

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## Dudley protests

# Hills council backs private ice rink

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington Hills City Council has supported the concept of a privately owned ice arena for its residents. In a 6-1 decision, the council approved rezoning of seven acres on Drake and Farmington roads from residential to special purpose, allowing local

businessman Ron Hanaway to start planning construction of the rink. Opposing was Councilmember Joan Dudley.

"Once again we are taking a stand when the Nov. 4 election is supposed to give public input," said Mrs. Dudley, referring to the recreation advisory

referendum question to appear on the ballot.

"The residents of this city have never been asked to support a public facility," she said.

Mrs. Dudley expressed reservations over having a private rink in the city, saying some residents may be unable

to afford the fees a private rink would charge.

She also said the chances of a public supported rink surviving would be better because of municipalities' abilities to borrow money at lower interest rates. They don't have the tax burden either, she said.

"This council should keep in mind that we service all the people in the community. Some residents just can't swing the rates private ice rinks ask for their ice time," she said.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ice rink in the area has been a controversy for more than three years. A previous proposal was turned down when the special purpose zoning category was non-existent.

But Mrs. Dudley's objections fell on deaf ears, as her colleagues supported the private enterprise concept.

Drake and Freedom roads intersect in the city's southwest section, abutting the City of Farmington.

"I think when we are dealing with a special activity, private industry is the right way to go. Many persons in the community consider construction

of a rink a waste of public funds," said Councilman Fred Lichtman.

"I think it is time for one community to experiment the other way. In this way we won't be wasting funds on what may be a passing fad," he said.

Mayor Earl Oppenheimer, who supported the zoning change, expressed concern about an oversaturation of ice rinks in the area.

"I don't want the same thing to happen with ice rinks that happened with office buildings, like the case in Southfield. The development could be destined for failure because of oversaturation," he said.

Ronald Larson, an attorney representing Hanaway at the council session, assured councilmembers that oversaturation isn't a problem.

"This city is crying for an ice rink facility. It is very obvious the community is interested and anxious," he said.

Larson says there are 500 children involved in the Farmington Hockey Association and many more residents who would use the rink.

"While there are 500 children in-

volved in hockey, over and above that, there is a call for a facility for figure skating and dance, as well as free skating," he said.

Presently, the Farmington Hockey Association is leasing time from the Novi Hockey Arena. Other residents use Southfield's arena at Nine Mile and Beech.

UNLIKE PRIVATE CLUBS popping up around the area, which charge membership fees, the Farmington ice facility would work on a pay-as-you-use basis, said Larson.

"We are suggesting a facility where persons would pay for it as they use it. Whether it is by the hour, lesson or leased by a hockey association, in each instance we aren't talking about membership," he said.

Mrs. Dudley demanded to know the rate that would be offered to residents for the arena's use. Larson was unable to give a figure.

"It's premature to discuss rates. It will take months to put together a site plan. The owner must be of being competitive," said Larson.



Artistic endeavor

Sister Mary Ignatius thumbs through art work to choose pieces that will be hung when Mercy High School Mothers' Club holds "Lunch With Lenore" Wednesday, Oct. 15. The fund raising event will get under way at 11:30

a.m., in Mercy Center, with an hour reception for guest of honor Lenore Romney. Decorations for the affair will be art work created by Sister Ignatius' students at the school. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Hockey Association urges public facility

Although the Farmington Hills City Council has approved rezoning which would allow installation of a private ice arena, Brian Burns, Farmington Hockey Association president, doesn't think that's good enough.

Appearing before city council this week, Burns urged the council to construct a municipal rink.

"This private rink won't substitute for a public arena. While this location is good for a private arena, it won't serve the needs of the total public," said Burns.

The rink, if constructed, will be on the corner of Freedom and Drake roads, on the city's southwest side. Burns believes a centrally located rink is needed.

Burns reminded the council of the fast-growing Hockey Association club.

"We are dedicated to total recreation in this area," he said. "We have 1,000 voting parents. Next year we will have 700 hockey players which will increase our voting parents even more."

Burns said hockey arenas have never been a problem when constructed in residential areas.

"They aren't noisy and they don't smell bad. I don't know of any arenas where they have had trouble with youngsters," he said.

"Don't use private enterprise as a cop out. It's no deal. We won't buy it."

Kenneth Larson, attorney representing the persons interested in building a private rink, supported Burns' notion that a public rink also is needed. "It appears a private arena would still leave room for a public facility," he said.

he said. "Neither would be a hindrance to the other. A private facility alone couldn't handle a hockey program."

Presently, the Farmington Hockey Association rents ice time from the Novi arena. It has two years left on a three year lease.

Mayor Earl Oppenheimer wanted to know if this would cause problems to the private arena's success.

Larson said that because of time needed for building and site planning, that the arena would be ready to compete when the Novi lease expired.

"My understanding is that the Farmington Hockey Association is very interested in a Farmington facility. I think the Novi contract will fall short of their needs within the year," he said.

## Profile:

### Life as principal is rewarding time

By SUSAN AVERILL

Carolyn Pisek, Highroad Elementary School principal in Farmington Hills, says Farmington is one of the best school systems around. She ought to know.

Born in Chicago, Miss Pisek grew up in Charlotte, Mich. She earned her BS in elementary education from Western Michigan University. She went to three universities to get her master's degree, beginning at Michigan State University in guidance and counseling.

She attended Boston University and finished the degree at Eastern Michigan University.

Her teaching career began in Farmington at Longacre Elementary. She taught two years of kindergarten and one year of second grade. During the summer, she affiliated herself with Head Start.

A desire for travel and adventure sparked her interest in teaching overseas. She signed up with the Air Force to teach to American children and rejected her first assignment to teach in the Azores.

Her next telegram from the Air Force was an ultimatum: either France or nothing. Although she preferred to teach elsewhere in Europe, she took France and was glad she did.

"I didn't have a very good view of the country, but that changed after I got there. If I hadn't gone, I'd probably still not think well of it today," she said.

SHE TAUGHT IN Nancy, France, for a year and then moved to Boston. While there, she taught kindergarten and first grade to children on an Air Force base in Lincoln, Mass.

Wanting to be closer to her family in Charlotte, she finally moved back to Michigan and took a teaching position again in Farmington.

For three years, she taught first grade at Larikshire Elementary. A combination third and fourth grade class followed that, then another combination class, this time fifth and sixth grades.

"I've taught all the grades. A lot of teachers like to stick to just one or two, because they get to know what to expect. It also takes time to develop materials for a class, so it's easier to stay with only one or two levels."



CAROLYN PISEK

end up with an EBD. Everything But the Dissertation.

"This year begins her fifth as a principal. It goes by so fast. No year, let alone no day, is alike. That's the beautiful thing about this job—it's unpredictable."

WHAT SHE MEANS is that there is an endless variety of experiences for her to choose from, leaving no time for boredom.

Today I spent from 10:15 a.m. to noon in a classroom, taking over for a teacher. She will often observe classes to maintain contact with teachers and young students.

"I believe we should keep up with trends and ideas. You should stand on your head, if you have to, to teach children," she said.

She is strongly in favor of individualizing teaching.


"I don't think you'll find a classroom that doesn't teach on an individual level in Farmington."

The schools here are progressive, she said, but cautious, also.

"We like to try out new programs that will help teach children, but we do it very cautiously, beginning with a pilot study. If the pilot study works, chances are it will later be used district-wide."

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## A bygone era

Paul Button's Centennial farm, will soon be the site of housing development. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)