

Nature Boy

Hartley flags neighbor's wildlife trail

By JUDITH BERNE

Plans to develop and preserve the 36-acre West Bloomfield Civic Center site are progressing simultaneously if not always in agreement.

Even as bulldozers are preparing the way for an entrance and parking area for the Sept. 18 dedication of the property, of Walnut Lake Road, naturalist Hartley Thornton is working to maintain its natural attributes.

The Farmington naturalist who has been hired as a consultant by West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, is in the process of flagging a nature trail so that future generations will know the natural environment where the agricultural heritage of the township meets the landscape as evolved over thousands of years.



THE FIRST STEPS in mapping a permanent trail are tentative.

But Thornton has blazed these trails before.

In 20, 30 years from now, the area will be surrounded by development, he says.

To decide not to develop a certain area of the property is a sense of development that, tomorrow's West Bloomfielders will also be able to enjoy the experience of walking it as we have done.

THORNTON ENVISIONS a mile-long circular trail marked by illustrated signs with the possibility of adding loops to it at some future date.

He has been successful in his bid to get members of the civic center site plan committee to concentrate prospective township buildings closer to Walnut Lake Road than originally envisioned to allow more untouched open space.

Otherwise, he warns, it would be possible to oversaturate this site with asphalt and buildings to the point where you could actually destroy the environment which attracted you to it in the first place.

The trail will probably begin with access from the parking area at the southeast section of the property and continue through a marsh area along an abandoned farm road to the oak hickory forest, then circle back by water and open fields.

THORNTON ADVISES any trail be a minimum of four feet wide to allow for groups of children and for wheel chairs.

Although he had hoped that the structural ruins of an old farm could be a beginning trail stop, it is possible it will succumb to parking.

He thinks the path should include in addition to natural and historic sights a well pruned climbing tree to accommodate the activity and interests of children.

He points out the child-crafted semihexagon of a bridge over a wet area and suggests the trail be routed to pass by it.

To make a good trail, you've got to be a kid at heart, the weathered naturalist says. When you find out where kids go, you'll come in with a good trail. Kids have had a lot of fun on the property.

On the way to the woods at the extreme northwest section of the property, Thornton points out an ideal little knoll for an interpretive nature center.

From here spectators could watch the wildlife where it is most abundant, Thornton says in that area where grass land meets woodland.

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BUT EVEN A NATURALIST must come to grips with reality and Thornton meets it head-on.

If in a moment you must expect some opposition when this nature area is opened, he predicts. He believes that nearby residents in particular will be afraid it will become a haven for trouble— including drinking and drugs.

We're going to open it up and make a trail for them and then they're going to scream, he advised. You must decide now what you are going to do. Will you let them look like they get picked up in front of your own houses?

With the legend all but done, the trail could be brushed and wood chipped the fall, if approved by the township board.

But an obstacle remains.

West Bloomfield Parks Director Melvin Teichman is insisting the township ban all motorized vehicles on the site to allow work before further work is begun.

Every day the churning of mowers, scuffling of small animals and soft rustle of brush and trees are music for the ears of motorcyclists, bikers, and the like.

The parks department is not allowing these paths made during the 1960s to have its paths made during the 1970s.

In a memo given to the township, John Roberts this week. It says that the township should commit the township as a whole to make its policy of banning motorized vehicles on the property.

These two problems, as well as many others, will be discussed in the next few weeks.



(Top) Webs encase a plant in the nature area. Hartley Thornton (above) stands on the foundation of a farm building which once stood in the wildlife preserve.

Left, a main attraction at the site is this pond, complete with water lilies. (Staff photos by Mitch Booth)

OFF ON A TANGENT

Don Garbinale

Welcome to our town, Bob

When you are poor and ambitious, I guess that makes you hungry for the good things in life.

That's Bob Schrader. Bob's a newcomer to the Farmington community and his life is changing because of it.

Last week the moving reporter caught Bob wandering around Civ Park during his lunch hour, wondering about a future that depends on the results of a day-long test.

After graduating from Lansing's Cooley Law School in May, the outspoken one-time Livonia resident accepted a position with Robert K. Anderson, a well-known lawyer in the Farmington area.

Since his high school days, the 26-year-old Farmington law school graduate has worried-like most young adults—about what the years ahead hold for him and his beautiful wife, Carol.

But Bob's anxieties are compounded by the fact that the culmination of 19 years of schooling and a career rest on his performance during one day in July.

There's a constant fear that enters Bob's mind throughout his day making work hard to cope with at times. It's how did I do... will my dreams come true?

AND HE WON'T know until after Thanksgiving when the results of his bar exam are reported.

The story of Bob and Carol's life together for the past three years is that of a aggressive young law student and a dynamic wife who taught school to help her husband through the trials of a legal education.

