

# Cities legislate against the bad old gremlins

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills have spearheaded the movement to put a hex on a mischievous tradition that dates back to the Celts.

They are once again urging parents to "keep their young people within the family circle" on Oct. 30, which is commonly referred to as devil's night in this area.

Devil's night, called cabbage night

in some parts of the United States, seems to have sprung from Celtic traditions when Halloween celebrants threw cabbage stumps at rural cottages in Great Britain.

Lacking rotting cabbage stumps, local tradition supporters have thrown eggs at homes, wrapped toilet paper around evergreens and written "Keep on truckin'" on car windshields with a bar of soap.

But there is a considerable portion of the adult community that would like to see the time honored tradition expire.

The man who, two years ago, organized the effort against devil's night is Farmington's Larikshire Elementary Principal Al Lanigan.

"It made little sense to continue to defend our schools and property year

after year against our own children," said Lanigan.

His conversations with the Farmington PTA Council led to the formation of the Citizens Committee on Devil's Night. The task force contacted West Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, Walled Lake and Waterford, and all agreed to keep a close eye on their children Oct. 30.

"I can't help thinking," said Lanigan, "that if the community can keep the good work for a few more years, a generation of children will be entering junior high without having participated in devil's night mischief."

The Farmington School District claims that last year's published plea to parents last year resulted in "a virtual absence of devil's night van-

dalism" in the district's 27 schools.

And West Bloomfield Township police records reveal that not one "mischievous mischief" call came in last devil's night after the program was implemented.

The devil's night committee says the only tradition they want to stop is the mischief and vandalism. They have no quarrel with the Oct. 31 tradition of door-to-door begging for treats

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### Shiawasse route battle is settled - temporarily

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Young children trekking to and from Shiawasse Elementary will soon have a new temporary route to travel.

School officials say they will rent a utility easement on the west end of John Randolph's property, directly across from the Randolph Fence Co. on Nine Mile. Business Manager William Prisk contends this will eliminate the muddy walk on the present path through the middle of Randolph's property.

And rather than walk straddling a fence and a ditch on Shiawasse, students will cross Nine Mile with a guard at the west easement and head 100 feet to a sidewalk which leads to bowling alley frontage.

Prisk said Wednesday morning Randolph offered the district temporary use of his easement through June 1976 for \$500.

THE \$500 WILL BE used by Randolph to cover the cost of two relocations of an existing fence.

"It is my opinion—however I am reluctant to say it—that although Mr. Randolph will only consider permission to use the requested easement for a limited time, he will allow this to be continued depending on the reaction from the community," said Prisk.

"Someone continues to damage the fence he is constructing," Prisk added. "This has influenced considerably his attitude toward our request. The experience he has had with the community, plus pressures from the city government, have caused him to take a very adamant position."

While students use the temporary route, board attorney Robert Kelly says the board will be negotiating

with Randolph to try to permanently secure the easement. Kelly said it is also negotiating to secure another easement north of Albion Street.

According to Prisk, Wiseman, who owns the easement north of Albion Street, has already offered to sell it permanently to the district for \$1,960.

Prisk and members of the board believe that price is too high and con-

tend that the Wiseman easement is too far west to serve the entire Grand River subdivision adequately.

"But it's not a question of alternatives," said Kelly. "Mr. Prisk would like to get hold of both easements to help clear up this traffic problem."

JOHN LALIBERTE, head of the parents group who petitioned the

board for a new walkway, said he does not like the Randolph easement. Laliberte said the easement would place children in a field far away from the watchful eyes of homeowners.

But other parents spoke up saying they thought the west Randolph property easement would be a marked improvement over existing situations.

### Defy warnings

## Board adds programs for gifted and sports

By CRAIG PIECHURA

Despite pessimistic financing predictions from school administrators, the Farmington School Board added a \$25,000 appropriation for academically gifted instruction and \$5,000 earmarked for girls' sports to the 1975-76 budget.

Sponsors of the two-part amendment said they were responding to overwhelming requests made by the public at the recent budget hearing.

Trustee Gary Lichtman stumped for the "academically able" appropriation for students in kindergarten through the eighth grade and Trustee Michael Shipce pushed for additional money to pay coaches in the expansion of girls' sports.

The two trustees haggled with fellow board members for nearly three hours before the two-part amendment was passed. In the roll call vote, only Trustee Anne Struble voted against the \$30,000 increase in the budget.

"But I don't feel this process depends on such a large expenditure," said Van Ameyde.

Trustee Gary Lichtman answered the superintendent saying that in-service training of classroom teachers to recognize academically proficient students would be paid for with the \$25,000. Lichtman also suggested that resource people, much like reading specialists, visit elementary and junior high schools to work with the more advanced students.

