

Wednesday, October 18, 1972

Volume 84, Number 2 • Eight News Sections

Board Leans To Street Level Sewer

Open Study?

How are those open study sessions working? Who attends them? A reporter who has been attending a few meetings of the Farmington School Board for his own enlightenment enlightens our readers on:

Page 4A

Beauty Awards

The Farmington Beautification Commission took time to honor those who have contributed to the good looks of the community. We have a complete list of the awards on:

Page 3A

Clarenceville Queen

Senior Ruth McAleer ruled over Clarenceville High School's homecoming last weekend. For a picture of the Clarenceville monarch, and the winning float in the school's homecoming parade, turn to

Page 3C

Skating Boom

The biggest thing going in Observerland is skating. Here's a roundup of who's building what in the way of skating rinks and how they're financing them.

Page 2C

Girl Scouts

They get a couple of spotlights this week, one on a Farmington senior troop sponsoring a big reunion and the other on the area representatives heading for a national council meeting. The stories are in the Women's Section.

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By DAN McCOSH

One way to make a tax or assessment seem more palatable is to compare the cost to a pack of cigarettes.

While the Farmington Township Board still hasn't made a decision on the best route for the "10 Mile Arm" sewer, a \$3 million plus project to serve the northwest area, Trustee Earl Oppenheimer was pointing out Monday the most expensive, but ecologically sound, route, would only cost "the price of a package of cigarettes" more than a route through the Quaker town "valley."

If that wasn't an indication of the way the township board is leaning, several times a request for "anybody opposed to the route" got no response.

THE FARMINGTON Township Board met to discuss three alternate routes

to the last trunk sanitary sewer in the township.

Lawrence Pate, of Pate, Hirm and Bogue, Inc., township engineers, and Raymond Alexander, director of the Oakland County DPW, provided technical background for the project. The "10 Mile Arm" was originally planned to go down sewer, a \$3 million plus project to serve the northwest area, Trustee Earl Oppenheimer was pointing out Monday the most expensive, but ecologically sound, route, would only cost "the price of a package of cigarettes" more than a route through the Quaker town "valley."

It was protested by an environmental protection committee formed by the Village of Quaker town because it was feared construction would demolish trees on the route.

Alexander agreed, and several times said the state Department of Natural Resources would probably turn down a route through the valley, despite its being the least expensive.

The DNR didn't send a

representative to the meeting, which is against its policy, according to Alexander. Supervisor Earl Teeple protested strongly and urged the board to "get in touch with our representatives in Lansing."

ALEXANDER also broke down the cost figures on what an individual would be charged in a tap-in fee to use the sewer:

- Route (A) — through the "valley" to the northwest area by gravity — total cost: \$3,950,000, or \$1,200 per lot to build with no maintenance.
- Route (B) — up Farmington Rd. to 11 Mile Rd., then west on street right of way to the Rouge — total cost: \$3,541,000, or \$1,050 per lot to build, with an additional fee for maintenance.
- Route (C) — The same "valley" route as (A), but with a pumping station to eliminate tunneling — total cost: \$2.2 million, plus maintenance fees. This is \$950



THIS MAP outlines the district the proposed sewer will serve, and shows the proposed route of alternate (B), the street route which the township board appears to be favoring.

per lot for tap-in, according to Alexander.

THE COST figures are misleading, however, according to Engineer Pate. If you don't consider the trees, what appears to be the most expensive is actually the cheapest.

The reason is that route (B) and (C) both have pump stations, and the cost of operation will eventually wipe out the difference in construction costs — in 12 years for (B), and in 45 years for (C).

Dr. Robert Allaben, president of the Quaker town Council, questioned Pate on other routes — such as the expressway or along 12 Mile Rd.

Both of these routes would involve going up and down too many hills, Pate said.

THE TIMETABLE would require "at least 10 months," according to Alexander, even before preliminary work was completed.

There were two reasons presented for the construction of the sewer. When a homeowner implied most

septic systems in the areas were working all right, Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said, "I beg to differ with you. There are a lot of out there won't percolate — there is some trouble there."

Trustee David Slader said, "It is government's responsibility to plan for the orderly development of the community — we just can't just let this thing go."

As if in emphasis, Cairns mentioned later that when the project was first proposed, in 1958, the estimated cost was a mere \$800,000.

Recycling Sites Proposed

Farmington's "Earth Alive" is still a glass recycling center in search of a home.

After asking for a township site for the glass pickup now in operation at Oakland Community College and hearing in exchange an offer of another possible site at Topps Shopping Center, Mrs. Nancy Kourtjian, head of "Earth Alive," said she would probably go back to still a third site.

"Earth Alive" is facing eviction from the college campus, where members are collecting and sorting glass for recycling.

Last week she was asking for \$3,000 from the township to defray part of the \$4,320 needed to buy dumpsters and pave a site for the center on school property.

MRS. KOURTJIAN says she has a tentative promise for a site at the school special education offices, Middle Belt north of Nine Mile.

The school site was on the school board agenda Tuesday.

Supervisor Earl Teeple feels the best location for a glass collection center would be "where the bottles come from" — namely a shopping center.

He contacted Hyman Dorfman, manager of Topps Shopping Center, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake, who in turn told the board Monday his center could possibly supply a site at the center.

Topps is waiting for permission from their New York headquarters, Dorfman said.

He mentioned the possibility of building something which would be "integrated with the theme of the center."

MRS. KOURTJIAN objected to the center if her volunteer group had to man it. "We feel it should be on community property," she said.

Leaving the hour-long session that ended with no action from the board, she said, "If the school offers me the site again, I think I will take it."

Play Canceled

The sudden death of its leading actor, John Hampson, has led the North Park Methodist Church Players to cancel four upcoming performances of the mystery comedy, "The Best Laid Plans."

Hampson, 34, of Detroit, died suddenly at his home Oct. 14 and funeral services were scheduled for today (Wednesday) at the Fred Wood

Funeral Home, 8450 Plymouth Road, Detroit.

A bachelor, he lived with his mother, Mrs. Vivienne Hampson at 9901 Sussex and worked for the U.S. Air Tank Command.

The church, located on 11 Mile between Middle Belt and Orchard Lake Road, said purchasers of tickets should return them to the sellers for refunds.



NORTH FARMINGTON crowned Dottie Spencer homecoming queen this weekend. She received congratulations from Sue Reed, last year's queen. (Evert photo)



AT WORK -- Dottie Spencer is a cheerleader, too, and the game result, a 22-14 victory over Livonia Franklin, made her cheer even louder. See story in today's sports section. (Observer photo)



JUNIOR FLOAT had a circus theme at Saturday's North Farmington Homecoming parade. (Evert photo)

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