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Philip H. Power, Publisher

Resume Teacher Negotiations

By FRED DELANO

After a respite since June 28, representatives of Farmington's more than 700 school teachers and the Board of Education will go back to the bargaining table next week in an effort to hammer out a wage agreement that will avert a delay in the opening of the fall semester.

So far, 19 of the 28 school districts in Oakland County have

agreed to terms on teacher master agreements for the 1988-89 academic year, but Farmington is not among them. With classes due to open in the first week of September, it gives bargainers less than a month to settle their remaining differences—virtually all of which are financial.

UNLESS THERE is quick progress in talks between the Farmington Education Association

and administration negotiators, state fact-finders will be asked to act in the dispute, it was indicated this week.

Robert Neuhouser, speaking for the F.E.A., commented: "We made the last proposal; now it is their turn. If we don't reach a settlement fairly quickly we have an obligation to go to fact-finding."

Assistant Superintendent Martinus Van Amedye, who heads the administration negotiating forces, is due back from his vacation at the end of the present week.

This, it is said by all parties involved, will signal a resumption in bargaining talks, which by prior agreement had been recessed for the month of July to provide "breathing time."

The superintendent of schools, Dr. Roderick J. Smith, is not a direct party to the negotiations and will not return from a foreign vacation until Aug. 10.

Based on counter proposals submitted at their last June confrontation, the two sides still are far apart on the salary scale issue.

At that time, the board offered a salary range from \$6,750 minimum to \$11,900 maximum.

The F.E.A. asked that the range be from \$7,200 to \$13,200.

For the school year recently ended, the scale was \$8,200 to \$11,250.

A board of education source has indicated that the administration is willing to settle on a 10 per cent package increase in wages and fringe benefits

over the 1987-88 pattern, but says that if the F.E.A. rejects this figure the situation will become desperate in regard to over-all budgeting.

On June 10 the school district electorate approved a four-mill tax increase for school operating costs for the next five years. It is reported that a 10 per cent boost for teachers was

written into the 1988-89 budget at that time, but to date the F.E.A. has insisted on raises more closely approximating 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, all other labor contracts between the board of education and employee groups for 1988-89 have been approved and ratified. Only teachers are needed to open the schools.



YOUNG REPUBLICAN — Diane Johnson, 27845 Peppermill, Farmington, has been appointed an honorary sergeant-at-arms for the Republican National Convention.

Salute Beauty Efforts

Farmington's Beautification Committee honored three local groups during ceremonies at the opening of the Farmington Founders Festival.

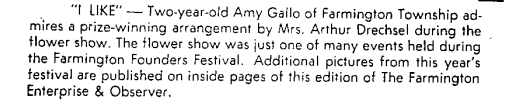
Award recipients were: The Veterans Memorial Monument Committee which spent almost two years relocating the Veterans Monument from the corner of Grand River and Farmington Rd. to a new site in the city park just west of the Masonic Temple.

Members of the Farmington Garden Club were honored for their work in the city park at Oakland and Grand River.

Old shrubbery and trees were removed and new ones planted, along with a raised bed of geraniums planted. New lights and sidewalks have been installed and sod has been laid in the park.

Mrs. Dwight Gordon accepted the award. The final award went to the Hill and Dale Garden Club for its work with 165 children enrolled in the Farmington Schools Special Education Program.

Many hours have been spent by the members in a special garden therapy program.



"I LIKE" — Two-year-old Amy Gailo of Farmington Township admires a prize-winning arrangement by Mrs. Arthur Drechsel during the flower show. The flower show was just one of many events held during the Farmington Founders Festival. Additional pictures from this year's festival are published on inside pages of this edition of The Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

Record Crowds Mark '68 Founders Festival

It's all over but the critique. That's the status of the Fourth Annual Farmington Founders Festival.

Actually, Festival Chairman Ron Holland and his committee won't have many problems to solve when the critique comes. That's because this year's festival drew more crowds to all events than previous years.

POLICE estimate of the crowd at the parade was between 10,000 and 15,000 people. "There was a solid line of faces the entire parade route," was the reaction from one policeman who rode the entire route with the parade.

Local organizations were delighted.

The Elks reportedly did the best business ever at its or roast stand. The Jaycees reported that the profit topped last year.

A new event—the children's pet show drew an estimated 500 people to the Plaza Shopping Center on Friday afternoon.

The Demery's Shopping Center at 12 Mile and Farmington Rd. also reported crowds over previous years.

At the Downtown Farmington Center, police estimated that no less than 20,000 people passed through in the three festival days.

Farmington's Founders Festival is a commercial event. Beginning however, the board has been seeking to make the festival self-sustaining.

The Founders Follies were staged in June as a fund-raising effort.

Then the board solicited donations for 50 cents throughout the area.

In addition, this year the board has assessed each organization 10 per cent of its total profit from the concessions.

As of Monday no one was quite certain just how the festival made out financially. That's the one remaining question about the success of the Fourth Festival.

FESTIVAL events kicked off Thursday evening with the crowning of North Farmington High Senior Dee Anderson as Miss Founders Festival of 1988.

Crowds were on hand for this and saw the balloon ascent prior to the crowning. The Franklin Village Band provided the entertainment in the form of an old-time band concert.

A highlight of the Thursday activities was the presentation of three awards to civic groups by the City's Beautification Committee.

Friday night the Farmington Civic Band provided the music at the Showboat.

Saturday the crowds lined Grand River for the annual parade.

Following the parade a series of awards were made for excellence of the bands and floats.

