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Lutherans attack high school ruling

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Attorneys for Lutheran High School Northwest have asked the Oakland County Circuit Court for an injunction against the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

In a four-count suit filed Wednesday, the court was asked to allow the school at 30175 Highmeadow, Farmington Hills, to continue operating at its present location and that construction of a gymnasium be allowed to continue.

The suit is the result of the ZBA's June 30 decision denying a request from the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit for variances to the local zoning ordinance.

The association purchased the building, a former elementary school, in August from the Farmington Public Schools for \$352,000.

It operated as Lutheran High Northwest until the city's zoning department issued a work-stop order last month on construction of a gymnasium adjacent to the school.

The association is violating Section 402 of the Zoning Ordinance adopted in 1974, according to Hal Rowe, zoning supervisor, who is also named in the suit.

The ordinance bars intermediate and

secondary schools, either public or private, from being located in areas without direct access to secondary or major thoroughfares.

LUTHERAN HIGH Northwest is at the end of Alycekey, a north/south dirt road, and Highmeadow, which is a continuation of other winding roads in the Holly Hill Farms subdivision, south of 13 Mile between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake.

The association names the city of Farmington Hills, Rowe, and the ZBA in its suit. It charges the local zoning ordinance with being unconstitutional on the grounds that education is solely a matter of state concern.

The second count alleges that if the association is barred from operating the school, it will suffer irreparable damage because there is no alternative site nor sufficient time to make plans for the upcoming school year.

The third count charges the city with allowing the school to operate during the 1980-81 school year without any formal objections. City officials were aware of the location of the school through deed records and assessment data, the suit charges.

Former Farmington Hills mayor Joanne Soronen attended the school's formal dedication ceremony last sum-

mer. And the city clerk's office made arrangements to continue using the building as a voting center.

In the final count, the association is asking for in excess of \$10,000 plus costs for hold-up in the construction of the gymnasium, which is necessary for state accreditation.

"THE NEIGHBORS were worried about the problems the gym and athletic facilities would create with traffic in those areas," said Jim Ellis, ZBA chairman.

"It boils down to the fact that the ordinance was written to allow elementary schools only (off major roads) so that kids in the subdivision could walk to school."

"The ordinance is specific in that intermediate and secondary schools must be on secondary or major thoroughfares."

The school was allowed to operate in that location last year because zoning officials were unaware of it, Ellis said.

"It wasn't until the school wanted to expand (with construction of the gym) that suddenly everyone knew where the building was located," he said.

A hearing is scheduled July 29 at 8:30 a.m. before Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert.

A decade of service

Nedra Viane calls it quits

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Routine city hall business will have a different flavor next week when Farmington City Clerk Nedra Viane retires.

Mrs. Viane has been a city employee since March 1969, and has served as city clerk since 1972.

As clerk, she has been primarily responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of public elections — from setting up site local precincts to hiring inspectors and tabulating results.

"I still find elections exciting," she said. "They're challenging. Each election is different."

Recently she implemented a punch card ballot system for absentee voters. Other duties include acting as secretary to the city council and preparing minutes for that and other governing units.

She also prepares material for board members on various committees.

Because she compiles ordinances and keeps the Farmington City Code up to date, she's probably one of the best informed persons on local laws.



Nedra Viane

ends in Is in slight

"The biggest job is keeping track of the records to know where everything is," she said. "You learn plenty in here."

MRS. VIANE is a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the Michigan Municipal Clerks

Association, and the Oakland County Municipal Clerks Association.

She was among the first graduating class of municipal clerks certified after completing training at Michigan State University.

Before coming to Farmington, Mrs. Viane worked as an executive secretary in Farmington Township and downtown Detroit.

"She has been a fine employee," said Robert Deadman, city manager. "She's an excellent city clerk, well respected by her peers."

Deadman also rated Mrs. Viane's replacement, his former executive secretary Josephine Bushey, a very competent person.

Following a farewell dinner at the Botsford Inn, the staff gave Mrs. Viane a three-speed bicycle as a going-away present.

"We're going to enjoy the summer," Mrs. Viane said. "I've worked all my life, so it will be nice to be home for a change."

Together with her husband, George, a retired auto salesman, the couple plans to do some traveling.



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Slammin' Sammy!

Sam Smead, 69, was one of the main attractions at last week's United States Senior Open at Bloomfield Township's Oakland Hills Country Club. The 150-man field battled for the \$25,000 first-place

prize money at the \$150,000 event. For coverage of the tournament and complete results of Sunday's final-round action, turn to today's Observer & Eclectic sports section

Teachers eye early ratification of contract

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Farmington school trustees and teachers are expected to approve a new two-year labor contract later this month.

The contract calls for most of the district's 700 teachers to receive an 11 percent increase this fall.

Bargainers for the Farmington Education Association (FEA) and the school district reached accord June 25.

The agreement was arrived at unusually early in the year.

