

the Farmington enterprise & observer

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Busing Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court handed down a 4-4 one-sentence opinion Monday, upholding a lower court decision that halted cross-district busing in the Richmond, Va. area. One justice abstained from the vote which is the first statement from the high court on the issue. The decision upheld by the court, which foretells much about the future of cross-district busing in Detroit, is analyzed on page

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You Dig?

The girls at Our Lady of Mercy High School did... and their excavations were part of a mighty interesting class project. You can learn more about it in today's Observing Life.

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School Contracts

With negotiations underway, the Farmington Education Assn. has outlined their wants in a new contract. To keep abreast of the latest developments, see:

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Schedules Changed For The Holiday

The Wednesday editions of Observer Newspapers, normally scheduled for May 30, will be published instead on Thursday, May 31 because of the Memorial Day holiday. Observer offices at 3925 1/2 Schoolcraft, Livonia, will be closed on Monday, May 28, for the legal observance of Memorial Day. The classified advertising office will be open Saturday, May 26, until noon, and the circulation department will be open its normal Saturday hours.

Michigan Week Highlight

One of the most interesting features of Michigan Week was the visit of Ionia Mayor Ronald Stanton and his staff on Mayor Exchange Day. Here they are on a tour of the Mills Products plant. From left they are: Dick Allen, Ionia fire chief and his wife; James E. Troxell, vice president of Mills Products; City Manager Robert Deadman, Councilman John Allen with Mayor and Mrs. Stanton. (Evert photo)



Ionia Mayor Praises City Safety Group

The civic, political and industrial leaders of the Farmington community will have cause to long remember Michigan Week. Before he left for his home in Ionia, visiting Mayor Don Stanton paid high tribute to the present officials and all those who made possible the "many fine things we saw on our tour today." "I was amazed at your combined police and fire department," he said, "and I only wish we could have something like that back in Ionia."

Both he and the Ionia fire chief, Rich Allen, were loud in their praise of the City Hall and the smoothness with which they saw it function.

"Of course," they added, "we're from a small town, and we've got to make the most of what we have. Our City Hall is 90 years old, and we hope the day will come when we can have something on the order of what you have."

With their wives they were the guests of the city at a civic luncheon at the Elks Club, following a tour of the business sections, the industrial park and several new park sites. Before the luncheon ended, however, the program be-

came a challenge match in promoting events in their own behalf during the rest of the year. Mayor Pro Tem John Richardson invited the Ionia party back to the Founders Festival "when we really will show you something—how we entertain more than 100,000 persons during the week.

In return Ionia Mayor Stanton said, "and we would like to have you come up to Ionia for our Free Fair. This year it really will be something—the best small fair in the country."

Prior to Mayor Exchange Day, the city was given a touch of what happens at Holland, Mich. during the Tulip Festival.

This came last Saturday when the streets were cleaned and the business fronts "dolled up" for the influx of visitors. The remainder of the week will be a series of highlights that reach a climax with Youth Day on Saturday.

The Chamber of Commerce is host at a Livelihood Day luncheon this Wednesday at the Salem Church. Bob Erwin, automotive editor of the Detroit News, is the speaker and the gathering will include many area dignitaries and Exchange Club members.

Only Councilman John Allen, John Richardson and F.M. Seibert were present for the quiet meeting which was visited briefly by Ionia Mayor Donald Stanton, who had exchanged cities with Mayor Ralph Yoder in honor of Michigan Week. Chief among the actions taken by council was adoption of a resolution expressing the city's opposition to the proposed 1973-74 State Police budget appropriation bill in the House of Representatives which includes a limit of one cut in state appropriation to local governments for two major police programs.

The bill would pass the financial responsibility to local units for the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN), which provides local teletype connections to a nationwide computer system for instant relaying of warrants, criminal records, driver's license status and similar information.

City Manager Robert Deadman estimated the cost of operating a local terminal at \$2-3,000 per year at present, and said the cost can only rise as terminal facilities improve. Both the City and Township police operate terminals, according to Deadman, who told councilmen the service is "so vital that you couldn't operate in this state without it."

Also slated to get the ax in the state budget are payments to local units of a portion of the cost of the 280 hours of police training required for each new officer by state law. The state currently appropriates about \$75 toward the expenses for each officer, about half the total.



THE CLEANUP WINNER—For a job well done on Cleanup Day to usher in Michigan Week, Jim Pogue, of the Beautification Committee, gives the top prize to Bob Pothoff, owner of Vintner's Wine Store.

State Cuts Opposed; Ordinances Tabled

Deadman suggested the cuts are "part of the sham on the part of the state," passing on the burden of tax cuts to local governments. The resolution puts the council on record as opposed to the plan.

Council tabled a proposed amendment to the city's sign ordinance to await discussion by the full council. The proposed amendment would liberalize some current requirements such as the number of signs which may be placed on a single structure, but adds more stringent requirements for size, height and maintenance of signs.

The most significant changes in the proposal would be a limit of one ground sign for any single structure, and a provision to require that currently existing signs be made conforming whenever any structural or advertising changes are made.

The motion to table came from Councilman Seibert, who suggested that sign regulation has become "a real tender point" for the council.

"We've had three new ordinances in five years," Seibert reported, "none of them satisfactory."

Also introduced but tabled was an amendment to the city's littering ordinance which would institute strict regulations for the delivery of door-to-door materials.

The proposal would require that such material, except newspapers and mail, be packaged in weatherproof containers with the name, address and phone number of the distributing company printed on the package. Residents who object to delivery of such material could have it discontinued by notifying the company.

City Attorney Robert Kelly praised the program as offering an additional fringe benefit to employees at no cost to the city. The program is made possible by a recent ruling from the Internal Revenue Service which allows public employees to use such tax sheltered plans.

Council also voted to authorize Deadman to prepare a resolution expressing the city's opposition to a proposal from Consumer's Power Company for a rate increase currently before the state Public Service Commission.

The resolution will state the council's belief that some increase may be appropriate to raise Consumer's earnings above the current rate of 5.5 per cent, but disputes the company's contention that its acceptable rate of earnings should be 7.5 per cent.

In other action, councilmen heard a request for a donation of city funds for the operation of the Farmington Community Center from Chairman Robert Amori.

Amori emphasized that he was not seeking city support as such for the center, but only a contribution from the city on the same basis as any individual or business contribution. Council postponed discussion of the request until the full membership was present.

Council voted to hold a public hearing at the next regular council meeting Monday, June 4 on the propriety



What could be more enjoyable than a cup of coffee and the latest hometown news?

Well, while we're on the subject there could be one more thing. And that's the receipt you receive when your Observer carrier collects this month. First of all your receipt guarantees delivery of your hometown news and second, it's worth its face value toward an Observer Want Ad. Collect three receipts and you get a FREE Observer Want Ad. So, remember, ask for your receipt, save it, and then use it! — for fun, profit and enjoyment!



WELCOME BACK—Ronald Stanton, mayor of the City of Ionia, made such a fine impression during his visit on Mayor Exchange Day that he and his entourage were invited back, any time. To make it official, Farmington Mayor Pro Tem John Richard gave him the key to the city in a special ceremony. (Evert photo)