

How students learn from one another

By SUSAN AVERILL

Three little boys were grouped around a dry aquarium in William Grace Elementary School, fishing through paper scraps for gerbils.

"You better watch out, 'cause those are the ones that bite my thumb," warned a small girl in a red halter top.

No one hesitated, and when one captured gerbil nipped a finger there was only a squeal and a grin. "Oh, he bit me!"

A small boy tried to wedge the end of one patient rodent's tail between the water bottle and its fasteners, but dropped it as the gerbil squirmed.

"That's enough for now, let's let the gerbils rest. They're tired," said Mary Ellen Blair.

MS. BLAIR runs a two-hour class on weekdays at William Grace for students she thinks will benefit from the experience. Part of the Cycle IX program, the summer class is purposely unstructured.

"Children learn from each other that way. There's not much structure. That gives them not only freedom, but makes them responsible for what they learn," Ms. Blair said.

The boys reluctantly turned away from the gerbils and searched for a new interest, bypassing Ms. Blair who was ironing batik prints.

The prints were projects from the day before. The material for that day's project, bread dough, was sitting in a corner and quietly rising.

"Okay, go get your carpet squares, wait, let Tim do some ironing. Pauline, would you help them get their carpet squares?"

Dark-eyed Pauline, one of the oldest children there, marshalled her troops to a pile of carpet scraps. The children took the squares across the room and arranged them before a rocking chair, boys on one side, girls on the other, with the oldest children in the back to oversee operations.

It was time for the children to relate their feelings. It was time for Duso.

"Duso" means "developing understanding of self and others." It's a new term for children to relate their feelings, to talk about them," Ms. Blair said.

DUSO IS A red, white and blue doll puppet, who is supposed to serve as a discussion facilitator.

"What's the best thing about a friend?" asked Duso, who had just appeared from behind a large book with colored pictures.

"A sister or a brother can be a friend. What's the most special thing about friends? ... these are kind of hard questions, aren't they?" The children were self-consciously quiet, looking at the floor and staring into space.

One little boy dressed in blue made loud clicking noises.

"Well, everyone may have heard of a fish named Sharky. He has terrible manners and is hard to get along with. Eventually, nobody wanted to be around Sharky anymore and he decided he could do without friends." In tears, the boy said.

The pictures were nice to watch.

Duso finished his story about Sharky, who had learned that friends are necessary, without much interruption from his audience.

"The lack of structure gives the children a chance to explore, something they usually can't do in a regular classroom. They usually can't just get up and walk over to another part of the room and start playing with some-

thing there. It's a valid learning experience," Ms. Blair said later.

Baking is a daily activity, and it was time for the bread sculptures. Large lumps of dough were distributed. Beth made a "B" and a "P" while Dan made a "G" and a "H". Most of the others were satisfied with snakes or "pancakes."

"YOU HAVE TO be on your toes every second, there are so many of them to watch," Ms. Blair said.

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Residents get scholarships

Two area residents were among students from 25 community colleges selected to receive academic scholarships at Western Michigan University.

Ninety-one students were chosen for the award.

Stephen Chabala of Farmington and David J. Smith, of Farmington Hills were two of the six students from Oakland Community College chosen for the award.

The scholarships range from \$400 to \$2,000 over four years. The amount depends on financial need and the student's grade point average. For community college transfer students the scholarships over two years will total half that amount.

Mary Ellen Blair teaches her students about batik. (Staff photo)

Lori Benson on dean's list

Lori Benson, 28338 Kirkside, Farmington Hills, was named to the dean's list for the spring quarter at Kent State University.

NFHS director attends workshop

Ted Sull, North Farmington High School choral director, is attending a choral workshop at Indiana State University. One of the instructors is Paul Salamanchik, associate director of the Roger Wagner Chorale and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A Regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 21, 1975, by Mayor Yoder. Councilmen Allen, Hartsock, Richardson, Tupper and Yoder were present.

City officials present were City Manager Deadman, Director Jones, Capt. Byrnes, Attorney Kelly and Clerk Viane.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Mayor Yoder introduced Sherrill Sterling, who reported on her experiences as representative of Farmington at the American Legion Girl's State Program at Olvett College.

Mayor Yoder opened the Public Hearing to Review the Special Assessment Roll for the paving of Brookside Street from Grand River south to Nine Mile Road.

City Manager Deadman stated that bids had been received which resulted in a lowering of the assessment charge per front foot to each property owner. The new assessment rate would be \$23.00 per front foot.

Comments were heard from Mrs. Eleanor Rossmore, Mr. Bill Reid, Mr. Armand Almeida, Mr. Lindsay Lloyd and Mr. Frank Annetta, property owners, after which the public hearing was closed.

Resolution No. 5 confirming Special Assessment Roll No. 75-43 and Resolution stating Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds adopted.

Mayor Yoder opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Edge Drain System for Chatham Hills Subdivision. City Engineer Pappalardo explained the drain system proposed for certain streets within the subdivision.

