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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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what's inside

Only One Winner

Twenty-two high school girls from the Farmington area have entered the Junior Miss Pageant sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees. One—and only one—will be given that title after finals are completed Nov. 20.

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The Anti-Bussers

A new citizens group covering three counties has organized to oppose bussing to achieve racial balance and is seeking intervention in the federal lawsuit as defendant.

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2 Ladies

News of two feminine Town Hall speakers — one a recent visitor and one coming soon — can be found in today's Women's Section

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'Foot-Dragging'

Several teachers' unions in Observerland are working without contracts, but they have nothing to gain by striking during the wage-price freeze. They charge that boards of education are dragging their feet in negotiations.

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Big Road Chunk

You may think of roads as narrow ribbons of concrete, but there's a free intersection on the west side of Observerland that will eat up nearly a square mile of land! We have the story and picture.

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Shopping Center Plans May Die

By EMORY DANIELS
The Farmington Township Board may in December ask the Taubman Co. of Southfield to withdraw its rezoning request for a regional retail development on 13 Mile between Halstead and Haggerty Rds.

That option was almost taken Monday night by trustees. But after considerable discussion, the board delayed taking that step until at least Dec. 13.

OVER A year ago, Taubman requested rezoning for a proposed multi-million dollar shopping center complex which would include multiple housing, office and commercial uses.

Last spring, the township planning commission recommended that the rezoning be denied. Taubman asked for an appeal to the township board.

The board was prepared to set a date for public hearing

last May when Taubman requested a delay. The delay has since grown to about six months.

When pressed by the board for a hearing date, Taubman Co. replied in writing on Oct. 11 that it would like more time to revise its plans, but if the board felt compelled to act, it would withdraw the rezoning petition.

The Taubman Co., represented by Richard Kuglin, has been the principal spokesman before the township for the HTK Corp., the firm wanting to develop the proposed center.

TRUSTEE Fred Lichtman commented that he didn't think the matter was before the township board until the developers request a public hearing.

The land is now zoned single-family, he added, and any delay in holding a hearing on the appeal will not affect that zoning.

Joseph T. Brennan, township attorney, stated the board could not approve or disapprove the rezoning request without giving Taubman a hearing but could grant the request to withdraw the rezoning petition.

Trustee David Stader said he felt the board should take some kind of action "and not leave this in limbo." It is not right for Taubman to ask for an appeal and then never agree to a hearing date, he added.

Brennan said that if the petition is withdrawn and if Taubman, after completing rezoning studies, wants to go ahead with its plans, then it must, again, begin with the planning commission with a new petition.

LICHTMAN SAID the board shouldn't allow Taubman to withdraw the petition after going through all the steps. The firm wants to save face, Lichtman suggested, by

asking for withdrawal in case the board is inclined to deny the request.

Trustee Earl Oppertbauer disagreed, stating he saw no purpose in holding a hearing if Taubman wanted to withdraw the petition.

Lichtman argued that the board should "sit tight" and wait for Taubman to ask for a hearing because it would cost the township money to start again at the planning commission level.

Oppertbauer made a motion, supported by Treasurer Thomas Nolan, to accept Taubman's request to withdraw the rezoning petition.

That motion, however, was tabled until Dec. 13 by a motion made by Trustee Mrs. Margaret Schaefer and supported by Lichtman. The jabbing motion passed 6-1 with Oppertbauer dissenting.



KEEPING WARM -- A cup of hot chocolate is enough to keep Jimmy Zahn, 5, warm Saturday while watching the North Farmington Raiders defeat the Harrison Hawks 22-0 in the first grid meeting between the two schools. It was a cold day but a good contest as can be seen by reading the game report on today's sports pages. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Keeping Earth Alive

A "papermobile" where Farmington residents may dispose of accumulated paper and help the ecology effort at the same time will be stationed at the Demery shopping center, 12 Mile and Farmington Rds., this Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 13-14.

The project is under the direction of Earth Alive and its leader, Mrs. Nancy Kourtjian.

DONORS ARE reminded that all paper must be tightly bundled and magazines are unacceptable, Mrs. Kourtjian said.

Proceeds from the paper recycling will be shared with community groups which help unload the big trailer "papermobile." It will return to Demery's in February and be at Federal in downtown Farmington in December.

Those interested in helping may call Mrs. Kourtjian or Shirley Gilbert.

TO DRAMATIZE the importance of paper recycling, Mrs. Kourtjian points out that each ton of paper collected can save 17 trees. One family discarding seven daily newspapers a week throws away about 15 pounds of paper a week.

If five per cent of the Farmington households recycled its newspapers, she figured, 7½ tons or 1,275 trees a week could be saved.

