

# the farmington

## enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

15¢ a Copy

Weekend of February 10, 1973

## Private Ice Rink Proposed To Schools

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington area could have an ice rink even though city residents turned down a \$1.25 million bond issue providing for a rink in last November's election.

Rossetti Associates Inc., which operates a privately owned rink in Grasse Pointe, has made overtures to the Farmington School Board to purchase land for the construction of a private rink.

The board voted in last Tuesday's meeting to refer for further administration study the sale of school property for this purpose, suggesting that other bids be taken.

SIX PARCELS of land are under consideration for sale: under prime consideration is a three to four acre plot on Northwestern Highway near 14 Mile next to Warner Junior High School.

Bob Greager, Rossetti spokesman, said he is convinced an ice rink is needed in the area because of the popularity of hockey and ice skating in general.

He said plans for the rink would be based on the Grasse Pointe facility which includes a standard size hockey rink, bleacher seating, game room, locker facilities and a pro shop.

RINK USAGE would be primarily for lease by hockey clubs, but would also include public skating and figure skating lessons, said Greager.

School board trustees were reserved in their enthusiasm for the project and voted to withhold the land sale until further investigation is made into the price and the desirability of having a privately owned rink in Farmington.

"It is our responsibility to maintain the environment surrounding our schools. I'm not sure I like this idea. We shouldn't work from the basis of money but what it can do to us," said Trustee William Corliss.

BOARD PRESIDENT Kenneth Perrin said the school administration should get several bids on the property before selling.

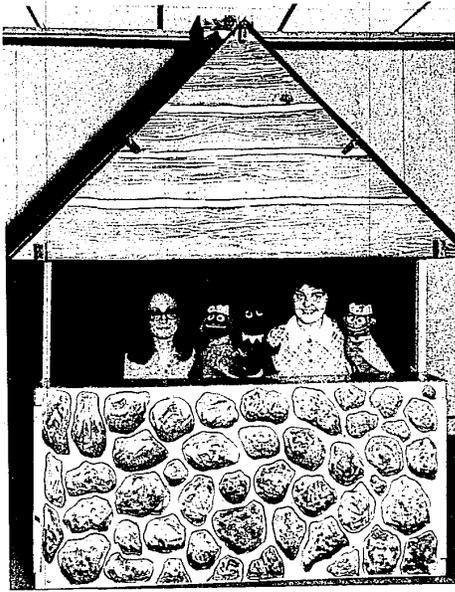
William Prisk, school business manager, talked of the pitfalls in selling the land.

"I don't think it is an opportune time to look for a buyer. The decision is, does the board want an ice rink," said Prisk.

He said a better price for the land could be garnered in the future.

ALDO VAGNOZZI, board vice president, mentioned the responsibility toward the community.

"We have an obligation not to disturb the area against the wishes of the people in the surrounding area," Vagnozzi said.



### Story Hour

VALENTINE'S DAY will be the occasion for the unveiling of the new story house at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington Public Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd. Jill Locke (right) and Robert Turek (not shown) designed and built the "house," with Tony Myers decorating it. "The Frog Princes," a puppet show, will be featured Feb. 14. The library asks parents to call ahead for reservations. Sandy Yelensky helps with the puppets. (Photo by Fran Evert)

## Lower Speed Limits Hit County Roadblock

By STEVE BARNABY

The Farmington school board has run into a roadblock in its quest to have 25 mph speed signs with blinking lights installed in front of the 10 Mile and Alameda Elementary Schools.

The administration, which has embarked on a year-long district-wide study of school crossings, has been informed by the Oakland County Road Commission that the law allows a reduction of only 10 mph from the posted speed limit. The speed limit in front of the two schools is 40 mph.

The board has voted to have the administration gather further information on school crossings in other areas of Oakland County and negotiate the 25 mph speed limits signs with the county.

The study on crossings began in January after the 10 Mile PTA requested the implementation of crossing safety measures. The board decided to include Alameda's long standing request at that time.

After hearing recommendations from an administration committee, trustees voted to implement the signs and take three other steps.

The three steps considered were:

- Construction of a sidewalk along the north side of 10 Mile from Raphael to across the street from the school walkway.
- Prohibiting school buses traveling on 10 Mile from turning on to Raphael and buses traveling on Raphael from turning onto 10 Mile.
- Hiring of a crossing guard to serve at the corner of Raphael and 10 Mile until sidewalk and light construction are completed.

Out of these proposals only a crossing guard has been put into action.

