

today's
hot line

Vol. 83, No. 20 22 pages, 2 sections

what's inside

Wanted: 45 Citizens

Forty-five Farmington citizens, including students, are wanted by the Farmington School District to serve on an advisory committee being formed to study curriculum, finance, building and public relations.

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\$15 Million Spent

The school board has approved the 1970-71 operating budget totaling \$15.4 million. But before passage, trustees had to listen to objections raised by the faculty. A special concern is the administration's plans to reduce the elementary teaching staff by 18 members to avoid operating under a deficit budget.

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Youth Registers

The first area 18-year-old to register to vote signed up in the City of Farmington. The historical event is recorded pictorially inside. On the same page are Farmington's popular social columns, Local News and Wood Creek Farms.

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A Long Way

Sculpture has come a long way in the 20th century, and three Farmington-based sculptors prove it with the variety of their exhibits in the Michigan Artists Exhibition.

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Look To The North

With possibility of winter racing at DRC and Hazel Park, officials there would do well to see how one racing plant north of the border winterized their facilities for bettors. No other than Doc Minard says so.

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522-0900

Court Clears Cpl. Godwin Of Kephart Fatal Shooting

By MARTHA MAHAN
Corporal Thomas Godwin quit "pumping gas and worrying" and returned to his job on the Farmington Township police force Friday after dismissal of second degree murder charges against him in the shooting death of township resident Elton Kephart, 28.

"It's going to be a nice Christmas," said his relieved wife.

Besides reinstatement on

his job, Godwin will receive "around \$3,000" in back pay for the three months he has been under suspension. The 30-year-old corporal is the father of four young children.

DISTRICT JUDGE John C. Seiler of Wayne dropped the charges Wednesday after three days of testimony in a pre-trial examination into the Aug. 30 death. No defense witness was called.

Assistant Prosecutor John

C. Davey described himself as "satisfied" at the decision.

"I am always content when our office is able to get all the facts and evidence we are able to gather and have a full hearing in court so the court can make an intelligent decision," Davey said.

Judge Seiler declared the charge against Godwin resulted from a "lack of communication" which he claimed was created by an attorney for the Farmington Township Police Officers Assn. who advised Godwin and three other officers not to cooperate in the investigation into Kephart's death.

"Maybe this man should go back to law school," the judge commented. Godwin agreed, after the hearing, that he believed he was charged "because of possible ill advice which closed communication between our (police) office and (Oakland County Prosecutor Thomas G. Plunkett's office."

JUDGE SEILER said he was certain the police did not move Kephart's gun in an effort to make the shooting appear justified.

Mrs. Ruth Kephart, the slain man's widow, testified she had hidden the gun.

which her husband had fired earlier, before calling police to report "family trouble" at their home, 27690 Independence.

Police witnesses and one neighbor testified Kephart had a gun minutes before the shooting. Two other neighbors said Kephart had been unarmed since police arrived on the scene.

WHILE GODWIN now will receive his back pay, he also may be faced with the legal costs for his defense.

Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan has delivered a written opinion to board members that the township cannot furnish legal fees for an officer charged with a criminal offense.

"I'm just glad it's over and all our officers were cleared and made out to be the fine officers they are," declared Mrs. Godwin. "Somehow, Tom looks younger today."

Mrs. Godwin, who has been employed in the township assessor's office since her husband's suspension, said she now has quit working and returned to mothering Tommy, 9; Susan, 6; Jean Marie, 5; and Mary Beth, 2.



SHOWS DRESS --- Mrs. Elke Jensen and daughter Brigit show the dress and apron made for the Farmington Goodfellows. The dresses will be displayed in a fashion show sponsored by Longacre PTA in Farmington Senior High beginning at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14. (Evert photo)

Air Downtown Plan Monday

A master plan for the Central Business District (CBD) in the City of Farmington could be approved at Monday night's meeting of the city's planning commission.

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m., Dec. 14, in the council chambers in city hall at Liberty and Grand River.

LAST WEEK it was expected the commission would approve the master plan Monday night. However, action might be delayed for further study.

City council members met Wednesday night in executive session with members of the Downtown Redevelopment Committee (DRC), the sub-committee of the planning commission assigned to present the CBD plan for adoption.

Some councilmen are concerned about plans for the commercial property on the north side of Grand River east of Farmington Road.

Plans for the north side of Grand River produced the most discussion at the commission's last public hearing on the CBD plan.

The CBD master plan could be approved by the commission Monday night but the plan might also be tabled to seek solutions to problems plaguing the north Grand River commercial strip.

THE CBD PLAN is a guide to implement new programs to upgrade, develop and redevelop downtown Farmington, says William Burke, planning commission chairman.

Major features of the CBD master plan include suggestions to:

• Redevelop south of Orchard Street to include spe-

cialized retail stores, additional mid-rise office building and parking.

• Multi-story office buildings might be the most feasible means of introducing need office space in the CBD because of land shortage and high land costs. Two sites are proposed for high-rise office buildings which could have parking facilities contained within the structure.

• Redevelop downtown shopping center by more efficient design to add 20 parking spaces and about 6,800 square feet of additional commercial store area.

Rest areas will be created with concrete benches, trees, raised planters and a central water fountain. Pedestrian safety emphasis will include painted crosswalks, raised walkways, traffic control signs, improved markings and one-way operation of parking aisles.

The jog from Alta Loma Street to Orchard Street will be re-engineered to facilitate the flow of traffic through Orchard.

• Parking may be removed from Grand River, or highly limited, by 1972 with additional parking provided on the south side of Thomas.

• Major commercial expansions south of Grand River may be located east of Federal's and extension of the shopping center south of Orchard. East of Federal's would be two buildings with side-to-side layout for contiguous parking.

• Specialized retail stores west of Federal's southern parking lot to encourage customers to perform their other shopping within walking distance of the southern Federal's lot which is not being used to capacity.



DONATES CAR --- Mrs. Isabel Mathieson, Welcome Wagon hostess for Farmington, accepts the keys from John O'Green for the new 1971 car donated by O'Green Ford of Farmington. This is the fifth car he has donated to the Farmington Welcome Wagon for the past four years. (Evert photo)

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