

Can Schools Be Used More?

EDITOR: Since my home base is in Flint, I am interested in all developments in the various sports arena in Farmington.

Michigan communities. Recently I learned of the proposal to build an ice and sports arena in Farmington.

for a cost of \$1.250 million. It may be that by the time you receive this letter the citizens will have voted favorably for the issuance of bonds to finance the project. Even so, there is still reason for the good people of Farmington to consider an alternate plan for providing an outlet for many of the sports interests of the citizens.

THE CITIZENS already own a number of school buildings. They have invested more in school plants and equipment than in any other public institution. In fact, in the United States as a whole, nearly one-third of the nation's capital is tied up in educational facilities. Our investment nationally is over \$200 billion. In many cases, these publicly owned educational facilities are in use no more than one-third of the time.

Many are never in use during early morning hours, late afternoons, evenings, on Saturdays, on holidays and during summer weeks. The proposal for Farmington says the new facility

will have an indoor, olympic-sized ice rink, handball courts, paddleboard court, pro shop, food concession stand, locker rooms, equipment repair shop and a meeting room.

It is probable that in the school buildings in Farmington, all of these activities and services could be made available except the indoor olympic-sized ice rink. In addition, there undoubtedly is adequate space for basketball, dancing, gymnastics, indoor golf practice, fencing, badminton, bumper pool, possibly swimming and perhaps other types of recreational activities.

In addition to the use of school buildings for the release of recreational and sports interest during unscheduled hours, there is space for a variety of enrichment and special interest learning programs for people of all ages in the areas of the academic, social, vocational, cultural and health improvement.

BECAUSE OF the great competition for the public dollar, it seems reasonable that the citizens of any community would do well to appraise the extent of use of facilities already publicly owned before deciding to build a new facility to do what existing facilities could do to a very great extent.

I am taking the liberty of writing this letter because I serve as a consultant in Community Education. From the Community Education point of view, it is urgent that greater use of our school facilities be made in order to help people fulfill their unmet needs. It may be wasteful to build a new facility to meet needs which could be fulfilled

Adults Earning Diplomas

Continued from Page 1A have taken advantage of the program.

Dropping out of school at 17, he intended to return, but could never find the time because he worked nights at an automobile factory. The morning sessions not only have allowed him to complete his high school education, but he plans to continue on to O.C.C. for study in x-ray and lab technology. After speaking of his future, Miller proudly added his most important reason, "I'm doing it so my wife can quit work."

MISS LUEBKE said others in her class intend to go into nursing, scientific research and secretarial work.

With many in the class it is a matter of pride. Lynn Hall, 27, wants to get a promotion at work, and is willing to give up his morning hours for the next few years to obtain that goal.

Another student put it more practically, "I'm just trying to get out of school before my sons do."

Set in a casual atmosphere, there are coffee and donuts along with the eager discussion which emanates from this inspired group of individuals who are anxious to learn.

When asked what was the best part of going to school as adults, the answer was unanimous. "There's no parent-teacher conference."

READERS' FORUM

Please type (or write clearly) and limit letters to 300 words.

- Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.
- The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

in existing publicly owned buildings. W. FRED TOTTON, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Street Needs Some Gravel

EDITOR: Before the winter sets in, the city should put gravel on Grace Street between Grand River and Shiawassee.

I do not live on Grace, but I see the great amount of traffic using the street, particularly

now that Shiawassee has been turned into a thoroughfare.

The paving on Shiawassee, incidentally, has contributed to the problems on Grace. Because there is no storm sewer drain on the south side of Shiawassee, much of the water from the west drains into Grace.

The road level on Grace is considerably below the edges, and one mudhole is a good foot deep. I would consider this a most expeditious. Perhaps \$500 would make the road passable this winter.

LEES. PEEL, Farmington

School Offers Ski Lessons

FARMINGTON The Farmington School System is offering a series of nine ski lessons to be on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 p.m. at Mt. Brighton. Cost to the individual will be

\$18. For a family of two the cost is \$27.

Those interested in registering for the lessons should contact Donald Howell at the Farmington School Administration building.

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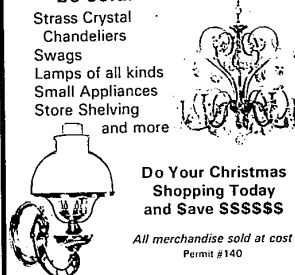
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Farmington Area Jaycees Are Currently Compiling a 1973 Farmington Community Directory

Design of the directory will be a Yellow Pages format to provide ready reference of merchants and industry in Farmington. A Jaycee survey indicates that 90 per cent of the residents retain and use the directory throughout the year.

The directory offers a media for low cost advertising for Farmington merchants. All proceeds from the project will be returned to the community. Distribution date for the 20,000 copies of the directory is set for January.

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