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Weekend of January 23-24, 1971

A Little Progress Is Made On Safety Measures After Pedestrian's Death

By MARTHA MAHAN

A group of students, shaken by the traffic death of a schoolbound classmate, showed up at the last Farmington Board of Education meeting to plead that trustees "do something" to reduce the risk for young people walking along major thoroughfares in early-morning darkness.

This is to let the young petitioners know their plea has not been disregarded. It's true progress has been less than dramatic. But some has been made and attempts to add to it are continuing.

PORTABLE FLASHER warning lights for crossing guards have been ordered by the schools' business admin-

istrator, William Prisk. They will be used to warn motorists that a school crossing exists at a certain spot. The City of Farmington has agreed to install a traffic light at the corner of Farmington Road and Colfax. The nearest present light is at Farmington Road and Tall Oak, about 75 feet north of the Colfax intersection.

However, two other

suggestions put forth by the young people's spokesman, Jim Tank, have met with disappointment.

Prisk said the Oakland County Road Commission reports it does not have sufficient equipment to plow both roadways and shoulders free of snow at the same time. Tank had suggested that

pedestrian students a footpath safely removed from traffic along roads not flanked by sidewalks.

And Prisk said there is "just no way" that extra buses and part-time drivers can be added to the school motor fleet to pick up students required to walk along roadways without sidewalks.

TANK, 18, who graduated

last June from North Farmington High School, said anything done now to increase traffic safety for students is "already too late."

He referred to the death of Debbie Sams, a senior at North Farmington High, who was struck and killed by a car Jan. 6 on 13 Mile west of Drake as she walked to school.

She was crossing the high-

way in the darkness and the driver said he could not see her. "It's a real tragedy but we don't know the answer," commented John M. Washburn III, board president.

"TRAFFIC conditions are horrendous and that's true all over the township. Some drivers seem to think they

have a license to intimidate other drivers and pedestrians. Also, as pedestrians we don't always handle ourselves properly. We have to stay out of their way."

Washburn proposed that parents arrange to transport groups of students to school either on the parents' way to work or before the parents left for work.

Fifty Attend Study Session On Substance Abuse Report

By MARTHA MAHAN

Farmington residents interested in knowing how their schools plan to teach young people the dangers of drugs and other harmful substances will have another chance to

learn about the projected program at a public hearing Monday, Feb. 1. Only about 50 persons, half of them school professionals, turned up for last Monday's public session. About 100 high

schoolers were there. They heard an hour-long resume by Ted Cunio, chairman of an educators' committee, of a nearly inch thick curriculum guide proposed for kindergarten through adult education classes.

The guide recommends that education on abuse of dangerous substances be blended throughout the curriculum rather than taught as a separate course. It further recommends that how this should be done be left to each principal to decide, taking into account the individuality of each school.

Emphasis would be on total physical and mental health and positive approaches to the proper and improper use of drugs.

"There is no evidence that even comes close to suggesting that a 'scare' technique will work," Cunio asserted. "Some people seem to believe that if you simply tell a youngster not to do something he won't do it. If that were true, we could just put messages on radio or television and cure most of the ills of the world."

"It's an honest approach," Cunio went on. "We haven't avoided anything unpleasant. We've hit the problem head on. In the final analysis, the decision as to whether to use hazardous substances will be made by the student himself. There are no greater needs, especially at the high

school level, than to present an atmosphere where free and honest discussion can occur without the handicaps or moralizing and to present as much factual information as possible."

"We feel this preliminary guide is a good start," Cunio went on. "There are some minor changes we'd like to make already. But many more people will have to be involved before we can say it reflects the desires and values of this community."

ONE OF THE puzzles is uncertainty over the extent of the drug problem among Farmington's young people.

"We're not really sure what the problem is," Cunio said. "There's been a lot of research, like in Grosse Pointe and Oakland County. But we're not interested in Grosse Pointe or the county. We're interested in our community and our school system."

Cunio also emphasized that neither he nor any member of his committee advocates the use of drugs. "Quite often I've attended meetings where people talked and I've come away scratching my head and wondering whether they were for or against drug usage," Cunio said.

"I want there to be no doubt in our community. All of us involved in preparing this guide are against drug abuse."

Ask For Township Park Commission

A recommendation to establish a Farmington Township Parks Commission will be on the agenda for discussion at Monday night's Jan. 25 township board meeting.

Promoting the suggestion is Mrs. Betty Frankel, special writer for the Observer Newspapers, who is one of a group of residents interested in establishing an outdoor ecology laboratory in the area.

The board will also consider cooperating with the city and Farmington Chamber of Commerce on a civic brochure promoting the Farmington Area proposed by Tri-State Publications of Livonia.

The board will be asked to approve a township contribution of about \$2,800 for culverts and gravel to relieve a

flooded condition on Kenwood St. north of Eight Mile. The improvements would be done on Kenwood, Radcliffe, Eldred and Tuck with the county participating 50% in the total project cost of \$5,600.

Supervisor Earl Teeple said the proposed project resulted from weekly meetings he has been holding with the foreman from the Oakland County Road Commission in charge of work done in Farmington Township.

Each Tuesday morning Teeple meets with township department heads and afterwards meets with the road commission representative.

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Snowmobile Driver Hurt

John Carlesimo of 24699 Tioga, Southfield, received a serious head injury Monday night, Jan. 18, when he was thrown off a snowmobile he was riding in Farmington Township.

Carlesimo was operating the snowmobile on private property with Mrs. Marcella Howard of 26635 Halstead, Farmington Township, as a passenger. The snowmobile

was owned by Mrs. Howard's husband, Cass.

Carlesimo was driving in the woods near 11 Mile and Halstead when he lost control of the vehicle which flipped over throwing him and the passenger.

THE DRIVER was taken to Botsford General Hospital in Farmington in critical condition and placed in inten-

sive care to be treated for a possible skull fracture.

It was only the second reported snowmobile accident this winter in Farmington Township.

The other occurred Jan. 17 when the throttle stuck on a snowmobile which took off without its driver and rammed into the home of Richard Stegman of 33781 Old Timber.

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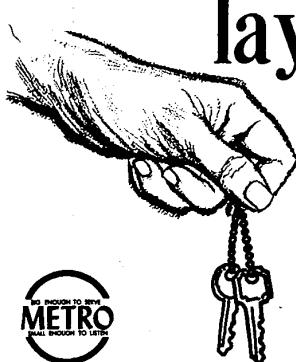
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WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOME!



Check the many values and ideas in today's HOME SECTION!

New Stoics

Two Farmington residents were among 75 recently elected to the Stoic Society, Eastern Michigan University's oldest continuous honorary organization.

New Stoics are: Debra McNeese, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mathews of 20891 Gill, and a sophomore majoring in special education for the emotionally disturbed; Susan Newman, daughter of Mrs. Libbie Newman of 30861 Marlane, and a junior majoring in library science.