Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Board kills adviser seat for students

FARMINGTON—While the board of education agreed that student opinion is valuable, they turned down a recommendation to create a student advisory position on the board Tuesday night.

A committee of three, headed by board vice-president William Corliss and composed of trustees Ann Rodewig and Anne Struble, recommended a student advisory seat on the board.

The recommendation failed when board president Gary Lichtman, treasurer William Gravius and secretary Emma Makinen voted against it.

Lichtman said the vote didn't mean the board was against the idea of a student adviser, but that it indicated disagreement with some of the committee's recommendations.

"IT IS NOT a moot point or a dead item (now that it has been defeated)," Lichtman said. "If it is revised, we will consider it later."

Disputed points involved the election situation, deletion of material from the student's packet of materials prior to each board meeting, and the possible superfluity of the position.

Mrs. Makinen asked whether the school district would have to absorb the cost of the election. Business manager William Prisk said the cost would be minimal, and possibly less than the school government elections currently held in the secondary schools.

The cost might be prohibitive for some qualified students who would otherwise run for the position, Lichtman said.

"It could be a burden for a worthy student," he said.

Some board members were concerned that confidential material might accidently be included in prep materials given to each board member by the superintendent before board meetings.

Mrs. Struble said that in such an event, she would trust the student to hold the matter in confidence.

"I've worked with these young people, and I know they are capable of keeping secrets. They are, as a group, dependable people," she said.

Lichtman, Gravius and Mrs. Makinen thought a student representative would might be duplicating the duties of the present Student Round Table.

"STUDENT ROUND Table is an important group and should be the principal means of informing the board of education. Otherwise it would cut down the effectiveness of the Round Table," Makinen said.

The student group, presently composed of members from all three high schools, should become stronger, she said.

Lichtman confirmed the need for student input into board decisions, but voiced concern over the student advisory committee's recommendations.

"It is necessary to have student input, and I'm much in favor of the concept of a student representative to the board of education."

He said the board gave credence to the Round Table, which for many years had trouble "getting off the ground."

While he believed in student representation and student sounding boards, it might be better to have more than one person serve as the funnel of student opinion.

"It's better to have not just one, but many. In fact, I think it would be a good idea to extend the Round Table to the junior highs and elementaries."

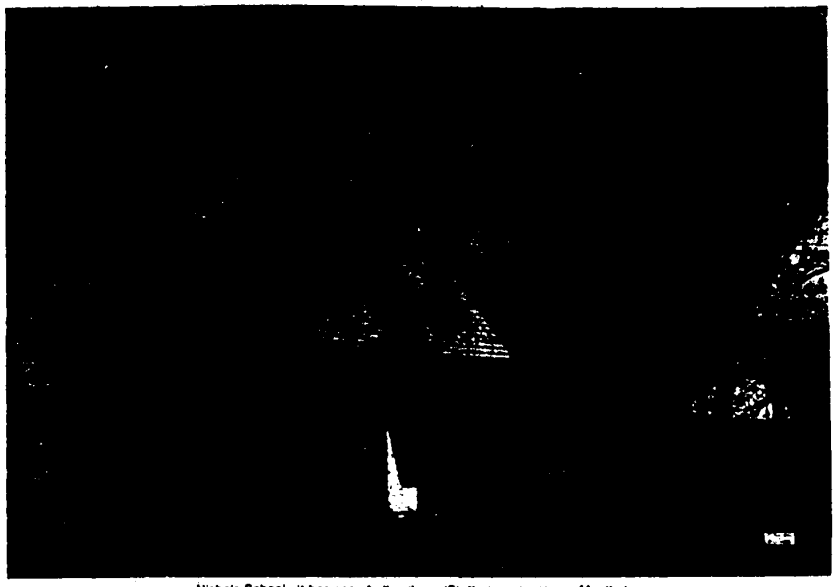
Parade

FARMINGTON—The Farmington chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion will sponsor their annual Memorial Day parade beginning 10 a.m. Monday.

The parade will begin at the intersection of Mooney Road and Grand River. Participants will walk to the memorial at the corner of Grand River and Farmington roads.

Memorial Day services will be given by Maj. Gen. Naiff Keiel at the memorial at 11:30 a.m.

The Memorial Day banquet will be held Sunday, May 25. For tickets, call Mrs. Robert Smith, 21100 Laurelwood.



Nichols School—it has seen better days. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

A little brick schoolhouse learns a 4th 'r'- real estate

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON HILLS—Want something different in the way of a home?

There's a one-room schoolhouse for sale at Thirteen Mile and Farmington. Salesman Howard Barron said the red brick Nichols school has been a real eye-catcher since his company sign was put in front about a month ago.

He thinks the school is about 100 years old. Lee Peel in his Pictorial History of Farmington, says the building was named after an early landowner, and at one time it had both day and evening classes. The latter were in spelling, singing and writing.

Barron said few things he has listed have created so much interest. People call constantly about buying it to open a dress shop, a flower shop or turn it into business offices.

"MANY OF them say they would like to put up a historical marker and keep the building in the same style it is."