"When we started bargaining the week of June 22, we acted as if it was the week before Labor Day," said Zan Alley, FEA executive director.

"Farmington is unique — It bargains honestly. They were as serious as we were," Alley said of school district negotiators.

An attempt at expedited bargaining last March failed but helped clear the air on some issues, officials said.

"We were a step ahead on negotiations when we started bargaining again in June," Alley said. "Both sides

worked very hard for an equitable settlement."

The new pact would give 7.5 percent of the teachers, who are at the top of the union scale, an 11 percent pay raise for the first year. Those teachers currently earn \$43,852 if they have bachelor's degrees and \$27,157 annually with master's degrees.

TEACHERS WITH less seniority would get a 7.5 percent pay hike the first year of the contract. There would be a 9.5 percent across the board pay increase the second year of the contract.

The new pact would also boost health insurance for vision care from minimal to 80 percent coverage.

Class size would be reduced by one student at all grade levels with the exception of physical education, study hall, band and homeroom classes.

Middle school teachers would get more time for daily class preparation. The 1980-81 school year was the first

year of middle school implementation, drawing staff from elementary and high schools to the new format schools for grades 6-8.

The request for more preparation time was a major priority of middle school teachers, Alley said.

This year for the first time, FEA membership will be voting on the contract by mail. The ballots will be tabulated July 20.

The Farmington Board of Education will meet July 28 to discuss the new contract.

If ratified, the new pact would be effective retroactive from July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1983.

Founders' Festival fever hits town

Founders Festival '81 has so many different attractions that every age group should be able to find an activity or two to their liking.

Farmington will be ablaze with carnivals, music, fireworks, a parade and a beauty pageant.

Activities begin with Kids Day July 21 at the Farmington City Park. Due to construction, participants are asked to use access via Power Road.

The festivities will include hot air balloons, pony rides, stage entertainment, puppet shows, art in a tent, roller skating, mobile, helium balloon launch, petting zoo, moon walk, carousels and numerous other attractions.

All this will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special events include Dr. Richard's Pet Show at 1 p.m., hobby swap, bag and trade from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., skill contest from noon to 4 p.m. and a magic show at the Farmington Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

Three local shopping centers will get into the act July 23-25. The Farmington Downtown Center will have arts

and crafts as well as sidewalk sales, a haunted house sponsored by the Jaycees, service club booths, games and continuous live entertainment at the showmobiles.

There will also be a dunk tank, bingo games and an ethnic food corner. A crafter's corner will be set up at the Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington roads.

CHATHAM CENTER will also have a showmobile and a talent contest. The talent contest will be July 23 at 5 p.m.

Certificates will be awarded. There will also be arts and crafts, kiddie rides, a dunk tank and sidewalk sales.

The Farmington Plaza will be the third location for a showmobile. There will also be carnival rides, sidewalk sales and arts and crafts, located at Grand River and Orchard Lake roads.

The bands will strike up and the marchers will strut during the annual founders day parade Saturday, July 25 beginning at 10 a.m. The route starts at the Grand River river-in, west of Middlebelt.

Live announcing posts include Power Road, Farmington Plaza, Executive Office Supply, and Grand River and Farmington Road, which is the end of the parade route.

Weekend activities will brighten the campus of Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge. The Team and Corps Baton Twirling Championship is scheduled in Building H from 1-6 p.m.

The American Cancer Society/Copper Tone Frisbee Championship will be held near the tennis courts from 2-4 p.m. And fireworks will explode in the sky at dusk. All these events are planned Saturday, July 25.

On Sunday, the OOC Baton Twirling Solo Championship is planned in Building H from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Farmington Masonic Temple Association has a week-long set of activities planned for the grounds at Grand River and Farmington Road.

AN ANNUAL CHICKEN barbecue is planned July 19 on the lawn of the temple from noon until 6 p.m. They prepare your palate for Wednesday's

pasty dinner, 5-7 p.m. Thursday the White Shrine will serve a smorgasbord from 5-7 p.m.

Weekend feasts include a Saturday ham dinner July 25 served by the Jobs Daughters from 5-7 p.m. and a July 26 pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. served by the White Shrine.

Marchers can peruse the crafter's corner on the lawn of the temple and in the city park area west of the building. Exhibitors will be at their stations from 9 a.m. until dusk each day of the festival.

Further information on temple activities is available from Mary Turton at 474-9133.

Ticket holders for the annual festival raffle will be travelling if they are among the lucky winners. First prize is a trip for two to the Bahamas for three nights, four days (or \$650 cash).

A weekend at the elegant Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island is the second prize (or \$200 cash). Third prize is a ride for two in a hot air balloon or \$100.

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DRAFTSMAN NEEDED!

Welco Machine Tool ran an Observer & Eclectic classified help wanted ad and the response was so great they needed a traffic light to control the many calls and people coming in!

Remember, one call does it all!

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