

A Healthy Sign Citizen Participation Augurs Well

While no set plan captured the fancy of the gathering, the mere fact that an overflow crowd jammed the Farmington City Council chamber last Monday night for the hearing on various ideas to zone downtown Farmington augurs well for the future.

There isn't anything wrong with a meeting of the minds, and when the public turns out in such numbers, you can be assured that something good will come of it. It may not come as quickly as some would like—but such interest is bound to produce results.

Too often the public is accused of apathy in dealing with their local government. And one of the most glaring examples is the scant attendance at the public hearing on the budget each year.

While the elected officials work and strive, in most cases, to stretch the tax dollar as far as it can reach, the general public treats the final figures as a

matter of course—until after they have been approved.

Of times, after the budget is passed, there'll be plenty of criticism on how the money is being spent. These are the same voices that were noticeable by their absence at the budget hearing.

Not so, with the present movement to revitalize the downtown section of Farmington.

THE CROWDED ROOM proved beyond doubt that there was interest in the future. True, many

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came to protect their own interests. That is only natural. The mere fact that they came—and talked—was evidence that the central business district will not be allowed to decay.

Aside from the various zoning plans discussed, many other ideas were advanced along the perimeter of the gathering. One of the most

interesting came when one group discussed the possibility of purchasing the old city hall by public subscription and revamping it into a community center.

One of the most vociferous said, "We all could contribute to a fund in amounts that we saw fit. And then we'd have something of which we could be proud—right in the heart of the area."

Much the same type of discussion centered on the former bank building on the opposite corner. It was agreed that it shouldn't be allowed to become an eyesore.

There is nothing to equal an aroused citizenry to get things done. That's what made the capacity crowd at the public hearing so important. There is nothing apathetic about the move.

And it calls to mind the old saying—

"Where there is no vision, people perish."

—W. W. Edgar

High Praise Given North High Band

FARMINGTON
Keith Rolston, director of the North Farmington High School band complimented its members when he said, "In the short time we've had together, the band has made more progress than any other group with whom I have ever worked."

In assessing his experience since coming to North in September, Rolston remarked that he is impressed with the extreme range and types of students, the wide spectrum of dress, character, and personality among the student body.

Rolston also made a point of mentioning the "quality of teaching" at the school. "When I walk down the halls, I never see a class out of order as I have seen in some other schools."

Projecting into the future, Rolston indicated that he favors competition via music festivals both for the band and for individual members.

"The high school band has a dual role," said its director. "One function is to contribute to school spirit through half-time shows, pep rallies, etc. It is also a class for the purpose of studying music."

"Members must learn to consider band an academic discipline rather than just an

extra-curricular activity." He concluded by noting that the band plans to continue its forward progress at a deliberate pace.

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Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

On Moratorium Day, last November, student opinion polls were taken at both Farmington high schools on the Vietnam War.

The results are significant because many of these students, upon graduation, will be entering military service. Although most probably will not see action in Vietnam, their views on the war are interesting.

A similar poll was taken two years ago at Farmington High School and a comparison of the two polls shows some important changes.

Since 1967, the number of students opposed to U.S. military involvement in Vietnam has nearly doubled. In 1967, 63% of those polled were in favor of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, 25% against, and 12% undecided. Two years later, 46% were against U.S. involvement in Vietnam, 37% in favor, and 17% undecided.

The number of students who felt the U.S. should seek a military victory in Vietnam also declined sharply. In 1967, 68% were in favor of a U.S. military victory, 17% against, and 15% undecided. In 1969, 39% felt the U.S. should seek a military victory, 37% did not, and 24% were undecided.

In both polls, students were asked if they would fight in Vietnam. In 1967, the answers were: 74% yes, 12% no, and 14% undecided. In 1969: 48% yes, 30% no, and 22% undecided.

Although a majority polled was not in favor of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, most felt the U.S. should not have an immediate troop pull-out.

