

23352 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

New police station? Opinions vary

Today's Oral Quarrel asked Farmington Hills residents how they can be sure that the proposed \$2.5 million police station isn't going to cost too much money. Architects have estimated that the building would cost approximately \$78 a square foot to construct. Chief city council opponent to the building's cost is Councilman Joc Alkatech who says he is unprepared to vote for a building that costs that much.
Following are resident responses

Following are resident responses to the building and Alkateeb's stand

The department needs the facili-

I don't understand it. I just had a new house built and it cost me \$52 a square foot. And that's for a resi-dential building. Seventy-eight dol-lars a square foot to me should be low cost for a commercial-style building.

If Mr. Joe Alkateeb would come down here to this police department and work in our department for one day I'm sure he wouldn't care how much it cost. If he had to work under these conditions—people tripping over one another. You can't even breathe if one person smokes.

I have been to the Farmington Hills police stations and they do need a new building.

oral quarrel

After the money they just spent on the new park we'd better have a new police station to handle all the added work this new park is going to bring to us.

The mere fact that one individual on the council takes issue with what has become pretty much a national average should be closely examined for motivation.

You have to put your faith in the elected officials. If anyone has ever walked through that police department, which I did a week or so ago, they can definitely see that we need a new building. I think it should be built regardless of the cost.

I think the people have to trust the integrity of the professional ar-chilects involved: I believe that \$78 doesn't seem too high. It is \$5 be-low the national median. I think maybe Joe Alkateeb would like to see the police department pitch tents and work out on the west side of the building.

He should have five competitive bids and not limit the bids to local contractors but out-of-state con-tractors if necessary.

Farmington Hills doesn't need a new police department. What they need is to lay off half of the 108 office people they have working there now and reduce decteetive staff by two-thirds and get realistic. If you look at the population of Farmington Hills in relation to any other typical population, we are spending three times as much as the national average.

Novi and Southfield have the right idea for building police sta-tions. Build them big and build them now and you won't need them for decades. Are you Councilman Alkateeb?

I believe we don't need a new po-lice station. The police station they have now should be cut down in size. In regards to the manpower they have, the inexperienced detec-tives, we have crime growing at an unbelievable rate. unbelievable rate.

The school on Middlebelt Road is available at a much lesser cost and they could make that into a great facility. Their thing is an absolute rip off in terms of a new building. They don't have to be in proximity to city hall. The only way to be sure is to continue to elect responsible conservative councilmen such as Mr. Alkateeb. And hope they will monitor the costs for us. Some of these other councilmen are letting things get out-of-hand. The taxpayers should let the experts like the police chief and the architects decide the plans and the cost. The present plans are \$5 under the national median for police buildings. We have wasted money remodeling the current facility over the last decade.

I think Farmington taxes are way too high now and I think \$78 a square foot is a ridiculously high price for a building that should be mainly utilitarian.

I think city sewer and water is more important in our area than a new police station.

The current Farmington Hills police station is so small that if we filled it with dogs instead of people we would scream cruelty to animals. What difference does it make? The city council is going to spend as much money as it wants to any-

trophy.

That was when he performed

🖔 the stroller W.W. Edgar

Almost forgotten: Gar Wood's feat

IT IS ofttimes interesting to note that great deeds of men are placed in the limbo of forgotten things.

Yhoever would have thought Whoever would have thought that the most amazing thing to be done by Gar Wood, the Gray Fox of Algonac, was more than writing speedboat listory on the Detroit River and keeping the famed Harmsworth Trophy in the United States? His chief feat

the United States? His chief feat was to build motors that carried him to the world record. Yet when Detrolt historians went to work on their eulogy for the Packard plant on East Grand Boulevard *creently, Wood's name wasn't even men-tioned.

tioned.
IN TALKING about the Pack-

IN TALKING about the Packard plant, the historians told about the days when the prestiguous Packard was king of the automobile world.

Not a word was mentioned that in the Packard plant, Gar Wood took four regular Packard Gold Cup motors and rebuilt them to three times their power, making possible the greatest victories in speedboat history.

Under the rules of the Harmsworth Trophy race, competing beats had to be powered with motors built in the country the boats represented. The rule never was questloned.

boats represented. The rule never was questioned.

But the time came when the challenging nation — England — had more powerful motors than America could produce. In 1932, England challenged for the trophy, then held by Gar Wood and the United States Wood knew he was in a difficult position. There were no motors of sufficient power to defend the trophy.

what, at that time, was considered a miracle -- even by Pack-

ered a miracle — even by Packard engineers.
WOOD TOOK FOUR Gold Cup motors, better known as the Gold Cup 750s, and rebuilt them until each was able to reach, 1,800 hp. Many engineers sort of snickered at Wood's attempt, but the old Gray Fox had an idea it could be done.

when the motors were finished, he placed them in the famed Miss America X and then called in the Packard engineers to explain what he had done. It was a mild summer evening at his home in Gray Haven. Wood furnished dinner for the engineers and the press. In his anxiety, he got down on his knees in the living room and drew his plans.

One Packard engineer looked at the drawing and said, "Gar, it can't be done. You'll kill your-

at the drawing and said, "Gar, it can't be done. You'll kill your-self."

can't be done. You'll kill yourself."
Wood just smiled and winked
at The Stroller, who was the
speedboat editor for the morning
paper at the time. Wood answered, "You won't have to worry—
you won't be in the boat. I will."
ON THE DAY the boat was
launched, we were gathered on
the spacious lawn of Wood's
home. When the order came to
lower the boat into the river, the
engineers stood stiffly and waited. As the motors roared and the
boat skimmed down the river,
the Packard engineer fainted.
He just couldn't believe what he
saw.

saw.

This boat eventually set the world record on the St. Clair River in Algonac when it was timed at 123.91 mph. What's more, it retained the Harmsworth Trophy for America.



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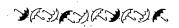
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