

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## today's hot line

Volume 83 Number 97

## late news

### Driver Killed

A Farmington woman was killed shortly after midnight Thursday when her car struck the rear of a semi-tractor trailer on US 10, near Telegraph in Southfield.

Southfield police say the car, driven by Karen Sue Keith, 28, of 24352 Buchanan Court, Farmington, struck the truck owned by Lawrence M. Houle, 30, of 8210 Braille, Detroit, at 12:50 a.m. Houle was not injured.

## what's inside

### Tax Rate Set?

The Farmington Township Charter Commission is still arguing over the tax limit for the proposed new city. An agreement of sorts has been reached which should lead to a finished charter soon.

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### Some Opinions

The "open study sessions" of the Farmington Board of Education and the future of an historic landmark are discussed in an editorial and a letter on:

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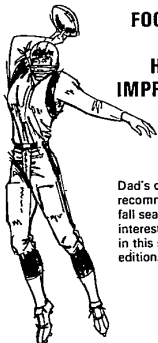
### Growing Interest

A growing interest in community theater was reflected in Observerland's representation at a recent CTAM conference. One of our groups had the largest contingent, and another had a large part in running the meetings.

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### FOOTBALL OR HOME IMPROVEMENT



Dad's choice, vs. mom's recommendations is this fall season's special interests. We cover both in this special FOCUS edition.

IN THIS  
ISSUE!

# Historic District Change Hearing Scheduled Monday

By DAN McCOSH

A change in a proposed Historic District ordinance that would encompass most of the historic homes in the City of Farmington will be the subject of a public hearing Monday at 7 p.m., before the regular city council meeting at city hall.

The district is split into three parts: a triangle bounded roughly by Grand River, Shiawassee and Warner; the Fred M. Warner estate on Grand River; and a lot on the north side of Grand River just west of Powers Rd.

IF THE ordinance is adopted, it will severely limit the changes that can be made to buildings in the district.

"No structure shall be constructed, altered, repaired or moved or demolished unless such action complies with the requirements set forth," the proposed ordinance reads.

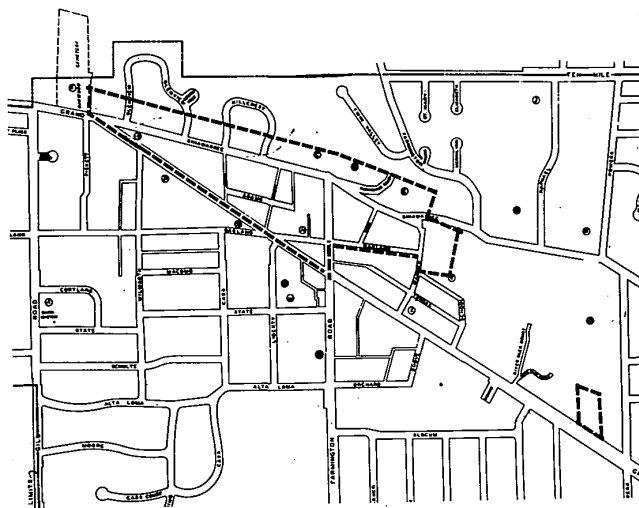
Alterations within the district would be reviewed by a seven-member Historic District Commission, appointed by the city council.

A change in the ordinance since it was first drafted is the appeal procedure, now directed to the city council instead of the commission.

CHANGES WOULD be reviewed based on:

- The historical or architectural value and significance of the structure.
- The relationship of the structure to the rest of the structures in the area.
- The general compatibility of exterior design.
- Aesthetic factors.

THE ORDINANCE has also been changed since it was first proposed by setting a 12-month period during which it will be reviewed by the city council. City Manager Robert Deadman said the home-



HISTORIC DISTRICT—Two of the three districts are outlined in black, the third is the Warner estate.

owners in the area have been notified of the hearing, and some have been in on discussions of the district.

The boundaries of the district run along the north side of Shiawassee, including the building lots on the north side of the street. The north boundary runs to a point five building lots west of Farmington

Rd., then jogs south along the back of the lots on Warner.

The line then goes west along the back lot line along Oakland to Grand River. The buildings north of Grand River are included, between Farmington Rd. and Shiawassee.

## 'Y' Opens New Doors

"A woman came in here and suggested a bellydancing class. I could sit here all day and not think of that."