FLANDERS ELEMENTARY first grade teacher Marion Spencer said she could readily spend some of the \$25,000 set aside for gifted students.

"Right now in my class I have a

boy who reads at a fifth-grade level and a girl who is about at fourth-grade ability," said Mrs. Spencer. "There is a big spread in my classroom and that's only one grade we're talking about. Tell me what to do with these children and the other 23 in my class."

The entire \$25,000 set aside for the academically able would not necessarily be spent, Lichtman emphasized.

"If all it takes is \$300 or \$500, I say fine," Lichtman said. "But you better show me one heck of a program for that money. I know the \$500 we have been allocating in recent budgets hasn't shown us anything."

### LWV support youth in debate contest

The West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters is giving its endorsement and support to area youth who will take part in the Bicentennial Youth Debates.

The local contest will be held in Farmington Community Library, 3237 Twelve Mile, Oct. 23, at 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The Bicentennial Youth Debate program was established by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Speech Communication Association for the purpose of giving high school and college students an opportunity for a meaningful commemoration. It is recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and is operating in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The local league, whose purpose is to encourage citizen participation in government, also believes that it is a meaningful way to involve youth in the bicentennial celebration.

THE CONTEST is called "A Nation of Nations" and gives the student an opportunity to compete in one of three categories: Persuasive Speaking, which is an oratorical contest; Extemporaneous Speaking, which is an analytical competition; and Lincoln-Douglas Style Debating, a two-man standard debate format.

The contestants will be judged on content and delivery by a panel of six judges, two specializing in each of the three areas of the contest.

The first series of the competition will take place on the high school level. One winner in each category will be selected.

All participants will receive a Bicentennial certificate. The winners will receive \$25 savings bonds and the right to go to the district level of competition, where prize values increase.



BOOOOOO!

Witches and goblins, werewolves and vampires, and mysterious things that go bump in the night are ready for the stalwart ones only, in the Haunted House that opens tonight on Fourteen Mile Road. For a preview of surprises the Farmington Jaycees have in store for Halloween, see today's Suburban Life section. (Photo by Jim Hugi)

### Bands to benefit

## Tag Day campaign ready

More than 1,000 Farmington adults and young people will participate Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24-25, in the annual Tag Days money-raising project to benefit three area high school bands.

on alto sax and Mike Benjamin on trumpet

Farmington High School students in

Throughout the Farmington area in shopping malls, on street corners and supermarkets there will be band members from Farmington, Farmington Harrison or Farmington High schools asking for donations.

Anyone making a contribution will receive a ticket for free admission to one of the high school band concerts in the area.

"The main thrust of the Tag Days," said this year's chairman, Lee Markovich, "is to get as many people as possible involved in supporting these three fine high school bands. The expressed purpose of Tag Days is to raise money to help each school continue to keep quality musical organizations in their schools."

The Dirty Dozen musical group will travel around to the collection spots. The group is comprised of four of the best musicians from each school.

Members of the Dirty Dozen from North Farmington High include Yvonne Nielsen on clarinet, Julie Johnson on alto sax, Doug Schultz on trumpet and Paul Becker on trombone.

Harrison High is represented by Tom Nolegine on trumpet, Steve Markovich on trumpet, Steve Dofolci



Gail Gooding, North Farmington High School Homecoming Queen gives a smile for the camera after being tapped for the honors at last weekend's homecoming event. To see more of the action, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Maue)

the Dirty Dozen are Mike Hershoren, trombone; Tom Hajdak, tuba; Scott Smith, percussion; and Mark Steinber, baritone sax.

MRS. STRUBLE voted against the amendment saying, "That kind of elevator ride in expense would give us no sleep."

Both Business Manager William Prisk and Supr. Martin Van Ameyde cautioned the board against voting for the increase by citing predictions that state aid to school districts is expected to be cut.

Prisk said he fears that by the time Farmington School District hears the state will have to make a reduction in aid. "Programs such as these will already have money committed to them."

Supr. Van Ameyde said he believes the district "will need at least an \$85,000 surplus budget to run the ship."

There was an \$85,160 surplus in the tentative budget before the \$30,000 amendment was added. There now is a budgeted \$50,160 surplus.

Van Ameyde said academically gifted youngsters could be helped if teachers were "reoriented to recognize talented youngsters."

### Sorrows gives 'Liberty' talk

Our Lady of Sorrows bicentennial program, Liberty and Justice for All, continues with its discussion meetings on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the elementary school, beginning at 8 p.m.

The school is located at 22617 Powers, Farmington.

Tonight's talk will be on the family and how best the church and community can encourage and develop it, especially in regard to the young and elderly.

The meeting will begin with a short film. Discussion groups will follow. The meeting will conclude with recommendations for an affirmative plan of action. These recommendations will be submitted to the church council.

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