

Farmington Observer

Volume 80 Number 96

Monday, September 18, 1978

Farmington, Michigan

36 Pages

Twenty-Five Cents

©1978 Johnston Communications Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Hills housing debate ignites power struggle

Both friends and foes of low income housing in Farmington Hills are gathering forces in attempts to strengthen their positions.

On the one hand are the opponents of the federally-sponsored community development block grant program, who won a big victory last week. The city council rescinded its agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) after 500 opponents attended last week's meeting.

Petitions have been circulated for

the recall of the three Farmington Hills councilmembers who stood fast in the program's support.

Targets of the recall campaign are Mayor Jan Dolan and Councilmembers Cathy Jones and Joanne Smith.

But this council minority has taken the initiative and will try to call the majority's bluff. On tonight's agenda is a proposal asking for a one-mill levy to finance the housing program with local revenues.

This is a challenge to housing oppo-

analysis

nents, many of whom said they would be willing to finance a program locally if the council dropped its HUD support.

But behind the scenes is a much larger fight for control over what direction the city will take in future years.

Most political activists who oppose

the low income housing program also would like to repeal the special zoning designations established last year for senior citizen housing.

A coalition has been forged between the Council of Homeowners of Farmington Hills, traditional opponents of the zoning designation, and former Councilmember Joan Dudley, who also voted against it.

In recent months she has once again started to attend council sessions and is generally credited with the turnout

of residents at last week's meeting.

It's well known that both the Homeowners and Dudley would like to see Dolan, Jones and Smith lose their council seats. But the election is still a year away and their opponents are anxious to have them removed before that time.

Repeated attempts by Councilman Joe Alkateeb, a housing opponent, to have the senior citizen zoning designations put before voters in November have failed. He tried again last week but was soundly defeated with only

Councilmember Joanne Soronen supporting his motions.

Both Soronen and Alkateeb were members of the Homeowners before becoming elected officials.

With Dolan, Jones and Smith off the council, the coalition hopes to replace them with their own candidates and repeal the senior zoning.

Dudley would loom large in this council realignment because of her legislative experience. She served as both a councilmember and mayor before vacating her seat last January.

Observer seminar welcomes residents

We want to get to know you better.

With this thought in mind, the staff of the Farmington Observer is sponsoring its annual public relations seminar.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. and come to the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 Twelve Mile.

The evening has been mapped out to be as informal as possible. After a brief introduction to the staff, we will discuss how to best get news that is important to you into the newspaper.

Whether you are responsible for your club's public relations or want to know how to inform the community of some special activity, we'll let you know how it can best be done. Maybe you're a reader who is just interested in knowing the persons who bring you the hometown news.

Everyone is welcome.

The staff finds this evening to be one of the most enjoyable of the year. Many times we talk with you over the phone or receive your letters and press releases. But on this Thursday evening we'll have the pleasure of meeting you face to face.

Through the years, the Farmington Observer has learned that this public relations seminar aids the newspaper greatly in keeping a pulse on the community. We want to hear from you and this is a good way to kick in the new season.

Persons interested in attending the seminar should call office receptionist Gail Elford at 323-5400, 8:30 a.m. or 1-5:30 p.m. Leave your name, phone number, the group you represent, if any, and how many will be in your group.

Leading the discussion will be Farmington Editor Steve Barnaby. Other participants will be Lorraine McClish, suburban life editor; Harry Maathe, staff photographer; and reporters Louise Okrusky and Lynn Orr.

Available to all who attend is our press seminar booklet, which you can use as your guide for submitting news throughout the year.

After the discussion, refreshments will be served.



It's off on a freewheeling tangent for Phyllis Salada as she meanders the rolling trail of the bike path that parallels the I-275 freeway through Oakland and Wayne counties. (Staff photo by Harrison Grant Mauthe)

Bicyclists stick to the habit

Riding a bike can be compared to those motorcycle ads a couple of years back.

Viewers watched as a clean cut young man hopped on his 750cc monster and wound up in the cornfields of Kansas or somplace miles away from where he started.

He was having such a great time riding his new motorcycle that he just couldn't stop.