Those years were rough letting many experiences in life just slide by because of the demands on both their lives. Struggling and scrapping and working long hours just for the day when he could practice law and his wife could continue her elementary teaching career without having to worry about making ends meet again.

Bob's always been an achiever and he's strived hard to get where he is today.

Back at Detroit Catholic Central High School, Bob set some high goals. Becoming a lawyer became an obsession and now it all depends on his ability to maintain his composure these next few months without letting his constant fear make life miserable.

But deep inside both of us know that he'll see his bar exam and we're certain he'll someday attain those lofty goals he set for himself many years ago.

Best friends are like that.



BOB SCHRADER



CAREER OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

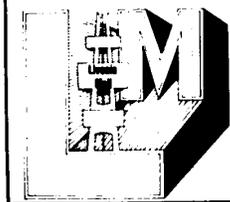
AUGUST 23-29

Learn about the many careers possible in business administration, public administration, music, art, interpreting with the deaf, total communication, fire protection, occupational safety, criminal justice, nursing, secretarial, junior accounting, court reporting, cosmetology, modeling, computers, physical fitness, medical background, fashion merchandising, real estate, data processing with computers, programming computers, computer operations, computer technology, and the many other courses offered by the area colleges.

- Schoolcraft College • Madonna College
- Marygrove College • Dorsey Business School
- Austin School of Modeling • National Guard
- Barbizon School of Modeling • Sharpe Real Estate School
- Control Data Institute

Mini-Golf
Remember to try your luck at Mini Golf while visiting the mall. The mini-golf course is a real challenge for youngsters and adults.

Back to School Game
Try your hand at shooting for prizes...the beauty of this game is that everyone wins something. Try for some of the cuddliest stuffed animals in town.



LIVONIA MALL

7 MILE RD at MIDDLEBELT
OPEN DAILY 'til 9 p.m. -- Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.

Farmington Enterprisers

It's that time of year when the kids have tired almost everything to wit away the last summer days. Almost everything that is.

Barbara Roganowski, 11, her brother, Glenn, 14, and Mickey Roth, 12, a step-brother, decided to go for a day and card-playing record.

It's simple they just wanted to play continuously longer than anyone else in the Farmington community.

They started at 4 p.m. last Wednesday and went until 10 p.m. the same day. That's 17 hours of shuffling, dealing and playing a variety of card games.

Witnesses were some weary-eyed family members.

Marne Pfc Douglas Lambady, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lambady, 3625 Stockton in Farmington Hills, has been promoted to his present rank while serving at the Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, Calif. The 1975 graduate of Farmington High School joined the Marine Corps in January 1976.

Associates of arts degrees went to Farmington residents Sherrill Mee Conroy, Patricia Ann Johnson and Deane Howe when Northwood Institute held its commencement ceremonies last summer. The

institute is in Midland and ceremonies were at the Midland Center for the Arts.

Walker Sarsavich, owner of Vladimir's in Farmington Hills has just purchased Hawaiian Gardens, a restaurant, room and banquet meeting facility in Hills Township. The restaurant specializes in Polynesian American cuisine and was decorated with authentic lava rock, bamboo, orchid, tropical plants and palm trees. Sarsavich will put an Alpine-Bavarian theme to the remodeled structure featuring seafood, an oyster bar and continental cuisine. The 400-seat resort motel is open for guests now and the restaurant and banquet facility will be ready for a grand opening in September. Reservations for business meetings, convention and parties are being accepted now for the coming season.

Barbara Jean Petronis, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Petronis of 2978 Brantton in Farmington Hills, has been named to the spring quarter dean's list at Florida Institute of Technology at Melbourne. Fla. Being named to the list represents outstanding scholastic performance and a letter of congratulations from the vice-president of student affairs at the college. Ms. Petronis is a 1975 graduate of North Farmington High School and is a sophomore majoring in biological oceanography at FIT.

Phillip Reda, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Reda, 21874 Ontaga in Farmington Hills, presently is attending Parks College of Aeronautical Technology, University of St. Louis. He will graduate with honors and will receive two bachelor of science degrees in aircraft maintenance management and aeronautical administration, professional pilot program. Upon graduation, he will have several hours flying time, check, tropical instrument and instruction in single and multiple engines. He is a member of Alpha Eta Rho, the professional aviation fraternity and was on the dean's list for the past two years.

Trell Goodson, 23255 Valley View, and Frances Deborah Hagdon, 3190 Nottingwood, placed on the dean's list at Indiana University in Bloomington for the second semester of 1975-76. The two undergraduate students earned better than a 3.5 grade point average in a minimum of 12 hours of course work. An all-A average is 4.0.

Mary Jewell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jewell of Farmington Hills, received a college scholarship award from the H.T. Ewald Foundation. She is a graduate of North Farmington High School and is sophomore majoring in biological oceanography at FIT.