Comments were heard from Mr. Frank Chisholm, 30023 Southfield, representing the Homeowners Association, Mr. Arthur Palisko, 30019 Vicary, Mr. Richard Gray, 30473 Saxony, Mr. Victor Thomas, 30450 Saxony, Mr. Robert Kropf, 30030 Vicary Lane, Mr. John Maloney, 30273 Lansbury Lane and Mrs. Ron Timmering, 30077 Lansbury Lane, after which the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Yoder was appointed as official representative to cast vote for the City of Farmington at the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting and Mayor Pro Tem Richardson was appointed as alternate.

Resolution was adopted supporting the payment of statutory witness and mileage fees to officers of the Oakland County jurisdictions for appearances in criminal cases in the Circuit Court while off duty.

Letter from the City of Berkeley requesting Council support of HB 481 and SB 157 relative to additional State aid to Public Libraries was received and filed.

Letter from Mrs. D.D. McClelland, 30231 Drakeville, was received and filed. City Manager Deadman will contact the Drakeville Apartment owners regarding the dumpsters used at the apartment complex.

City Manager was authorized to enter into a contract with Staley Asphalt for the paving of approximately 140 ft. x 18 ft. on Cass Street south of Shawanaw with 2" asphalt with wedge curb on the east side. Mr. Lawrence Mayer, owner of buildings on Cass Street, has indicated he plans to pave the portion of Cass from Grand River north to approximately 140 ft. south of Shawanaw at no expense to either the abutting land owners or the City of Farmington.

City Council authorized an increase in the rate of reimbursement for the use of employee's private vehicles for city business from the present .12 per mile to .15 per mile.

The following bids were awarded:

Plastic Garbage Can Liners
Chernin Products
8340 Miller Road
Dearborn, Michigan \$6,000.00

Brookside Street Paving
McCarthy Contracting Company
5280 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington, Michigan 48034 \$1,600.00

Council authorized payment to the following contractors for work completed on the Municipal Building Expansion:

Barron Construction Company \$1,730.16
J.E. Hoetger & Company 1,000.00
Pioneer-Detroit 2,000.00
Tervo Products, Inc. 500.00
Milbrand Company 1,100.00
I. Maraldo Electric 1,941.71

TOTAL: \$13,800.27

Council authorized the City Manager to adjust the new three year contract, expiring June 30, 1978, with McCredy Trucking Company as follows:

First Year \$65,500.00
Second Year \$9,300.00
Third Year \$2,500.00

Request for increase in Taseco rates was tabled.

Building Department Quarterly Report received and filed.

Letter of Resignation from Mrs. Dorothy Poston, City Assessor, was received. Resolution authorizing execution of a contract with utility companies for the "MISS DIG" program was adopted.

The following Ordinance was adopted rezone property located south of the present Worldwide Shopping Center on Grand River:

ORDINANCE NO. C-276-75

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

THE CITY OF FARMINGTON ORDAINS:

Section 1: That the territory lying with the City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, be rezoned as follows:

T-1N, R-1S, Section 36, Part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, beg. at pt. dist. S 02-46-00 E 1222.87 ft. & S 01-11-44 E 364.30 ft. to North line of "Woodcroft Subdivision," th Wly alg N1/2 line of said "Woodcroft Subdivision" to West line of the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4, th Nly 364.30 ft. & alg said line to beginning. Containing 2.43 acres. Also Lots 6 and 7, Valleyfield Subdivision.

From R-1-C One Family District (Country Estates)

To R-1-A One Family District

Section 1: This attached map showing the property affected by this amendment is made part of the amendment.

Section 2: This ordinance shall be known as Amendment No. 7 to the Zoning Map of the City of Farmington.

This ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Farmington City Council on July 7, 1975, was adopted and enacted at the next regular meeting of the Council on July 21, 1975 and will become effective ten days after publication.

AYES: Richardson, Tupper, Yoder, Allen, Hartsock

NAYS: None

Monthly Bills were approved.

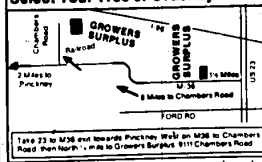
Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

RALPH D. YODER, Mayor
NEEDRA VIANE, City Clerk

GROWERS SURPLUS

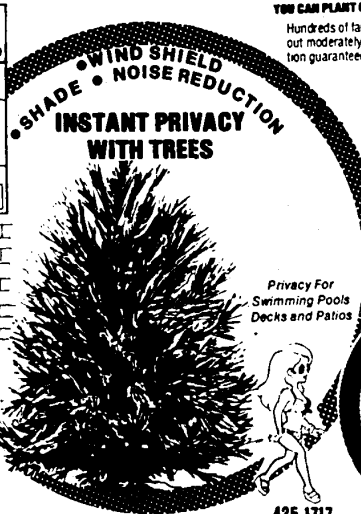
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