

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 77

Monday, July 14, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

28 Pages

Fifteen Cents

## Housing for elderly receives approval

**FARMINGTON HILLS**— The ground breaking for a new senior citizens residence center on the northeast corner of Ten Mile and Middle Belt will take place next month.

The final step, approval of the site plan, was granted this week to the proponent, St. Clare Catholic Parish pastor, Rev. Joseph Drogowski.

Earlier this year, Farmington Hills Council granted the parish's request to rezone 6.9 acres from single family residential to multiple.

The first section of the project will be the construction of two units for 48 persons, and a service building, containing dining, kitchen, recreation and administrative facilities. The parish expects to eventually have room for 100 residents, meals will be served in a common dining area and there will be shared recreational facilities.

The units, designed for semi-de-

pendents, will consist of private room and bath. Sponsors told the council last spring the rooms and board would cost \$180 per month.

The parish actually began work on the plans for this campus concept residence center more than four years ago.

Sponsors were greatly encouraged in September 1972, the Detroit Archdiocese established a Senior Citizens Housing Office and plans to erect campus concept senior housing in each of the six counties it serves. Construction money was available from a trust fund left to the archdiocese by William Ryan.

Approval for the St. Clare project was given by Cardinal Dearden in 1974.

At that time, approval from the council and planning commission was still needed and several public hearings were held.

Although some nearby residents, object to the rezoning for various reasons—it would lower property values and lead to overcrowding and increased traffic, they said—many local religious groups strongly supported the idea.

Fr. Drogowski has repeatedly emphasized the units will be available to people of all creeds, races and nationality. Nor will there be any residence requirements.

An interdenominational board of directors will oversee the operation of the center named Marian-Oakland West.

It is not to be confused with a nursing home. It is expected the residents will use community resources as well as those in the immediate vicinity.

The remainder of the total 18-acre parcel will stay zoned single family residential.

## Farmington teachers attend NEA convention

They were only a drop in the bucket at the National Education Association (NEA) convention this year, but Jerry Kaplan said they played an important role.

Six Farmington teachers helped elect a Michigan man to head the 1.8 million-member national teachers' union, said Kaplan, president of the Farmington Education Association (FEA).

John Ryor of Battle Creek, a dark horse candidate, defeated former president James Harris from Des Moines, Iowa, with the aid of an intensive campaign waged by Michigan delegates.

"Each of our teachers had contacts from other states. Ours were with teachers from the state of New Jersey. We had to try to sell our goals and objectives to them. We were very successful," Kaplan said.

Alameda Elementary and Lloyd Smith, a music consultant for the district.

The teachers were elected on the basis of a referendum vote, with one delegate for every 150 teachers in the district.

Kaplan said Michigan has played a leading role in progressive education. Labor has received good treatment and won a victory by getting a collective bargaining bill passed through the State Legislature. Most states, Kaplan said, do not have similar bills. The passage of the bill is all the more reason for Michigan teachers

not to sit back and rest on their laurels.

"If we can't help colleagues in other states to move ahead, then we can't move ahead, ourselves," Kaplan said.

THEFORE, the two top priorities of the NEA are the passage of a federal collective bargaining bill and a bill fixing financial responsibility for one-third of all educational costs on the federal government, with no strings attached.

Most federal funds are earmarked for specific programs.

**RYOR WAS THIRD** in a field of four candidates. "There was a snow-balling effect and he won on the second ballot."

He will be the first NEA president to serve a two-year term and will assume his duties in September. Previously, NEA presidents served for one year, but may now serve for two consecutive two-year terms.

Back in Battle Creek area, Ryor teaches high school mathematics and is past president of both the Springfield Education Association and the Michigan Education Association.

Farmington teachers attending the convention were Kaplan of Warner Junior High School and Carl Dahlstrom of Eagle Elementary.

Also Pat Brown of Daniel Junior High, Marian Spencer of Flinders Elementary, Barbara Schneberger of



## Woodcarver makes sign for Grand River

**FARMINGTON HILLS**— The boulevard area along Grand River between Eight Mile and the entrance to Farmington Hills will soon be a thing of beauty. In fact, the landscaping of the green strip is already under way.

The final touch will be added sometime next month when a carved wooden sign, carefully made by a skilled volunteer, is erected and the landscaping and planting around it added.

Frank C. Smith, retired architectural design teacher, member of the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission and the Bicentennial Commission, is the willing volunteer woodcarver.