For scores of local bike enthusiasts, it's just the same. Once they mount their bikes, they just can't seem to get off.

Bike riding has emerged as quite a popular recreational pastime in recent years as witnessed by the growing number of bicycle shops and the legions of two-wheelers on the streets today.

Everyday, you can pass riders of all ages who share the road with other ten-speeds, tri-cycles, tandems, racers in training, mopeds, and don't forget the joggers.

And there are loads of alternatives for the riders who want to see what southeastern Michigan looks like at a pace slower than 55 mph.

One of the premier bike paths in the Oakland-Wayne area is the 34-mile

asphalt trail that wraps along I-275 from Novi through Wayne County and into Monroe where the expressway joins I-75.

THE STATE HIGHWAY department built the path when it constructed the north-south I-275 freeway connector surrounding the metropolitan area.

Access is available at any overpass area. Another exciting bike route for Oakland County residents is the one that starts at Palmer Park Golf Course in Detroit at Seven Mile and Woodward. It meanders through Oakland County ending at Bloomer Park in Aven Township. It's basically a north-south route that takes riders along scenic residential streets, through commercial districts and winds around some colorful open areas north of Walled Lake in Troy.

It's planned so bicyclists ride through Detroit, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Birmingham, Troy, Aven Township and Rochester.

One of the most scenic bike trails is the route that follows the natural setting of Edward Hines Parkway. This asphalt trail leads riders alongside Hines Drive for 7 1/2 miles from a point just south of Seven Mile in Northville to Newburg Road in Livonia, with a break in continuity at the M-14 bridge.

Plans are afoot to someday connect the trail with the bikepath along I-275 and extend the full length of the parkway where it ends at Ford Road in Dearborn.

ALL THESE ROUTES offer woods and grassy areas along the way where riders can break for a picnic or rest.

Other worthwhile bike trails around the area include the Mayberry State Park west of Northville along Eight Mile Road. Its rolling, wooded terrain offers hours of biking.

The major metro parks, such as Kensington and Metropolitan Beach, also should lead your list when planning a bike outing.

Areas like downtown Birmingham on a Sunday morning, Belle Isle in Detroit any day of the week, four-lane roadways during non-rush hour traffic, and local side streets provide alternatives for enjoyable adventures on your bike.

If you're looking for some longer trips, the American Youth Hostels schedule distance rides every week. Just give them a call to find out when they are heading out next.

Local bike shops also sponsor clubs

and groups that plan overnight rides or longer tangents around the metropolitan area.

If you're still looking for something more exciting outside southeastern Michigan, give the nearest AAA office a call. There's an auto club publication that details bike trips around the state, especially western Michigan.

Southfield and Lathrup Village have developed a network of bike routes that take residents around the major residential and commercial areas of the two communities. The route wraps around the civic center park and offers riders routes that lead to every corner of the city.

Other communities also provide shorter bike routes for their residents. A quick call to city hall should provide details of where the bike trails are in your community.

But before you begin your riding adventures, be certain you know the rules of the road. Take a couple of minutes and ask your local bike dealer for some simple tips on bicycle safety.

It just might make your ride a bit more enjoyable.

City councils plan agenda

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
31555 Eleven Mile

7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18

- Necessity hearing for sewer improvement on Fourteen Mile.
- Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance to change zoning of property on the west side of Orchard Lake Road between Twelve Mile and Park Hill from multiple residential to business.
- Consideration of changing zoning of land on the west side of Halsted between Ten and Eleven Mile from multiple residential to light industry.
- Consideration of changing the zoning of land south of Grand River between Tuland and Middlebelt to office service and business use. Proponent is Chuck Baier, of El Nibble Nook restaurant.
- Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance to change the zoning of land on Eight Mile between Farmington Road and Cass from multiple residential to office service use.

- Consideration of enactment of the 1978 BOCA Building Code amendment to the city code.
- Consideration of enactment of an ordinance dealing with littering to the city code.
- Consideration of entering into a contract with Michigan Claims Service to adjust the city of Farmington Hills claims as respect to the self-insured retention.