William Prisk, business manager, says the plans for a sidewalk are being negotiated with the Farmington Township government and the bus traffic is being controlled through the use of the crossing guard.

Cost for the safety measures at the two schools, if fully implemented, is estimated by school officials to be \$2,900.

## Drugs, Burglaries Increase In City

A rising burglary rate and a sharp rise in narcotics offenses, mainly marijuana, summarized in the annual report on crime in the City of Farmington presented recently by Capt. Dan Burns of the Farmington police.

But while a metropolitan newspaper described the crime rate as "soaring," a hopping chicken might be a better comparison.

VIOLENT CRIMES: murder, rape, robbery and assault, dropped from 22 last year to 19 this year, and out of the 19, seven were fistfights; seven robberies, one rape, one attempted rape and three assaults with knife or gun.

"In a city the size of Farmington," City Manager Robert Deadman told the council, "small increases in numbers end up as large percentages."

An example was the increase of traffic fatalities, up from one to three, reported as a "200 per cent increase" in the report.

Other types of traffic accidents were up: injury accidents 27 per cent; property damage 31 per cent, persons injured 20 per cent.

Burns pointed out there was an equally dramatic drop in the same statistics last year.

BURGALARIES did increase. All burglaries, including attempts, increased 91 per cent over 1971 (71-146), with forced entries increasing 121 per cent.

The largest increase was experienced in residential burglaries.

During the summer months, increases as high as 275 per cent were reported.

NARCOTICS offenses were also up.

Byrnes cited a more casual attitude toward getting caught with marijuana - the sentence was lowered this year - as the main reason.

Marijuana arrests accounted for 73 per cent of the adult narcotics arrests and 80 per cent of the juvenile.

Another change in the law was cited for the four 17-year-olds arrested for drunken driving. There were none last year.

"It is safe to say that any youngster 17 and below is going to find it much easier to obtain alcoholic beverages due to the lowering of the age of majority," Byrnes said.

Adult arrests for narcotics totaled 73 this year, compared to 13 last year. Juvenile arrests totaled 54, compared to 24 last year.



SPRIT DAY at Farmington Junior High found (from left) David Martin, Lynn Kirby and David Anderson dressed as "little kids." Other roles played during "spirit week" were "fat day," "1950s," and "sports day." (Photo by Fran Evert)

## Dog Licenses Are Going Up

Dog licenses will be more expensive this year for residents of Farmington Township.

Dog owners applying for a new set of tags for the family pooch at the township treasurer's office have been surprised to learn the fee has been increased to \$3, up from the old price of \$1.

Township officials explain the increase was dictated by the county, which sets the rates in the township.

City of Farmington residents continue to pay the \$2 fee set by the city council.

Township and city residents operate under different sets of rules governing dog tags.

TOWNSHIP residents must buy their tags before March 1 - a month earlier than city residents. They pay \$3 at the township treasurer's office. After the due date, the price goes up to \$6.

The tags will also be sold at a clinic Feb. 17, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the township fire hall, 34600 W. 12 Mile.

Rabies shots for \$2 will also be available at the clinic for both city and township residents but only township dog licenses may be purchased there.

CITY RESIDENTS pay \$2 for a license, at the city clerk's office in city hall. City tags must be purchased before April 1, when the price goes up to \$7.

For either township or city residents, a veterinarian may give the shots, and the certificate may be presented to get the tags.

A local vet reports the "clinic" shots are good for a year - while most vets give three-year shots for a fee that ranges from \$6-9.

### today's hot line

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### what's inside

#### Reader Replies

The lawyer who is advising the Farmington charter commission replies to a recent Enterprise & Observer editorial on: **Page 3A**

#### New Courses

Courses were added to the next session at the Farmington Community Center. To find something of interest, turn to: **Page 3A**

#### Shop Early

Jazz drummer Buddy Rich is returning to Observerland for the third consecutive year. He must like it here... and the audiences like him. The Clarenceville Entertainment Series advises you to get your tickets early. **Page 10A**

#### Decoys

They were on full view when a group of antique enthusiasts from Farmington made a visit recently to an unusual home. You'll find a picture of them and the house in the Observing Life Section today. **Page 7A**

#### Bridge Anyone?

Looking for a hobby that's inexpensive and mentally stimulating? A Livonia teacher suggests bridge and gives a few pointers on how to win trophies. **Page 10A**

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## FOCUS: Suburbia

We've paved the "Road to Adventure" for you in this week's FOCUS: Suburbia. Don't miss it!