

# the farmington enterprise & observer

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## School Board Study Sessions Are Closed To Public Again

By MARY PADEN

After two years of urging by board member Aldo Vagnozzi, the Farmington school board opened up one of its private study sessions last month. But this week the study sessions were secret again.

The board approved a resolution in July which provides for open study sessions with public participation afterwards, but doesn't say what matters should be discussed in public or how often the public study sessions will be held.

THE RESOLUTION was a watered-down version of a proposal submitted by Vagnozzi in the summer of

1970 calling for open sessions on everything except personnel matters, salary negotiations and land acquisition. At the time Vagnozzi announced he would boycott secret sessions.

The board held a private study session last night to:

- Review the audit of the district's 1971-72 budget.
- Discuss a \$2,700 bill for vandalism to Harrison High School in 1970.
- Discuss the state of the school desegregation case.
- Formulate organizational charts for school personnel.

The next study session, scheduled for Sept. 26, is also to be a private session.

"WHEN WE HAVE three or four items at the same time that we have no problem discussing in public, we will discuss them at a public study session," said board chairman Kenneth Perrin.

"But if we have a batch of items that contains one which we would prefer not to discuss in public, we prefer to close the entire meeting rather than have part of it open and part closed."

Perrin said the board also met privately 15 minutes before its regular meetings to discuss the agenda and sometimes met for a private study session an hour before a public meeting.

"I wanted all the study

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--Kenneth Perrin,  
board president

sessions to be open," Vagnozzi said. "But apparently this is as far as they will go. I'm getting kind of disappointed. It seems so slow and so frustrating."

A STATE LAW says boards of education can only take action at a public meeting.

Notice of public meetings must be posted at the school office 12 hours before the meeting and board members must be notified of such a meeting 24 hours in advance by phone or 48 hours in advance by mail.

In fighting for public study

sessions, Vagnozzi said, "While no decisions are made in the private meetings, there have been instances where a consensus was reached which, when reported out to the public meetings, lacked the discussion which was needed to justify the decisions."

### Gun Program

A new gun safety program began last week, with several residents of Farmington Township taking up the police offer to show them how to shoot their handguns. We were there too, and the result is on:

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### New Center

A proposal that could be a major addition to the Farmington business community is on the drawing boards, ready for presentation to the township board.

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### All Greek

And that's good, when it's a fair coming to Farmington this week. Find out more about the festivities in our Women's Section.

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### Young Medics

The University of Michigan Medical School is planning to educate some of the youngest doctors in the country, and many Observerland freshmen are in the first class. They're bright kids - they've got to be.

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### New Column

Sports Editor Tom Donoghue begins his Observing Sports Column in today's paper with pre-season prep football predictions. The gridiron season unfolds this weekend and Donoghue is ready to tackle it through the watchful eye of his typewriter. For the first of the weekly columns, flip to today's sport section.

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## 2 Liquor Requests Are Due For Collision

What would normally be two routine liquor license requests in Farmington Township are apparently on a collision course, and have put the board in the position of making or breaking one of two restaurant-bar proposals on adjacent lots on Orchard Lake Rd.

One request came from the Starboard Tack restaurant, a chain operation with another Michigan location in East Lansing, for a "Class C" license on Orchard Lake between 13 Mile Rd. and Burbank St.

The second request, not yet received by the township board, but now before the State Liquor Control Commission, is expected from Mrs. Shirley McEwen, owner of the Night Light Bar, at Grand River and Eight Mile Rd.

Mrs. McEwen told the board she has signed a lease and expects to move her operation, with the addition of a dining room, from the Grand River location to a site next door to the proposed Starboard Tack.

BOTH DEVELOPERS are in the midst of deals contingent on getting the liquor license, with Mrs. McEwen having the traditional edge of only requesting a transfer, while the opposition wants a new license.

Starboard Tack was turned down last month on a split 3-3 vote, with Treasurer Thomas Nolan absent. Monday, designer Peter Duenas appealed to the board to reconsider, flourishing drawings of the proposed building, and presenting it as "the kind of restaurant we need in Farmington."

He gained nothing more than a temporary reprieve, mainly because Trustee Earl Oppenheimer requested a list of the stockholders in the corporation. Duenas said the restaurant, with 60 out of 110 seats planned in the bar, could not be built without the license.

Countering the \$450,000 proposal, Mrs. McEwen reminded the board she was only waiting for clearance from the state and she would go to the board asking for a transfer.

She had appeared last month and been given a temporary extension of an occupancy permit at the old location, which would run for 90 days after construction started on the new building.

## Teepees To Run As A 'Write-In'

Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teepees announced he will run as a write-in candidate on the heels of a recount that left him still trailing his Republican primary opponent Robert McConnell by 31 votes.

The results do not fairly reflect the feelings of the entire population of Farmington Township," Teepees said. "I intend to win."

He said he was seeking legal advice on a party label for his campaign, which would indicate whether he should run as a Republican or as an independent. He cannot be on the ballot after losing the primary, under Michigan law.

IN MAKING the announcement, he said, "A number of malfunctioning machines were reported in 1970 and again this election."

In 1970, some machines in Farmington Township and the City of Farmington were found to be improperly set up.

"Still nothing has been done to remedy the defects," Teepees said. "In spite of a written request for an explanation of the defects . . . there has been no assurance to the people of Farmington Township that their votes will be properly registered."

Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said, "He's just trying to play for some votes."



### Volunteers Needed

RIVER CLEANUP -- The Rouge is due for a "bath" this Saturday, and able-bodied volunteers, particularly serious adults, are asked to sign up at the Farmington City Park, Grand River and Farmington Rd., at 9 a.m. to lend a hand. This is the second annual cleanup, and last year 500 showed up to help. Girl scouts, boy scouts and the area high schools, as well as several service clubs are cooperating in the venture.

### 5 Injured In Crash

Four persons were injured in an accident late Sunday night which backed up traffic and caused a second collision in which one other person was injured.

The accident occurred about 10 p.m. Sunday when John Alexander, 6355 Merriman, Garden City, started to drive his pickup truck up the Orchard Lake exit ramp off the I-696 expressway but then apparently turned back onto the expressway, police said. The truck was struck broadside by a car driven by Harry Anderson of Detroit, traveling east on I-696.

No tickets were issued at the scene.

Alexander was listed in serious condition in Wayne County General Hospital Monday. Anderson and his wife Sylvia, a passenger, are in Providence Hospital. Another passenger, Lillian Peterson of Maryland, was released from Botsford Hospital Monday.

As traffic backed up from that accident, a car driven by Eva Johnston of Bloomfield Hills struck a car driven by John Campbell of Royal Oak.



THIS TRUCK, driven by John Alexander of Garden City, was struck broadside on the I-696

expressway in Farmington Sunday night. (Evert Photo)

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