect on the local tax bill.

It was only after School Board Treasurer actually took an assessment and multiplied it out by the state equalization figures (2.1 for 1967 versus the .93 for 1968 in the township) that the people began to become convinced that a tax hike would not be financially impossible.

The schools have requested a four mill increase over a 10-year period. If approved this would cost the property owner of a house valued at \$10,000 a total of \$40 per year.

Those present heard Superintendent of Schools Roderick J. Smith assert that "we need your help. This isn't a question of just my school, but rather it is our schools."

In answer to a question from one citizen about how he could help, School Board President Herbert Neal said that "you can help by coming out June 10 and voting yes and you can talk the matter up to your friends."

THE RESIDENTS heard that the Board was not considering half day sessions for the schools "right now," but did hear about cuts \$31,000 in next year's program if the millage was not approved.

These cuts included: the

elimination or curtailment of all inter-scholastic athletics and other extracurricular student activities with the exception of varsity football and basketball at the high school level.

Cutting in half the driver training program. The reduction of 44 teacher positions in the supporting services area for the schools. The reduction in the purchase of library books and instructional materials.

Plant maintenance and operation will be reduced, along with transportation being eliminated for all children living less than a mile and a half from school with the exception of the special education students.

Data processing and other administrative functions will be eliminated, along with the curtailment of any capital outlay for new instructional equipment.

APPROVAL of the four mill increase will bring the total tax levy to 36.4 mills. Of this a total of 29.4 mills would be used for operational expenses and the additional seven mills would be used for debt retirement on the district's bonds.

One mill equals \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessment on property value. If approved the four mill increase would bring \$81,000 into the coffers.

## Teenage Booze Habits Get Top Attention In 'Y' Seminar

More than 250 Farmington residents packed a second floor meeting room of Building M at the Orchard Ridge Campus Monday night to hear five experts discuss the problems of teenagers today in Farmington.

The meeting was the first of four Mondays in May, a series of seminars for parents arranged by the Farmington Area YMCA.

The second of the series will be held May 13 at Orchard Ridge and will be an in-depth program on narcotics.

Experts and the topics they discussed at Monday's meeting included: Crime (vandalism, theft, etc.) - Detective Bill Kelly of the Township Police and Chief Robert Deadman, City Police Department; Pregnancy and V.D. - Mrs. Donna Cavane, supervisor of nurses for the Oakland County Health Department; Truancy - attendance

officers from Farmington schools; Runaways - Larry Carpa, former caseworker for the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee; The Teenager Today (A Personal View) - Father Thomas Bischoff, of Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

IMMEDIATE attention of the crowd was caught with the opening segment on alcohol. For this, a recorded bill session of teenagers discussing the pros and cons of drinking was used.

No one's attention wandered as they aired such views on liquor being too easy to get, poor law enforcement allowing those under age to buy liquor and the fact that teenagers accept drinking as something serious happens, somebody gets hurt or killed."

AGAIN, attention never wavered when the two police representatives made their presentations.

Deadman's facts and figures Continued On Page 4

Farmington Township's special cleanup drive will concentrate Saturday, May 10, the two-mile strip between Nine and 11 Mile Rds.

Trucks will canvass all of the territory between the north side of Nine Mile and the south side of 11 Mile, workers picking up all rubbish placed by residents at the side of their roads. No garbage is to be included.

The same treatment will be given the strip between 11 and 14 Mile Rds. on Saturday, May 18.

CAR CHECKS — The State Police set up a car check point on Farmington Rd. last week. Officials reported that only 12 percent of those vehicles stopped passed the check on car lights, brakes, tires, exhaust system, windshield wipers and washer, and steering apparatus.



DEBORAH AND FLOWERS — Nine-year-old Deborah Ann Somerville, who attends Farmington's Forest School, loves the wild flowers that grow in the woods near the school

## Tiny Nature Lover Makes Strong Plea

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

A small, but eloquent voice has been raised to protest the picking of wild flowers.

The voice is small because it belongs to nine-year-old Deborah Ann Somerville, 3015 Briarton, Farmington.

But the voice is eloquent. Deborah Ann became so concerned about wild flowers—not just Farmington's wild flowers but wild flowers wherever they grow, that she wrote a letter to Philip Power, publisher of The Farmington Enterprise and Observer.

THE LETTER makes a strong case for prudent care of our wild plants:

"Dear Mr. Power:

Flowers are starting to grow. Wild flowers are going to grow in the woods next to our sub (Briar Hill). Usually people come and pick the flowers. I love the smell of the flowers. When people come and pick them I can't see or smell any more flowers. Sometimes people step over the flowers. Then the plants would die.

Sincerely,  
Deb. S."

With the letter came a poem:

"Don't pick wild flowers,  
Flowers in a pot look nice,  
But soon they will wilt;  
They look better in our woods.  
So don't pick wild flowers in the woods,  
Or even in the forest;  
In the forest they look better,  
In a pot they look sorer."

By Deborah Ann Somerville  
Age 9  
Third Grade  
Forest Elementary School."

ON SUCH a serious issue, Power directed the staff to get Miss Deborah Ann's views in a personal interview.

When reached at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Somerville, the little flower authority was a little breathless because she was drinking a glass of Kool-Aid.

Briarton, she exploded after a big gulp, is near Forest School. The school and the subdivision are near a deep woods. In the woods, the wild flowers grow.

Said Miss Deborah Ann, "They are not exactly out yet, but they are starting out from the ground."

Sustained by some more Kool-Aid (it was cherry flavor) the petite protester said, "They should NOT BE PICKED! Then other people will not be able to see them."

"Besides, they are getting extinct. Maybe not exactly extinct, but there are not many left," she continued.

Deborah Ann has authoritative information on the subject of wild flowers from her classroom teacher and a "nice man" who came to speak to her Brownie troop.

But she thinks anybody could find out about wild flowers if they just cared enough.