- Consideration of introduction of an amendment to the city code referring to connection charges, capital charges and debt service charges.
- Consideration of one mill increase for housing assistance on the November ballot. Increase would replace Community Housing Development funds.
- Consideration of traffic control order in reference to prohibiting parking on Wheeler from Grand River to Independence.

- Consideration of amending bids for concrete replacement program.
- Consideration of approval of resolution and contract for the Farmington School District request of the city of Farmington Hills school property control code enforcement. The code would allow police to enter the schools upon the principal's request.
- Consideration of establishing a special assessment district for sewers on Stockton, west of Middlebelt.

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
2300 Liberty

8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18

- Consideration of tabled decision on repaving the Cass Court cul-de-sac.
- Letters of resignation from two planning commissioners.
- Request from the Farmington Jaycees for an outdoor garage sale in the Downtown Farmington Center.
- Report on water loss from the City of Detroit system.
- Consideration of a purchase for the Community Observation Patrol Service (COPS).
- Consideration of a change of the police-fire telephone number.
- Consideration of a proposed agreement between the city and the city sewer.
- Consideration of storm retention repair.
- General fund and district court reports.

FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
25500 Shawwassee

8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19

- Auditor's report.
- Consideration of qualification for sale of bonds.
- Report from the building and site committee.
- Consideration of request for purchase of property.
- Consideration of school policies, first reading.

SC faculty, secretaries strike

By TIM RICHARD
"This is not a one-day, token job action. It's a strike."

With that, Arthur Lindenberg, a spokesman for two Schoolcraft College unions, announced neither group would report for work this morning. The union will picket five entrances of the main campus at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The unions are the Faculty Forum, representing 160 full-time and a similar number of part-time instructors whose old contract expired Aug. 25; and the Schoolcraft College Association of Office Personnel (SCAOP), representing 62 clerks and secretaries who have worked without a contract for 15 months.

The strike will continue, he said, until both unions have agreements. Thus, the prospect that the faculty union would reach agreement in late Augusting last night would not prevent the strike because the two unions

have vowed not to go to work until both have settled.

Lindenberg said 160 members of both unions last Wednesday "unanimously" authorized the contract committee to take a "job action" if contract agreements couldn't be reached over the weekend.

If the strike is successful, some 8,000 students would be out of classes with the fall semester three weeks old.

THIS IS the third strike at the two-year community college since it was founded in 1964. The faculty was out against a month in 1970 and the secretaries briefly in 1971.

College President C. Nelson Grote promised "Sunday night" to keep the college open, at least for awhile. The college is open. There is to be business as usual. The faculty is expected to meet its class schedules.

"At some point I don't know when—we determine the magnitude (of the strike) and once we determine

whether the faculty will cross the picket line—we'll make a decision whether or not to close the college and when."

Grote declined to say whether the board of trustees would seek a circuit court injunction under a state law which prohibits teacher strikes.

"The board will consider various alternatives to bring faculty and staff back to work. The best alternative is to reach agreement or make sufficient progress. I'd rather not get into any discussion beyond that," he said Sunday night.

A COLLEGE NEGOTIATING team met with the Faculty Forum from 1:30 p.m. Friday to 2:30 a.m. Saturday, again on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and at 9 p.m. Sunday.

A second college team met with the SCAOP team from 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Chief remaining SCAOP issues are 1) health insurance and 2) salaries and retroactivity.

The college has sought, as a major principle, to have employees pick up part of the increased cost of health insurance.

Larry Chumovich, SCAOP's consultant from the Michigan Education Association, said the union had suggested a way out of the health insurance question. The union proposed changing health carriers to the Michigan Education Special Services Association (health) and Delta (dental). He said this change would save the college \$13,000 a year and sidestep the question of employees, participating in health insurance contributions.

GROTE SAID the average full-time faculty member in 1977-78 made a base salary average of \$21,196 plus more for extra preparations and overloads. This put Schoolcraft faculty fourth in the state and third in the metropolitan area among community colleges, he said.

Inside

Community calendar	2B
Fashion calendar	6B
Inside Angles	3A
Suburban Life	Section B
Sports	Section C

Your favorite pasta

That's what we're interested in finding out in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area. Who do you think makes the best pizza in town? To see what all this nonsense is about, turn to page 3A