

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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Fifteen Cents



The Mikado

Students from Eagle Elementary school put on "The Mikado" as a school project recently. Mike Phillips (left), Karl Hamina, Lisa Jakee (in back) and Mary Fulkerson played the Gilbert and Sullivan roles.

The students traveled to three other schools with the operetta.

Community band concert unveils showmobile drive

The Farmington Community Band is expected to receive one of the first contributions for a new "showmobile" at an annual pops concert Saturday, March 30, at 8 p.m. in the Harrison High auditorium.

The cabaret-style concert will have a theme "Those Wonderful Years, Those Wonderful Songs." The community concert band, the jazz band and the new orchestra will be playing hits from musicals and numbers such as Glen Miller's "In the Mood."

One of the most popular events of the band season, the seating is at tables set up for the occasion.

The concert is usually a sellout, according to William Corroy, band director.

Tickets are required, but are free. They may be obtained in advance of the concert from any community band or orchestra member, or from Director Paul Barber.

The "showmobile" being purchased for the band is on order, hopefully to

be delivered in time for the sesquicentennial celebrations this summer, according to Corroy.

A mobile bandshell, it is expected to be used for parades and other community activities.

Support from several community organizations has been promised for the vehicle. Some contributions are expected at the intermission of the pops concert.

Northwestern hearing is on Hills agenda

Controversial Northwestern Highway will be the subject of a public forum Monday, March 25, at the Farmington Hills City Council.

The meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, is open to all Farmington Hills residents.

Roughly two miles of Northwestern Highway runs through the northeastern part of the city.

PROPOSALS TO widen the highway

have met with stiff opposition from environmentalists and local residents.

Currently, the highway is the subject of a committee hearing in Lansing. An attempt is being made there to set a priority for the highway's construction.

The Farmington Hills council is also expected to act on a rezoning request for a one acre site in the northeast corner of Northwestern Highway and Valley Rd.

Proposers are asking the city to rezone the lot from residential to office.

A SECOND rezoning request scheduled to be heard Monday is for a site on the southeast corner of Farmington and 18 Mile roads. The request is for a change from residential to apartment zoning.

In other action, the council is expected to award contracts for road equipment, consider an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals and act on a number of special assessments.



Lil' Abner

Beth McKee plays Marryin' Sam and Geary Mayer plays Earthquake in the previews of high school musicals playing April 4-6. The

previews were shown recently at the Farmington library. (Evert photo)

School appointees probably won't run

By NANCY STEIN

The answer in two out of three cases was "Absolutely no, but maybe." The question was "Will you be running for a seat on the Farmington Board of Education?"

The question was put to Rev. Hugh Stewart, Dr. Burton Knighton and Mrs. Lillian Allen, all recently appointed to the board as replacements for three elected members who resigned.

To retain their seats they must run for election on June 10 and must file petitions by May 13.

At Tuesday's school board meeting Stewart stated he probably will not run for the school board.

Lillian, asked to clarify the statement, said, "There has been a change in my pastoral situation."

"I was appointed interim pastor at the church. I am presently looking for a permanent position."

"I don't know whether or not I will be in the community six months from now. Unless I am absolutely sure that I'll be here I would not consider running."

'Between the meetings and special hearings, the time is too much from my family.'

--Mrs. Lillian Allen

Dr. Knighton, answered the question, "Will you run?" by saying, "There is a 90 percent chance I won't. At this time I am not a candidate."

Pressed harder about the 10 percent chance, Knighton said, "I've only been a member since February."

"I don't know how much I can accomplish as a temporary member. I am still learning my way around. I'm still studying and investigating."

KNIGHTON SAID that it is much different from the other side of the table.

"I'd like to see the board get down to basics, develop policies and set goals."

The third possible candidate from

the board, Mrs. Allen, was the only one who answered the question with an unequivocal, "No, I am not a candidate."

She explained that the job requires about three nights a week of her time with study sessions, regular meetings, and special assignments.

"I can't make that kind of a commitment to be away from my husband and two children that much for such a long period of time."

MRS. ALLEN made a plea for residents to look carefully at what the functions of a school board member are, then carefully at the person. Lastly attend at least one school board meeting before they vote in the next school election.

Ghost of Teeples case?

Hearings test police

By DAN McCOSH

A Farmington township cop took information on wrongdoings from the department to the Oakland County prosecutor five years ago.

An investigation followed which resulted in charges of police brutality against another patrolman, later acquitted.

The policeman who made the report to the prosecutor was suspended from the department, charged with a list of violations of the police "code of rules," mainly taking an internal department affair outside the department.

A police review committee was set up, which later cleared the policeman of the charges.

A witness in the hearings who stood solidly behind the chief to protect the "blue code" of silence in protecting police problems was Lt. William Kelly.

THAT HEARING, in 1969, provided the political catalyst to eventually get the "honest cop" in the case, Earl Teeples, elected township supervisor.

It also provided the incentive for a review of the administration of the police department, and eventually led to the demotion of Chief Irving Yakes.

March 28, a police review board

hearing has been scheduled in Farmington Hills.

The aggrieved policeman, charged with violating department rules on releasing information on an investigation, is Lt. Kelly.

A further coincidence is the appointment of Councilman Frederick Lichtman to the police review board. Lichtman chaired the Teeples hearings for the township board.

The appointment of the review board, and many of the charges leveled against Kelly, echo the ghost of the Teeples case.

The similarity ends on some critical points.

Ex-Chief Yakes had the support of the Police Officers Association. The association is siding with Lt. Kelly in the current case. Teeples stood more or less by himself, while in the present case is Public Safety Director Ronald Holko who is left with little support from within the department.

The department was left in this position until the new city was incorporated.

Since taking over the department,

Holko has added new equipment,

organized record-keeping and updated personnel practices.

But sources within the police and fire departments indicate the director has not been successful in keeping the various department factions working together.

Before the current embezzlement case, the volunteer fire department reacted badly to changes such as centralized purchasing and more central control of the volunteer fire department.

Some officers have also attempted to organize "concerned citizens" groups aimed at discrediting the director's administration of the department.

THE HEARINGS coming up on Kelly's suspension and dismissal notices have been handled carefully by the new administration.

City Manager George Majors, relatively new on the job, is expecting the Oakland County prosecutor to issue a report complementing the city on the handling of the embezzlement investigation.

Richard Thompson, the assistant prosecutor in charge of the case, said such a statement would have to wait until the state police are through with the evidence and warrants are issued.

The actual embezzlement investigation, delegated by the director to Lt. Russell Conway, was turned over to the county prosecutor in a matter of days.

Majors and Holko's position is that

it was well underway when Kelly first

attempted to file a department felon

report on the embezzlement, and fol-

lowing his suspension for that action,

took the case to the state police.

Kelly's attorneys, Lippett, Perlove,

Varga and Zack, have made public

During the time between the two cases, the department has undergone a major reorganization.

HOLKO WAS HIRED after Teeples defeated Curtis H. Hall and was elected township supervisor.

The township board at that time took the authority over the department out of Teeples' hands. Holko was hired with the understanding he would answer directly to the township board.

Yakes was retained on salary in the department, and for a time was put in charge of the volunteer fire department.

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