--- "Y" Director Gary Unruh

By MARY PADEN

Scouts grew out of a YMCA camping program.

A London tailor named George Williams began a Bible reading organization for young men 127 years ago. He called it the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

"The organization changed over the years like everything else changes," said Gary L. Unruh, new director of Farmington's expanded YMCA branch.

"It began to get involved in physical activities. The YMCA invented basketball and volleyball. It began organized swimming classes. The Boy

"FOR A LONG time it was a male dominated organization, but then it began organizing activities for girls. For the past 10 years the emphasis has been on family programs.

"The YMCA feels that people are so busy with mom working and dad working and the kids in school that there is less time for the family to be together as a unit. The family programs draw the family together.

"Perhaps in 25 years the emphasis may switch again."



GARY UNRUH, director of Farmington's YMCA branch, recently moved his office into a

new all-roof, A-frame office at Middle Belt and 12 Mile Rds. (Event photo)

It may be going too far to say the "Y" has something for everyone - but it is trying. The number of courses and programs offered has expanded from 15 to 45 since last year, the staff has moved from a condemned farmhouse into a new A-frame office at

Farmington and 12 Mile Rds. and is looking forward to construction of a proposed \$2 million activities center next door.

Most classes are being held at Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., near Middlebelt.

The center, Unruh said "was a gift from heaven."

UNRUH LEFT a job as YMCA director in Lake Geneva, Wis. to take over as Farmington director May 15. He formulated a program similar to the one in Lake Geneva and gained the approval of the YMCA program committee, a group of community people.

The YMCA pays a nominal rent to share the building with the school. The YMCA staff is now registering people for classes to begin Monday, Sept. 25.

Most classes are of an athletic nature including: women's self defense, ski conditioning, girls ballet, volleyball, yoga,

swimming, fencing and gymnastics.

Unruh said the YMCA was careful not to duplicate courses offered by the Farmington School District's adult education division or the Community Center.

"But most of their programs are at night," he said. "A lot of our programs are during the day and we offer babysitting service for 50 cents an hour per child. It's a whole new area for housewives."

EVEN BEFORE classes begin, Unruh said he is getting requests for new courses.

"A woman came in here yesterday and suggested a class in belly dancing," he said. "I could sit here all week and not think of that."

Other courses suggested by the community are: hula dancing, scuba diving, magic, and what Unruh calls "women's artsy - crafts courses" like basket weaving and rug making.

THE YMCA staff took up residence in its new all-roof, A-frame office Aug. 25 -

several days later than scheduled because that week vandals broke every window in the building, causing an estimated \$3,000 worth of damage.

Several area businessmen offered a reward in the Farmington Enterprise and Observer for information in the case. Unruh said the YMCA has received a response to the story and is taking steps toward prosecution.

A field next to the office will be the site of a \$2 million activities building if a YMCA metropolitan Detroit fundraising campaign to begin next year is successful in reaching its goal of \$22 million.

Unruh said YMCA officials have designated the Farmington center as top priority. The Farmington YMCA will operate with a budget of \$84,500 in 1973, Unruh said. The bulk of the funds, 67 per cent, come from membership dues and fees. The rest comes from the United Fund (18 per cent) and an annual fund-raising drive (15 per cent).

## Little League Dinner Canceled--No Funds

The annual awards banquet for the South Farmington Little League was canceled Thursday night, the first time in the history of the local league.

"I've been telling people all season," League Commissioner Robert Rounds said, "Maybe now they will believe me."

What he has been telling them all season is that the South Farmington group that sponsors the teams is broke.

ROUNDS SAYS they ended the season with \$126, which just about covered the cost of mailing out the statement of finances to the members.

Normally they end the season with about \$1,500 which goes towards the purchase of new equipment.

None of the fund raising events - bake sales, a booth at the Farmington Festival, and some money from the city and township - was as successful as in previous years, and costs were up, according to Rounds.

It costs about \$18,000 to get the program through the season, this year hosting the Colt League tournament cost about \$600 extra, Rounds said.

"THE FUND raising didn't gel," Rounds said. "Not enough to cover the cost."

Thursday evening the Enterprise and Observer was getting calls that confirmed Round's statement.

Parents of Little League youngsters still didn't believe the awards night was canceled.