

Farmington board reluctantly OKs easement

FARMINGTON—Farmington Hills will receive better electricity service from Detroit Edison, but the board of education isn't quite sure they're happy about it.

Tuesday night the board granted a 12-foot easement on Harrison High School property to Edison, but only after it was assured there would be no danger to students.

"In the opinion of all concerned, there will be no danger from any normal or usual or expected activity that will take place on the school property," Business Manager William Frisk said.

Frisk said he met with two representatives from Detroit Edison and inspected the property and the distance between playfields and the requested easement area.

SEVERAL BOARD members wanted to know whether they could deny the request, but Frisk said no. The only choice they had was whether they wanted to grant the easement on the south or north side of the property.

The board chose to grant a southern easement.

"The alternative to the location of the line along the south boundary of the school property will be the location along the north boundary adjacent to Twelve Mile Road, where easement rights are already dedicated," Frisk said.

"The Detroit Edison Co. feels it would be much better for all concerned to locate the line at the south boundary line, and is therefore requesting the easement."

Poles for the lines will be installed in the middle of the easement and will support 130,000 volt wires 60 feet in the air. Other lines with 13,000 volts will run six feet under the higher voltage wires.

The line will begin at a transformer station at Eleven Mile Road and Interstar and will connect to a station at Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Detroit Edison plans to continue the line to a station at Twelve Mile and Drake roads and from there to Haggerty and Maple roads.

"The power line will become the 'backbone' of the power lines serving the city of Farmington Hills," Frisk said.

Young Audiences aids musicians

FARMINGTON—Budding string musicians are left to die on the vine because most of the available money goes to band and vocal music programs.

To counteract that, Hal Kacanek, Farmington High School music instructor, arranged for a three-week program about musical theory and mechanics.

Young Audiences, Inc. is a national non-profit organization which helps aspiring musicians and dancers. In the Detroit area, the group is composed primarily of members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Musicians in each of the five ensembles are paid, so Young Audiences must charge for its services. In Farmington High's case, the payment was made by the school's music patrons (a parent group), and grants by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

Kacanek said the three-week program at Farmington was successful.

"I CERTAINLY am pleased. I wondered why we didn't do this before. I think it's a positive thing because orchestras usually get less attention," he said.

Students are not drawn toward orchestra because of "the somewhat fictitious idea that stringed instruments are difficult to play."

It really isn't true, he said, but the idea has taken root. The result is a shrunken orchestra without enough stringed instruments.

"Stringed basses are the all-time scarcities, with violas running a close second," he said.

But times are changing for orchestra members, and string musicians can look forward to an especially bright array of opportunities.

"THE ADVANTAGES for kids who play stringed instruments are fantastic. I know at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, they are offering half scholarships to any string musician who applies."

C'ville gymnasts win team trophies

Four team trophies were won by the Clarenceville Gymnastic Club this season.

The junior division (11 years and under) and the intermediate division (12-14 years) took top honors in Clarenceville Invitational and repeated top performances at the state championships at Lansing.

Intermediate placings were: all around: Steve Sydor, second; and Bob Van Dike, sixth; floor exercise: Steve Sydor, seventh; Mike Nowakowski, eighth; horizontal bar: Steve Sydor, second; Bob Van Dike, fourth; vaulting: Steve Sydor, fourth; and Bob Van Dike, sixth; tumbling: Steve Sydor, second; Bob Van Dike, fourth; pommel horse: Steve Sydor, second; Jim Chestnut, fourth; Bob Van Dike, eighth; still rings: Bob Van Dike, second; Steve Sydor, third; parallel bars: Steve Sydor, fifth; Bob Van Dike, tenth; side horse: Tom Maize, third; Bob Van Dike, ninth; and Steve Sydor, ninth.

The club is coached by Chuck Thompson and Jim McCarron.

Those placing in the top 10 at Lansing in the junior division include: the overall champ, Chuck Thompson in first; Berry Van Dike, fourth; floor exercise: Chuck Thompson, first; Berry Van Dike, fifth; Brian Van Dike, eighth; Mike Wilson, eighth; Mark Goldston, ninth; horizontal bar: Chuck Thompson, first; Berry Van Dike, sixth; Brian Van Dike, seventh; Franklin Jewitt, eighth; J. Scott Jewitt, eighth; vaulting: Chuck Thompson, first; Berry Van Dike, third; Dan Colaluca, eighth; Greg Haines, tenth; tumbling: Chuck Thompson, first; Berry Van Dike, fifth; Brian Van Dike, ninth; and Mark Goldston, tenth.

Trampoline: Chuck Thompson.

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