He explains all this is impossible because the location is zoned residential.

"It would be ideal for a nursery school, and that's permitted under the residential zoning.

The price is $40,000 for the one-room structure and an acre of property. The owners have said they would be willing to sell the building and half an acre if the buyer wants to go to the trouble to get a split approved.

THE AGE of the solid brick building is estimated at between 65 and 100 years. One story reports it is the third school on the same site, others say that isn't so.

It is possible. Education, according to Peel, began in the Farmington area in an organized way in 1830. Even before that, Nathan Power and Polly Mead were teaching winter and summer terms.

The Farmington Board of Education cleared the title and sold the school about four years ago. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Sherry of Farmington.

It may be that until the site is rezoned, the little schoolhouse will stand vacant. Unless, of course, someone comes along who wants a charming building, solid as a bomb shelter, one large room with a boys' bathroom and a girls' bathroom, for a cozy home.

Farmington needs committee people

FARMINGTON—The city's beautification commission is three people short of its 15-member limit and doesn't seem to be able to find anyone willing to serve.

"I just think the community is not interested enough," said Joanne McShane, one of the committee members.

"We've advertised in our newsletters and received not one phone call. I'm beginning to feel there just isn't the involvement."

Other committee members have contacted friends and spread the word that anyone is welcome to join, she said, but no one has volunteered.

"We're pulling teeth just to get people to come. It's very hard to find people."

There are people known as the friends of the beautification commission who help out on their pet projects, but none of the people have shown interest in becoming a city council-approved member of the commission, she said.

"THEY MAY choose to work on a project, but they're not formally obligated. We need members more than we need friends right now," Mrs. McShane said.

To become a member, a candidate must attend at least one meeting prior to his request for confirmation. After he has announced his interest, he must be approved by the city council before he may become an official member of the beautification commission.

The commission directs cleanups and plantings of shrubs and trees. It also promotes the rejuvenation of the downtown area and presents awards to community businesses for their efforts in beautification.

Their Bicentennial project is the colorful painting of fire hydrants.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS besides Mrs. McShane are Charlotte Bruce, president, Joan Barbrick, Barnett Dickman, Farmington councilman Richard Tupper, Betty Holm, Walter Jablonski, principal of Forest Elementary School.

Other members include David Jones, Farmington director of public services, Janet Kozub, Carol Kurth, Jackie Steuer and Mardi Reichardt.

Anyone interested in applying for one of the three vacant positions should call Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. McShane or the city offices.

Hills council backs residents in battle against noise pollution

By WYLIE GERDES

FARMINGTON HILLS—Residents of a subdivision near I-696 and Halstead Road will have the help of Farmington Hills in combatting noise and dirt from the freeway.

After approving a rezoning opposed by the residents, the city council ordered administrators to ask the Michigan Highway Department's help in cutting noise. The subdivision is west of Halstead and south of I-696.

Several residents objected to a proposal to rezone 1.1 acres north of the expressway from residential to light industrial. However, many of the comments were aimed at the nearby I-696.

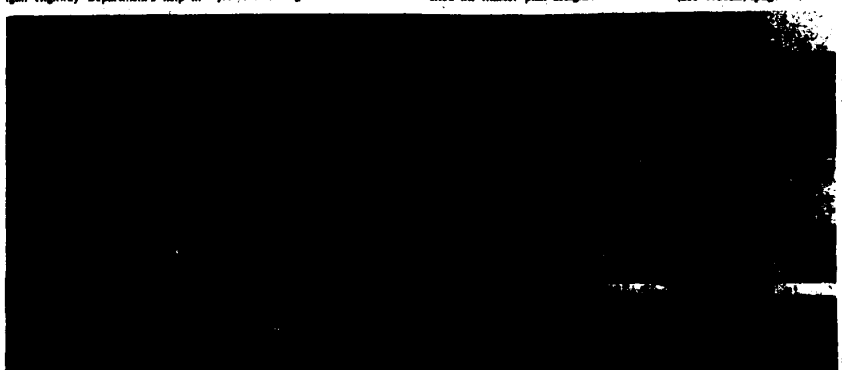
Besides the rezoning, residents objected to storage of mobile homes in the area, location of the Farmington Hills police car pound, and the proposed Farmington Hills department of public works center. The storage yard and the DPW center are north of the expressway.

THE LAND, zoned residential, is listed as light industrial on the Farmington Hills master plan. Councilmen cited the master plan designation in voting unanimously to approve the rezoning.

Jim Goff, 27841 Kendy Lee, said zoning the parcel for light industrial may mean other land in the area will be similarly zoned.

"We're concerned if this property goes light industrial, then other property will go light industrial."

(See NOISE, page 17)



Residents of a subdivision south of the I-696 expressway complained to the Farmington Hills City Council about noise from traffic. (Staff photo)

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NEXT PAPER DELIVERED TUESDAY

Because of the Memorial Day holiday, all Observer & Eccentric Newspaper offices will be closed Monday, May 26, and your paper will be delivered on Tuesday, May 27, this week only.