

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

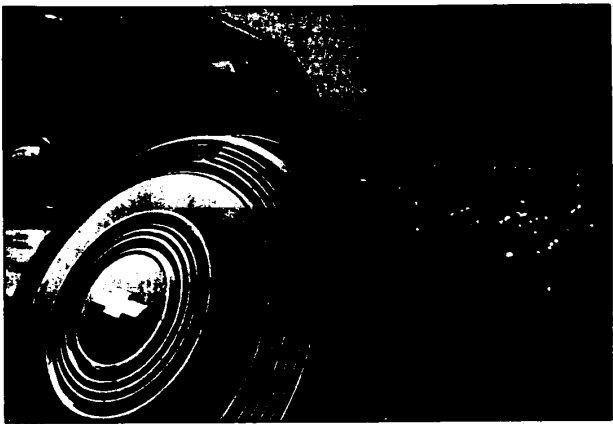
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Twenty Five Cents



Lost treasures

Near almost every pothole or bump in the road there lies scores of lost hubcaps from speeding cars or unrepaired motorists caught suddenly by the uneven pavement. Driving through the Farmington community, motorists

can take solace in the fact that there's a used hubcap dealer willing and ready to part with his wares near many of those bumpy and ratty sites. (Photo by Jim Hug)

Grants, loans brighten cities with new looks

By RON GARBIANSKI

Some Farmington area neighborhoods may soon become better places to live. When Farmington and Farmington Hills officials meet with administrators from 44 other Oakland County communities this week, they will be discussing the possibility of drawing federal funds into the region to improve sub-standard housing.

Residents wishing to improve the exterior appearance of their homes may apply directly to the city or county for part of this year's more than \$500,000 federal allocation for the county-wide rehabilitation projects.

How much money will be distributed to each community hasn't been decided yet, but the funds allocated to the two cities will help several sections of the Farmington community upgrade housing exteriors.

"This isn't a federal Housing and Urban Development program," said a spokeswoman for Oakland County's loan and grant division.

What the money will do is rehabilitate the many sub-standard houses in Oakland County so that they may meet the housing codes now enforced in the various communities.

The federal grant allocated by the county would total a maximum of \$100. The loans are issued at a three per cent annual interest rate with the county subsidizing the remaining nine per cent.

In all, there is more than \$600,000 for 44 Oakland County communities. Twenty per cent of this amount will be allocated to grants and with 80 per cent being set aside for loans.

When area officials meet Tuesday, Thursday and Friday they will discuss the grants and loans and will find out who can qualify for what type of funding. They will also be informed of application procedures.

"We think this program will benefit a tremendous amount of residents in Oakland County, especially the elderly and handicapped," the county spokeswoman explained. "All we need for this program to be successful is the cooperation of all communities involved."

Basically, it's a rehabilitation project with Oakland County setting the guidelines for distributing the funds and how they are put to use.

Instead of just going into a neighborhood and tearing down most buildings on the block, the county has decided to direct these funds to neighborhoods with low income housing, fixing up the houses in need of repair.

Funding for Farmington area home owners is scheduled to begin within two

weeks and any interested resident should contact their city building department for further details.

Presently, there is a pilot program similar to the one now being planned for the entire county that has met much success in Berkley and Oak Park.

Based on the framework used in those two cities, county officials expect to generate local interest in the housing beautification project which is guaranteed to be funded with increased federal monies next year.

Official Docket

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
City Hall, 4000 Oakman
Monday, 8 p.m.

Three major issues will be considered by the council tonight as senior citizen housing returns to the limelight. The council will review a rezoning request for a six acre plot on the westside of Gill Road near Eight Mile to be used for seniors housing. Also on the agenda is a resolution to amend the city's sign ordinance to permit the posting of political campaign posters on private property. Three separate resolutions dealing with special assessment districts will read out the council meeting as it considers the establishment of a fee for special assessment district fund administration. A resolution authorizing the release of fund balances to property owners in certain special assessment districts will be of importance to many homeowners now faced with the tax. To conclude that portion of the meeting, the council will consider approving a title search firm to conduct ownership determinations in the special assessment districts.