He is doing the sign on large strips of Idaho white pine, carefully working out the letters with an electric engraver's tool.

**EIGHT HOURS** and six letters later, he began to realize what he had undertaken. But Smith is a patient man. Samples of his woodworking and cabinet-making talent decorate many rooms of his home in Independence Commons.

When the lettering and carving are completed, the sign will be taken to a chemical plant to be pressurized and treated.

"It's a new process," says Smith, "and the sign should last for 75 years."

When the sign is up at the city's east entrance, it will say "Beautiful Farmington Hills, Bicentennial Boulevard."

At an hour and 15 minutes a letter, that's an energetic amount of carving—plus the carved top piece,

Smith, who taught at Redford High School for 32 years, welcomes the challenge of being busy.

"I've found since retirement," he says, "that you need a good, solid hobby—nothing artificial."

**HOBBIES** would be more like it. Smith paints in both watercolors and oils, writes serious poetry, does some traveling, works with wood and is on several community committees.

Jerry Prystupa is landscape architect for the project. The Hills council approved \$14,500 for it. Committee members actively involved are: Dorothy Gordon, chairman, Smith, co-chairman, John Anshut, Lincoln Avery, Eileen LaFontaine, Jan Dolan, Barb Moehlman and Kay Blakely.

## Analyzes mechanical stress

## Resident consults on U.S. projects

By SUSAN AVERILL

As a result of a project he did 16 years ago, George Kurajian of Farmington will fly to London in August to present a paper on structural discontinuities to an international conference of engineers.

Kurajian is a mechanical engineer and a professional educator who does consultations on the side. It was one of these consultations which brought him the trip to London.

Cooperating with Richard Stewart of Chrysler, Kurajian worked on a stress analysis project whose results would be used in Jupiter and Saturn rockets by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The general stress analysis procedure was used to study liquid oxygen tank bulkheads in the rockets and the effects of different stress reactions upon one another.

Bulkheads, the ends of a cylindrical tank, are constructed of several geometric figures and are thus subject to different kinds of stress.

"In a liquid oxygen tank, the bulkheads are not a simple shape, and stress analysis is much more complex. Different sections have variable shape and thickness."

That much was already known in mechanical engineering. It was the new application of the knowledge which caused international interest.

"What was different about our testing was that up to that time, no one had thought to ask about the effect of one kind of stress reaction on another kind of reaction," he explained.

The novelty of the idea is what caused coordinators of the international conference to invite him to present the paper.

Kurajian will present the paper at the International Conference in Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology in August.

That hasn't been the only federal project Kurajian has had his hand in. Through other projects done for private industries, he has helped develop machines for the Army.

**IN A RECENT** project, he analyzed a docking simulator device developed by Troy firm. The device, used by NASA astronauts, holds a mock capsule and moves it in any direction according to the particular docking situation.

Kurajian has done consultations for more than 20 years. Most of them have been in mechanical design, stress and structural analysis design and design audits.

The latter, he said, meant examining a design for a firm and then making analyses and recommendations.

The Farmington engineer was recently named chairperson of mechanical engineering at the Dearborn campus of the University of Michigan. He has been a member of the faculty since 1964 and taught at his alma mater, the University of Detroit, for 16 years prior to that.

"I'm now beginning to get some of students I had years ago. Even some of former classmates," he said.

Sons? Aren't there any women in the engineering programs on the Dearborn campus?

"There's been an increase in the number of females in engineering, and if I have to make a guess, I'd say about 30 per cent."

It's actually a little more than that because 34 of the 123 in the new freshman engineering class are women. The percentage, he said, will probably continue to be reflected in the mechanical engineering department.

"CHANCES ARE," since the mechanical engineering department is the largest of the engineering departments, we'll maintain the 30 per cent increase."

The increase may reflect the fact that women are no longer curbing their interest in a traditionally male-dominated field.

"There is definitely more opportunity for female mechanical engineers. Usually they won't have any trouble

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## From tee to green

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce hosted the Southfield Chamber of Commerce Friday in a day of golf followed by a dinner-dance. For more pictures and a story, turn to Farmington sports.

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### SPREADING THE FEELING

A group of Farmington area teenagers' interest in music has led them to try to spread their feelings to others. For more turn to Page 1B.

### BEST IN STATE

Looking for the best hair stylist in the state? He works in Farmington, since a Farmington man won the title recently. For a demonstration of his work, turn to Page 1B.