About 35 per cent of our nation's refuse is paper, and the bulk of that is newspapers," Mrs. Kourtjian said, "so recycling newspapers can have an important impact on ecology. Recycling creates constructive jobs while dumping creates destructive jobs."



THE PAPERMOBILE -- Earth Alive, Farmington's environmental action group, will be operating a papermobile from time to time in the Farmington area to recycle newspapers. A ton of newspaper can save 17 trees, and if one of every 20 households in Farmington partici-

pates in the paper recycling, 1,275 trees could be saved each week. The papermobile will be at the Demery shopping center at 12 Mile and Farmington Rds. this weekend, Nov. 12-13. (Evert photo)

Why Do Farmington Schools Remain Calm On Bussing Issue?

By MARTHA MAHAN

In the face of nationwide uproar, Farmington's Board of Education has taken no official stand on Federal Judge Stephen J. Roth's Detroit School segregation finding.

Comment has been limited to assurance that it is keeping atop the situation so as to be able to act appropriately at the right time.

Farmington residents, too, have remained generally calm — a condition surprising to many Farmington, for a variety of reasons, was among communities expected to explode.

WHY THE BOARD's silence? And why community calm?

Some see the two as related. They credit the board's unflinching refusal to panic as having a quieting effect on the district as a whole.

Actually, the board's united public posture screens a number of individual attitudes. But all members oppose bussing unless it can be demonstrated that educational quality would

improve. Most even waive that requirement.

There has been behind-the-scenes pulling and hauling to put out an anti-bussing statement. Sample declarations have been composed, debated and set aside. This striving for unanimity accounted for the irritation of some of his colleagues when Trustee Kenneth Perrin issued his personal statement opposing bussing and urging residents to write their federal and state lawmakers.

The fact that public silence has been maintained, despite individual restiveness, may be credited in large part to the board's amiable unflappable attorney, Robert Kelly, and the trustees' willingness to heed his advice.

Kelly has kept the board from getting enmeshed by pointing out two things:

1. Farmington has no standing to appeal, at this time, and nothing to appeal from.

2. By maintaining silence and standing back from joining anti-bussing coalitions, the district avoids possibly finding its foot in its

background

mouth in future litigation and leaves itself flexible to act in its own best interests.

Kelly is also attorney for the City of Farmington, which has also declined to take an anti-bussing stand. In contrast, Farmington Township has passed a strongly-worded resolution against bussing.

PERSUASIVENESS OF Kelly's suggestions was seen at a joint meeting last week of the attorney and school trustees with executive boards of the PTA Council and the Citizens School Advisory Council.

Despite outspoken denunciation of bussing and its equally vehement support by certain members of both councils, all appeared to agree with Kelly that any position statement by the board at this time would be premature.

"It would be like crying 'wolf' before the whistle had blown for start of the game," one trustee commented.

The situation, as of now, is that Farmington is not involved in the Roth case and can do nothing about it.

AS OF THIS date, Roth has done just two things. He has declared that Detroit schools have been deliberately segregated.

He has directed the Detroit and Michigan boards of education to present plans to alleviate it.

The latter implies that suburban districts might be affected ultimately, but as matters stand now, they have nothing to appeal.

The state board has said that local boards affected by its suggested integration procedure will be told what the proposal contains and be given an opportunity to take issue before it is presented to the court.

Even if Judge Roth were to join Farmington and other suburban districts in an integration program with

Detroit, he might hold its implementation in abeyance while Gov. Milliken's appeal was pending or the appellate court might order him to hold it in abeyance.

If Judge Roth did join Farmington to the case, the district could ask for a new trial, Kelly believes, on grounds it was added to a case it was not a party to in the beginning.

Or if the state board ordered Farmington to join in cross-district bussing, the board could say: "You don't have that power; sue us."

"I just don't believe it was the intent of the Legislature to give the state board power to change district lines at will," Kelly said.

AS A MATTER of fact, petitions already have begun circulating which would specifically declare the state board a co-equal with intermediate school district boards and not their superior.

The Farmington board's failure to issue an anti-bussing statement in no way implies it is hiding its head in the sand and hoping the problem will go away.

It has donated \$100 to the Michigan Assn. of School Administrators (MASA), Region 9 for research and information into the bussing possibility.

But by shying away from joining the region as a partner in any fight against bussing, Farmington leaves itself free to be represented by its own counsel presenting its own point of view should such an eventuality come about instead of being merely one of some 20 districts represented by a single overall counsel. Or, it would be free to join the coalition later, should such a step become the wiser course of action.

As for now, "Just let it be known you are watching the situation, and keeping informed," Kelly advised the board, "that nothing official has happened or is threatened."

As for private board opinion, Trustee Ronald Emmitt said: "We live in a community that is segregated, and just living here indicates our feelings. A resolution would be like crying 'wolf' before the wolf was even conceived."