NORTHWESTERN CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Farmington Hills City Hall
Tuesday, 8 p.m.

In the past three years, the cost of extending Northwestern Highway has more than doubled. This will be one of the committee's major topics of discussion along with other environmental studies and budget problems.

County readies for free swine flu shots...

Oakland County Health officials will announce within two weeks where residents can receive their free swine flu vaccine.

We expect to have our plans completed within the next week or two," said Linda DeFoe, chief of Oakland County Health Department's clinical services.

More than 100 sites in the county will be used to distribute the vaccine. Larger clinics will probably be needed in the more densely populated southern portion of the county.

Shopping centers, high schools and town halls will be used as health centers. Sites will be chosen to accommodate the large number of persons who are expected to be standing in lines and to provide the health teams with enough room to set up their equipment.

Elderly and chronically ill residents will be able to receive a bi-valent phase of the

swine flu shot by October which will guard against the swine flu and the A/Victoria strain flu.

Others older than 18 will receive the shot in November.

"That's a conservative estimate we are using," she said. The health department is awaiting information from the Michigan Department of Health about the age limit for the vaccine, she said.

"We're awaiting final field trial results. There may be a change in the age at which we will be giving the vaccine. The Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta told us to give the vaccine from 18 years of age and on. But there have been some further reports which place the age at 25."

"As of now, there isn't any recommendation for children under 18 receiving the shot," she reported. "We've asked the Communicable Disease Center for recom-

mendations for chronically ill children especially those who have heart disease or diabetes.

Persons who are allergic to eggs, chick and chicken feathers are advised not to receive the egg-based swine flu vaccine.

"It depends on the amount of the allergy," she explained. "These persons should discuss it with their doctor. They may be able to receive a series of partial doses of the vaccine until the immunity is brought up to a desired level."

Before the vaccination is given, the health department will screen each recipient for possible reactions to the shot.

FURTHER INFORMATION can be obtained by calling the Oakland County Health Department's Flu Central, 1-868-1278.

The program will emphasize giving per-

sons a whole rather than a split virus vaccine.

"A whole virus assures a better antibody reaction in the recipients," Ms. DeFoe said.



LYNN KOSEBMA

...while most prepare for wait

Some area residents are prepared to stand in line and watch as a member of the county health department's field team vacates their arm with cotton before giving them a recently developed vaccine.

They believe in swine flu. "It's a necessity," said Lorraine Saad of Farmington Hills. The reaction isn't a consideration when it's compared to the danger of not receiving a shot.

"I'm not wild about getting those goodies," Mrs. Lynn Kosebma of Farmington Hills admitted. Even so, she would get a vaccination.

Although the Oakland County Health Department has recommended that persons older than 18 receive the inoculation, many residents wanted their children to receive the vaccine.

"I have three children," said Al Mandel of who works in Farmington Hills said. "With children, you have to go with what's available."

"I take my children for check-ups and I'd get my pediatrician's opinion first," Mrs. Kosebma said.

MRS. KOSEBMA'S children are 12, nine and five years old. "With all you hear, I think I might let them have the shot," she said. "The doctors haven't researched it

enough for children." Robert Blue of Farmington said, "I would consider it if it was developed for them."

He himself would get the vaccination. "I have a heart condition," he explained. "Some persons wouldn't consider receiving the inoculation."

"I work in a clinic," Janet Wingerten of New Hudson said. "I heard that it didn't do much good." Her husband, Irv, agreed that they wouldn't get the shot.

"I always get a flu shot," Mildred Lipinski, a registered dietitian at Botsford General Hospital, said. "I will get this one. I lost relatives in the last war to swine flu."

An area resident who refused to identify himself thought he would get the shot. "I think that they're jumping the gun," he said. "I don't think that it's going to be as bad as they say."

Another resident expressed aversion to all vaccines. "The last time I was sick, it was after a vaccination," William Bazy of Farmington said. "I don't think there'll be an epidemic. People will flock to the doctors if it does come."

A TEACHER, who refused to give her name, objected to the vaccination program on philosophic grounds. "To me, it's part of the whole govern-

ment interference with our lives. I don't think there'll be a wholesale epidemic. They make you feel guilty if you don't get the shot," she said. "But I think it should be available for the poor."



