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Extra Cent

Referendum debate mapped out by city

By STEVE BARNABY

Parks and street paving will be the focus of attention at a public meeting to be conducted at 8 p.m. Wednesday night in Farmington High School.

Farmington Hills city administrators will make presentations explaining the two advisory referendum questions to appear on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Voters will be asked what type of parks they want developed. Presently, the Hills has a five-acre park in the north end and a two-acre park in the south section. Various subdivisions in the northern section of the city already have private parks.

On the second question, voters will be asked if they favor the council's accelerating the paving of major and primary city roads through the sale of road construction bonds to be paid off or retired with a portion of future federal gasoline or weight taxes.

FARMINGTON AREA RECREATION. Director Doug Gaynor will make a presentation explaining various options open to city voters on park development. Voters will be asked whether they prefer additional parks and recreation development—small neighborhood parks, large municipal parks, or a combination of the two.

The parks issue has turned into a hot political issue between the council hopefuls seeking seats in the upcoming election. While some politicians favor using school sites, others want to use the large acreage still available in the city limits.

Still others feel that because of closeness of county parks, further park development is unnecessary.

We want to get out and see how the residents feel about these two issues," says City Manager George Majors. By having administrators make the presentations we will be able to keep politics out of it.

Gaynor will explain the overlay of existing recreation facilities already in the city. Included are three private golf courses, two public courses, eight school sites, and five private swim clubs.

"We are looking at all the options," says Gaynor. "There are a few choice spots still left with 200,000 acres for a major park. Our main concern is obtaining a centralized area where the entire city can benefit," he says.

One problem in developing a park system is the way the city is divided by two expressways, I-96 and I-94.

Because of this, the city is divided into three sections. There are few pedestrian overpasses. It is our job to see that everyone gets the same kind of facilities, no matter where they live in the city.

Another problem clouding the park system is the recreation extension shared by both the City of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Presently, there isn't a combined parks and recreation department.

"I can only make plans and establish programs," says Gaynor. "The maintenance is left up to the parks services department. If the voters want parks, something is going to have to be done to maintain them."

A county official will also be present to explain Oakland's park system. Presently, the county has six parks in the area north of Farmington Hills plus a mobile recreational facility and a conference center and golf courses.

CONCERNING ROAD PAVING. Ralph Magid, public services director, says if voters approve the referendum, roads will be paved that should have been dealt with years ago.

There is still a critical need to invest money in roads that should have had attention years ago. Major road construction is a costly item and will get more costly with the inflationary trend he says.

Magid says to construct a mile of five lane concrete roadway on a county thoroughfare such as Orchard Lake costs approximately \$1,500,000. To construct a mile of two lane asphalt roadway over a major gravel city road such as Drake would cost approximately \$300,000.

Major advantages, he says, of speeding up the road program by selling bonds and pledging future gas and weight taxes would be:

- Widening traffic congested major county and city paved roads will reduce an excessive number of traffic accidents because of restricted capacity.

- Paving gravel roads results in less maintenance demands on the city resulting in not only major savings but better maintenance services in other areas that require attention.

- Paving gravel roads reduces operating costs to the traveling public and reduces a potential for damages caused by chuck holes and bad drainage conditions.

Roads considered for paving are Orchard Lake, Middlebelt, Twelve Mile, Eight Mile, Nine Mile, Eleven Mile, Thirteen Mile, Drake, and Halstead.

Cost for such a paving venture is hard to estimate, he says, because funds could be made available by the city, county, and federal governments sharing the costs.



Beth Jones, a student at Farmington's Mercy High School, is a language lab assistant. To see who makes Mercy's language program

interesting turn to page 3A (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

PROFILE

Principal sticks with elementary kids

By SUSAN AVERILL

Walter Jablonski is one of those who started at a higher level and went down from there. He likes it that way.

What that means is that after graduating with a degree in secondary education, Jablonski wound up in an elementary school as principal of Forest.

He never did teach at the secondary level.

I graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1959 with a degree in English literature and a secondary background. When I was interviewing, I was exceptionally impressed with Farmington personnel," he said.

In my senior year, I developed an interest in elementary education, but I didn't expect to change at that point. While I was interviewing, they told me to talk to the elementary director.