RECIPIENTS of these awards were:

Bands: Praxidium Drum & Bugle Corp. (top); River Hills Mich., first place; Romlin High School Band, second place; British American Pipe Band, third place; and Moslem-Orchestra Bands, honorable mention. Floats: Farmington Historical Society, first place; Bon Ton Shoppe, second place; Suburban Ballet, third place; and National Bank of Detroit and Farmington Board of Commerce, honorable mentions.

Girl Packs Bag For Convention

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Because, as she says, "I cannot sit by and not get all involved," Diane Johnson, 27845 Peppermill, Farmington, will see the Republican National Convention first hand from a seat on the convention floor in Miami.

In recognition of her work for the party, Miss Johnson has been appointed an honorary sergeant-at-arms for the convention.

A MEMBER of the Young Republicans of Oakland County for six years, Miss Johnson notes, "There's never been a political year like this. I can tell my grandchildren about it. And hopefully it'll be an unforgettable Republican year."

The GOP supporter has a few years to go before her grandchildren arrive since she is only 24 years old, but is fully cognizant of her opportunity to see history in the making because of her honorary post.

SIX YEARS AGO when she joined the Young Republicans she couldn't vote, but didn't let that keep her from getting "all involved."

She was a GOP Girl in 1982, campaigning for Gov. Romney and local candidates, and refers to this as "the door opening into politics."

PRESENTLY regional chairman for the 18th District Young GOP, Miss Johnson has served as a member of the county executive board for the 19th District Young GOP, as a delegate to the 1988 Republican state convention, as a member of "Citizens for Romney '88" and has received the outstanding service award from the state GOP and Elly Peterson Outstanding Young Republican of the Year citation.

A FELLOW EMPLOYEE at Ford Motor Company, where she is a secretary for the engineering and research staff, started the young Republican's interest in active party politics.

Once active, she discovered, "It was such an enthusiastic group and they were all working for such a good cause, I got all involved."

This involvement cannot be attended as many as six need-

ings a month which she expects will be stepped up once a candidate is nominated at the convention and the campaign really gets under way.

ASKED how her parents feel about all this activity, Miss Johnson says, "They're all for it—at least they are now if they weren't before."

Cagey about naming the man she supports for the presidency, Miss Johnson will admit to being a conservative and comments, "As everyone else puts it—I'm uncommitted."

But whoever the GOP delegates nominate, he'll likely have this whirlwind in his camp.

Many hours have been spent by the members in a special garden therapy program.

Local organizations were delighted.

THE ONLY problem is the question of paying the bill.

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Other than the financial question—the big question is for Chairman Dick Ruppert's 1989 Festival Committee. The question—how can top this year's?



INSPECTION TOUR — Members of the Farmington Board of Education made a tour of Power Junior High School Saturday. From left, are: Board of Education members Richard H. Peters, John Washburn III, and Herbert Neal and Architect William Adams. The fourth junior high school in the system will open in September. Tentative plans now call for a general open house before school starts in the fall.

today's hot line

observerland

GARDEN CITY—Jack Lloyd is continuing his fight to have the June 10 school election declared invalid by making an appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals. An earlier request to have the millage election turned down was denied by Wayne County Circuit Judge Blair Moody, Jr.

GARDEN CITY—A study session was held Monday night to consider plans for the city's first Fall Festival to be held in mid-September.

REDFORD—Redford Union teachers announced salary settlement Monday, ending several months of negotiations between the district's board of education and teachers. The pay increase will be accomplished without cutting the district's staff or program.

LIVONIA—Six local attorneys will vie August 6 in the primary election for nomination to the one seat open on the newly-created Livonia District Court. Salary for the position will be \$27,500 per year.

LIVONIA—The Livonia Housing Commission is preparing assistance for those persons who will have their residences and businesses uprooted by the new Route 1-96 expressway project. Assistance will be provided in the securing of new residential and business sites as well as compensation in moving.

PLYMOUTH—After almost four years of study, the City Commission approved a new zoning ordinance that provides for more orderly development and guards against political sign battles in the future.

PLYMOUTH—The salary for the judge of the new district court has been set at \$24,000 per year, which includes the \$18,000 provided by the state. The district has agreed to add only \$3,000, while other areas have gone to the maximum of \$27,500.

What's Inside

A big primary is coming up Aug. 6, and The Observer Newspapers today offer you an advance look at the candidates and proposals. Local issues are covered in the front news pages. State and county ballot propositions are clearly spelled out on the Public Affairs Page, along with a wrap-up on the congressional races—and our plans to cover both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions from suburbia's point of view. Page 7D.

Founders Festival Pictures	Page 4A
Pet Show Draws Crowd	Page 5A
Demis To Hear Farmington Judge	Page 7A
Candidates	Page 10C
Festival Queen Recalls Weekend	Page 6D
Editorial Comment	Page 7D
Public Affairs	Page 7D
Clareville Approves School	Page 3A
Nation Tense With Steel Strike	Page 2A
What's Doing in World of Women	Pages 1-5C
Where to Eat, What to See	Pages 5-7B
Green Thumb Tips on Gardening	Page 3B
Schoolcraft Board Approves Budget	Page 1B
Betty Frankel Tells How to Grow Raspberries	Page 3B
Observing Sports	Page 1D
Sports	Pages 1-5D
Weekly Television Log	Page 6H
Roundup of World News	Page 18I
Remmy Ends Curfew in Grand Rapids	Page 12A

IF YOU'VE LOOKED AND LOOKED

that rocking chair you want seems to have disappeared from the market, shop the Observer Classified Want-Aids. Look under Antiques, Household Goods or Misc. For Sale. (classification 5-10, 5-11), or call GA 2-0900 and place a Wanting 95 Buy ad.