ROBERT ETUE and DAN

Sour music turns sweet

By CORINNE ABATT

Just as the band camp plans for the Farmington High School marching band hit a sour note, some sweet music filled the air.

Farmington School District Personnel Director Dr. LeRoy Bartman announced the appointment of Gerald Jacoby, 24, of Southfield, as instrumental music director at the high school last week.

The appointment means that band camp, Aug. 28-Sept. 2, at Camp Walden near Cheboygan will go as planned. Without a music teacher, camp plans would have gone down the drain.

Jacoby replaces Harold Kacanski who resigned last month to complete his doctorate at the University of Kansas.

Dr. Bartman said there were many applications for the position. "It was just a case of making sure we had the one we wanted."

Jacoby's appointment was announced shortly before he visited the school. On hand to welcome him were Clayton Gram, principal, Mike Randall, band camp

counselor from University of Michigan, Mrs. Ron Tucker, an active band parent and Kathy Miller, band member and camp organizer.

Although Jacoby said he would have to juggle some previous plans to make it to the camp, he said, "I want to do it because I believe in this kind of thing."

ALONG WITH THE 50 students and their new director, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, Randall and a half dozen counselors will be at the camp.

Jacoby was drum major of the marching band when he was a senior at Southfield High School. He played tuba in the orchestra and band before taking over the leadership up here.

He received his BA and MA in music education from Wayne State University and was drum major of the WSU marching band for five years and assistant before.

He is also major of music at Evangelical Covenant Church of Detroit on Telegraph at Eight Mile. He is a member of the WSU Men's Glee Club which just re-

turned from a six-week concert tour of Europe.

At Wayne, Jacoby was assistant to Harold Arnold, director of bands and worked with Harry Langford, director of the WSU glee club and chamber ensembles.

At Farmington High, he will be in charge of band, orchestra, the wind ensemble and the stage band.

All of this pleases Jacoby, who said, "This is what I have been aiming toward."

Explaining that he hopes for more than just "ones" in rating at the band festivals, he explained, "I think it's important that the high school music department tie into the outside world."

Search continues to probe problem

By RON GARBIANSKI

The Farmington School District is looking for answers to a problem that has plagued the community for years.

And if its analysis of declining enrollment continues at the present pace, a blue ribbon task force assigned to study the problem may soon have several long-range solutions concerning what to do with empty classrooms and dwindling school populations.

The task force gathered for its second meeting Thursday night and Superintendent Lewis Schulman claims the group is moving ahead with its study at a quick pace, studying every statistic available in its analysis of declining enrollments.

"With ten members from all walks of life on the committee, we're getting good input from the community," Schulman says. "By reviewing all the statistical data available, the committee is establishing a sound foundation upon which to base some decisions on when the appropriate time comes to recommend to the school board what the district should do about declining enrollments."

At its meeting last week, the task force, chaired by Stanley Hecker, a renowned consultant from Michigan State Univer-

sity, studied the Farmington schools as they compare with other districts on a state and county basis.

IT ALSO REVIEWED in-depth the district's school buildings to see what the future holds for these sites in the relation to potential and actual usage.

"We're trying to come to grips with an enrollment that has been declining by about 500 students per year for the past several years," Schulman continues. "By keeping all these facts in mind, hopefully, we can come up with some decisions on how to respond to the problem."

Several other areas studied Thursday night included land use and the comparison of kindergarten enrollments over the past several years.

By looking at the community's land use plan, the district will be able to determine how much property the area has available for construction, what they have scheduled to build and how soon they have available. By comparing kindergarten enrollments, the task force can predict future entry level enrollments and how that affects the total population picture in the Farmington community.

On July 20, Schulman recommended to

WELCOME NEWCOMER

There's a new, young law school graduate working in the Farmington community and it looks like he's here to stay for a while. Read about his trials on Page 2.

CHANGES IN HER LIFE

There's an old saying that goes, "As the world changes, it means the more they remain the same." Take a look into Co Abell's life in today's opinion column on page 1.



GERALD JACOBY