After talking to him, he was hired. While he worked on his master's degree, he received his elementary certification from the state.

SUCH A ROUTE is not unusual. Most men in elementary started out that way, he said.

From the experience of a wide assortment of jobs, Jablonski said teaching has been rewarding.

Teaching has been exciting. You don't get the satisfaction of dealing with youngsters on most other kinds of jobs.

He has taught sixth grade at Alameda and fifth grade at Beechview elementary. He has never had any professional teaching experience outside of the Farmington district.

He has been principal at Forest for three years and was previously principal at Longacre for eight. He is a past

president of the Farmington Association of Elementary School Principals and the Farmington Association of School Administrators.

He still keeps one hand in teaching by leading a special interest group in photography. He also uses this hobby to record special happenings on film to present to the PTA and parent gatherings.

His experience with the Franklin Village Players has helped him in his principalship, he said.

To maintain audience contact, you have to keep an interesting and humorous probably the best way," he said, explaining that he played mostly character roles.

As a principal, Jablonski must often deal with planning instructional methods.

"APPROVES CHANGE in teaching. Yet it is not so much the approach or content which makes a program work, but the teacher in whose hands the approach is merely a tool," he said.

The human being—teacher—that's important. Here we have three different approaches to teaching, each tremendously successful because the teachers are enthusiastic.

The teacher who can relate to other individuals to the learners can maintain excitement for learning. He admits, however, that maintenance of a high interest level is difficult for any teacher at times.

When disciplinary problems arise, Jablonski said he takes the counseling approach.

My philosophy on discipline is positive thinking. The principal takes the counseling position not only with kids, but with everyone. Most of the

time it works. I still use this as a basic approach.

To maintain such a helpful atmosphere, he too uses an open-door policy.

"This office is not a place for fear or discipline," he said.

Differing perceptions on any problem—whether they be the student's, teacher's, principal's, or parents—should be heard and respected," he said.

This will happen—it's human nature. We look at it as a total perspective. A child's own point of view may be different, but we still have to respect it.

JABLONSKI SAID he appreciates parents who volunteer to help out in the school.

Forest is very strong in terms of parent involvement with the school. Parents are a tremendous resource. Many people in this area have traveled extensively.

Bringing them in here to talk helps the students learn the purpose of learning, why they are in school. They see the benefit of working. I like to draw parents in here to enhance the educational aspect.



WALTER JABLONSKI

Forest Elementary School has one of the largest elementary level enrollments in the district, with 325. The kindergarten enrollment is so large in fact that 21 students from Forest are attending Fairview and two are going to Woodside, Jablonski said.

FARMINGTON PUBLICITY-PRESS RELATIONS SEMINAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 - 7:30 p.m.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 69, Southfield, 48075
Phone 352-5400

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BEAUTY AWARDS

The Keep Farmington Beautiful Committee conducted a luncheon last week to honor Farmington area businessmen and individuals who did their part in keeping Farmington a beautiful place to live. To see who was awarded what, turn to Page 2.



A winner

Susan Silver, a graduate of North Farmington High School, recently won an award of merit at the third Colorado annual exhibition at the Denver Art Museum with this untitled pencil drawing.

Brodhead to speak before Chamber

Congressman William M. Brodhead (D-Farmington) will be the speaker at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce membership breakfast, 8 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Botsford Inn.

He will speak on the major issues facing Congress and give special attention to the problems of inflation, unemployment and control of the federal budget.

Farmington O & E to conduct seminar

The Farmington Observer & Eccentric is conducting a public seminar on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Holiday Inn, Ten Mile and Grand River.

The seminar will explain the basic guidelines needed to get word of your club or organization out to the public by using your community newspaper.

The seminar is free and open to publicly chartered, club presidents and others from civic groups. Each participant will receive a pamphlet of general information on how to prepare stories and pictures for a newspaper or other publication.

During the seminar participants will be able to sit in on three informal discussions.

Discussions will cover how local news editors work and the type of articles they will consider for publication.

The second is handled by the editor of the Farmington suburban life section.

The third is devoted to photography—how to work with a photographer and what makes good photographs.

If you wish to attend the seminar fill out the registration form and mail it to the Farmington Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 69, Southfield, Mich. 48075.