

Farmington study shows 'Button' signal gets bad review

Farmington City Council dropped consideration for a button-activated traffic signal at School Street and Grand River based on experience in Midland, that revealed that the pedestrian traffic signals can cause more accidents than they prevent.

Action followed a recommendation by City Manager Robert Deadman that the light not be installed.

Deadman's investigation was at the request of Councilman William Mitchell who asked that the city manager find out what the before-and-after re-

sults of Midland's installation of a pedestrian-activated traffic signal.

That request followed a petition by a group of senior citizens who asked for such a light at School and Grand River to allow them to cross Grand River from the Farmington Place senior citizen apartment complex to the downtown shopping district.

Deadman reported that the Michigan State Highway Department studied the intersection of Eastman at Dillway in Midland and found that accidents and

property damage tripled after the light was installed and personal injuries jumped from five to nine incidents.

The light was installed in June 1977. Before the light was installed, there were six accidents from Jan. 1, 1975 through Dec. 31, 1976, the highway department states, no fatalities, five injuries and three instances of property damage.

From Jan. 1, 1978 through Dec. 31, 1979 there were 18 accidents at the intersection, no fatalities, 14 injuries and nine instances of property damage with

the pedestrian-activated signal in place.

"From the data provided, it seems clear that the part-time signal is contributing to the accident experience at the intersection," Deadman told council members. "It is also realistic to believe that to install a signal where one is not warranted may cause accidents."

"We continue to believe (that) to introduce a traffic control device at an intersection which has no accident experience violates accepted traffic safety practices."

Library kicks off new year programs

By Denise Moll
special writer

To begin the new year, the Farmington Community Library will be offering several new programs. If you haven't taken advantage of your library yet, now is a good time to start.

Our programs cover a variety of topics, and most of them are free. If you don't find something you are interested in, let us know; it may be on the upcoming agenda, or we'll see what we can do for the future. And, if you have an area of expertise that you feel would be of interest to others, contact us; we may be able to use you as a speaker for one of our programs.

For example, at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Farmington Branch Library, Dinky Sharp, learning consultant for the Farmington Public Schools, will speak on "Motivational Activities in Math." This program, sponsored by the Chil-

dren's Department, will focus on manipulative activities, such as the use of cards and dice to motivate children in math. For reservations, call Sue Long at 553-6300.

Members of the Siliyagi Air Corp., a national organization of science fiction authors and fans, will preside over a science fiction mini-expo, to be sponsored by the Young Adult Department. To be held 7:30-9 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Farmington Hills Library, the expo will highlight a display of sci-fi art, books, prop weapons and guest appearances by authors to be announced.

The library also offers a variety of programs led by librarians. These include the adult book discussion group, an informal group that meets to discuss popular works twice a month on Tuesday mornings at the Farmington Branch Library. The next book up for discussion is "Heartsounds" by Martha

Lear, a widow's powerful chronicle of the lingering death of her surgeon husband. Copies are available through reserve at the Farmington Branch; join us at 10 a.m. Jan. 21.

The Young Adult Department of the Farmington Branch Library will be offering the popular Red Cross babysitting instruction seminar 4-6 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 25 through Feb. 15. Eleven- to 15-year-olds are eligible to participate; students must attend all four sessions to earn Red Cross certification. Enrollment is limited, so registration is necessary. To register, call Denise Moll at 474-7770 or come in to the Farmington Branch, beginning Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. As with all limited enrollment programs, Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are given first preference.

The Farmington Branch Library is also the site for the popular Adventure Gaming sessions, held 6-8 p.m. Thursdays twice a month. This month's meetings are scheduled for Jan. 14 and 24; novices and experienced players are welcome.

For children, both branches offer a variety of programs, some of which are open to all; some require registration. For the upcoming session, registration will begin on Friday in person only by a parent from 10 a.m. to noon, and thereafter by telephone. Farmington and Farmington Hills residents are given first preference; be prepared to show a library card for proper identification. These programs include parent-toddler activity class, story hours and Pigeon's Party specials in honor of A.A. Milne's birthday at both libraries, and art, craft and theme activities at each branch. Call or visit your library for details and age requirements.

A new offering at the Farmington Branch Library will be a series of bedtime story hours for 3-5 year-olds during February and March. Registration

is not required, but we do ask that you call during the above-mentioned registration period. Check with children's librarian Deb Masson at 474-7770 for details.

An open program for preschoolers, "Parlez-vous francais?" will be offered at the Farmington Branch, 2-2:30 p.m. Jan. 26. You needn't speak French to enjoy the adventures of Madeline and Anatole, which will be featured at the program. For school-age children, we'll be offering "Adventure Tales" on Saturday, which will feature the film "The Case of Cosmic Comic" and readings of original works by author Vicki Teichner.

At the Farmington Hills Library, preschoolers are invited to "Balloons and More Balloons," a story activity session, 10:30-11 a.m. Jan. 21. Elementary-age children can attend "Pins with a Twist," featuring three films with unusual endings, 2-3 p.m. Jan. 23.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Science Newspapers, 26251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48150. Address all mail to: Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5459. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Science Newspapers have no authority to bind this newspaper, and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

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Holcroft names advertising agency

Thompson Advertising Productions, Inc. of Farmington Hills has been named the new marketing/advertising agency for Holcroft, a division of Thermo Electron Corporation.

Richard Forbes, commercial development manager for Holcroft, indicated TAP would handle all advertising and print media communications, as

well as serve in a public relations capacity. Holcroft is a manufacturer of heat treat furnaces and generators.

In addition to handling Holcroft, Thompson has been the agency for Thermo Electron's Engine Division since 1974. John McDermott, agency vice president, will supervise activities for the new account.

GI goes to Italy

Army Spec. 4 John E. Duval Jr., son of John E. Duval of 24117 Twin Valley, Farmington, has arrived for duty at Camp Darby, Italy.

Duval, a traffic management coordinator with the 8th Logistics Support Group, previously was assigned to Fort Eustis, Va.

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It's YOUR Money
by Charles H. Williams, C.P.A.

WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR FAMILY PAPERS?

Every family has a drawer somewhere chock-full of papers—some important, some not. Appliance warranties may be jumbled with income tax returns, cancelled checks, and report cards. What do you need to keep—and where? Basically, the things you save should fit into one of four categories: active life, inactive storage, hard-to-replace, and memorabilia. It helps if you can keep them separate. In your active life file, you ought to keep a list of credit-card numbers, by company; current bank statements; current cancelled checks; income tax material; unpaid bills—the papers you must refer to soon, and possibly often. For most people, it is enough to keep a three-year inventory of old tax papers, cancelled checks, and the like. The Internal Revenue Service only rarely can search further. Your safe deposit box is for really important papers. Birth certificates—even stock certificates—are replaceable, but with difficulty. Keep them in the vault. That's also the place for marriage certificates, divorce and adoption papers, citizenship records, military service records, bonds, deeds—and any other document that is on record with the government or a court. If you keep securities in your safe deposit box, the rental is tax-deductible. Diplomas, social security cards, employment records, those appliance warranties, all belong in your inactive file. They're worth keeping—but you are not likely to need them soon or often. Some papers deserve to be thrown out; old wage statements, for instance, are superseded by your W-2 form. Old PTA calendars have little use. Find a very special place for the kindergarten art work, the old term papers, and other memorabilia. They're extra-precious, and will be most appreciated in 50 years or so.

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