Since 1967, there was a notable increase in the undecided category. It seems to indicate today's students are having greater difficulty making up their minds about the war.

In general, sophomores took a more liberal position and seniors a more conservative view.

Family Life Committee Reports Real Progress

by WYLIE GERDES

FARMINGTON
After months of meetings, the Family Life Education Committee (FLE) of the Farmington School District is readying proposals for sex education, substance abuse and minority group understanding programs in the district's schools.

The school board appointed a steering body of the FLE in March, 1969, to operate under a set of guidelines established by the trustees. The guidelines say that the FLE committee is purely advisory, having no power to commit the district to any program or expenditure of funds.

The FLE is to submit a report to the board of education with a list of suggestions, the guidelines say. After the report is reviewed by the school board, the guidelines say the committee will be dismissed.

THE BOARD OF Education established the following pur-

poses for a citizen advisory committee: to involve parents and citizens in the study of school needs; to improve communications between the public and the schools; to provide understanding and support of school programs; and to relate the school and community to each other.

Although operating quietly for nine months it is apparent much background study and reading of source materials

posited from the audience about community review of the sex education program brought assurances from the subcommittee that either the FLE under a new name or another citizens' group would follow up on the work which has already been completed.

THE STEERING body of the FLE appointed by the school board has remained

RECOMMENDATIONS of the substance abuse task group included setting up a program in the elementary grades. Awareness of dangerous substances are to be stressed in the kindergarten through third grade program. In fourth through sixth grades, special chapters on substance abuse are to be included in the regular curriculum.

The substance abuse task force is preparing proposals similar to the elementary grades plan for both the junior and senior high school curriculums. They should be presented to the public and the school board this spring, Kalltreider says.

The human sexuality task force, studying the sensitive area of sex education, is working toward a proposal which might be presented in a month or two. The group met this week and spent hours haggling about the working of their proposal.

The minority group understanding committee also is making progress on its plans and expects to announce its recommendations this spring.

analysis

preceded the process of writing each task group's recommendation.

Also evident is the members' commitment to do a thorough job making suggestions. In meetings the past week, the task groups spent hours discussing and revising plans for its programs.

WILL THE FLE disappear after it presents its recommendations to the school board? Technically, the committee will become inoperative when it meets the guideline requirements set up by the school board's policy on citizen advisory committees.

However, continuous review of the sex education program and other aspects of the FLE's work seems certain. At the human sexuality task force's meeting the past week, a ques-

essentially intact since the 13 member panel was appointed last March.

The FLE appointed three subcommittees, called task groups, to study human sexuality, substance abuse and minority group understanding.

The FLE worked relatively quietly until recently when recommendations began appearing. As Rev. Karl Kalltreider, chairman of the substance abuse task group, put it, the committees had to educate themselves before they could make recommendations.

Part of the substance abuse program recommendations, which deals with such subjects as drugs and tobacco, has been presented to both the public and the school board. The first recommendation from a part of the FLE drew an audience of about 30 persons to a public hearing, and was accepted by the school board without comment until the remainder of the program is completed.

School Leaders Named By Elks

Eliza Callow and Robert Hughes, seniors at North Farmington High School, have won the local youth leadership contest sponsored by Elks Club 1886. Their prize was a \$50 savings bond.

A \$25 bond was won by runner-up Nancy Joan Smith of Farmington High. Based on character and leadership, the competition will now be conducted at the state level. Both of the Farmington contestants are eligible to try for the additional honor of being tops in the state.

Winner of the state contest will receive a \$300 bond, the national winner, a \$1500 bond.

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New Course Is Offered For Adults

FARMINGTON
"Supervision of Student Teaching" is a graduate course which will be offered through Farmington's adult education department. It is jointly sponsored by Central and Eastern Michigan Universities.

Registrations may be made on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in Room 104D at Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee. Tuition is \$50 and pre-requisite to the course are two years of teaching experience.

Those who plan to enroll may call Dr. James Davidson at 474-9266 to pre-register.

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