

# Farmington Enterprise & Observer

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## City Consolidation Hearing Features Spirited Debate

today's hot line

what's inside

### Some Answers

There's a vote coming up Nov. 4 and the Enterprise & Observer wants its readers to be completely informed on the pros and cons of consolidation. Look inside for Farmington's most complete election coverage.

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### Getting Picky

The City of Farmington has raised the standard for apartment development in the city. A report on the new multiple zoning is included in this week's council report.

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### Senators Listen

State senators visited Overland last week to hear public testimony on Gov. Miliken's proposed school reform programs, but the debaters dwelled almost entirely on two points — parochial and local control. Regional reporter Dennis Pajot was on the scene.

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### A Different Beat

Making a switch from straight drama to musical comedy presents problems for actors, directors and producers. The Farmington Players are undergoing the process right now and seem to have the problems in hand. For a report...

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### A Musician's View

The Redford Symphony will open its concert season this weekend and Entertainment Writer Sue Shaughnessy talked to the program's soloist about her work.

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### One Man's Show

There's a new art show in Plymouth in one of the local galleries. The facts about the show are printed on

Page 9B

### Ideas For Enjoyment

Week after week, you get more original stories on suburban entertainment and culture in the Observer Newspapers than anywhere else. In today's edition you'll find: An evening with Carl Sandburg... how the movies rate... along with some new openings around town are all described on today's Amusements Pages.

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**BY EMORY DANIELS**

A crowd of about 50 gathered last week in Farmington Junior High to hear the pros and cons of consolidation for city residents.

The educational meeting was the fourth of five being sponsored by the Joint Study Committee. Debating were city councilmen John Allen and John Richardson. The moderator was Fred Lichtman, township trustee.

Candidates for the charter commission attending the hearing were Donald Weldon, Robert Hanes, Robert Sawyer and John Burke.

Lichtman explained what the Nov. 4 vote was for and then turned the floor over to Richardson to explain the benefits of consolidation.

RICHARDSON said he supports a "yes" vote not only as a city resident with his business office in the city, or as a city councilman, but as a resident of the entire community.

Richardson said there were many reasons why consolidation was a good approach but for city residents it is almost imperative to vote "yes" to find out what consolidation is all about.

"Like it or not, the trend today is towards bigger," he said, using as examples farming, supermarkets and the plight of the small hardware.

"The same is happening to cities. Small cities are fighting to stay alive. The new cities that are being formed are large, not small. By 1980, some 80,000 people will live here and there's nothing we can do about it. They'll be here."

Richardson cautioned city residents that if consolidation fails, the township will incorporate. Although incorporation failed on two previous attempts, the last time in 1967 it lost by only 200 votes, he said.

"Don't think it will fall again. We should be a part of this vibrant city. No next to it."

RICHARDSON SAID the City of Farmington has held the line on taxes only because of successful annexations of township areas.

From 1951-57, the city's tax rate was between 17-20 mills, Richardson said. In 1957, the city annexed 190 acres from the township (Farmington Meadows and Farmington Oaks subdivisions) and the tax rate dropped from 20 mills to 10 mills in 1958.

The millage crept up again. Richardson said, to 12 mills. Then the city annexed the Woodcroft and Chatham Hills areas from the township. The tax rate immediately dropped to 11 mills and then down to the present nine mills, Richardson said.

"If the township incorporates around us, we won't have the luxury of annexing the wealth around us."

RICHARDSON THEN presented statistics which he said indicate that large new cities have lower tax rates than small, older cities.

"I stress that the Nov. 4 vote is not an irreversible commitment to consolidate but merely an indication you think enough about the one-

mentum to the Board of Registration in Medicine on possible action against Anderson's license.

Donald Harms of 29700 Orchard Lake Rd. in Farmington Township was Anderson's attorney at the arraignment.

Yoder explained he thought consolidation was a good idea but should be attempted later, if needed, and not now.

"After much deliberation," Yoder said, "I feel that now is the time to express myself on the matter of consolidation."

AS A councilman, Yoder said, "My first obligation should be to those people who are responsible for my holding office... and to what I think would be in their best interest."

"I'm for consolidation... but not at this time."

"The proponents of consolidation tell us that if the Nov. 4 vote fails, we will never have another opportunity to get together."

"I cannot accept this. I believe it can come about in the years to come, after the level of services in the surrounding community (township) become somewhat closer to the level of services now enjoyed by city residents."

YODER explained he had talked about consolidation with a number of people and city residents seemed to be concerned about "dilution of services."

"They know what they have," he said, "and they want to keep it that way. They are concerned about taxes, quite naturally, and fear higher taxes if we become part of a much larger city."

"This, perhaps, is a selfish attitude but it seems to prevail throughout the city."

"I find, almost without exception, no sentiment for consolidation in the city," Yoder concluded, "and, therefore, I believe it would not be in the best interest of the city to consolidate."

morale environment because they have a charter commission formed," he concluded.

ALLEN, in speaking against consolidation, began:

"I have been speaking against consolidation because we are here because of a choice we made. Most of us moved here from someplace else and we selected the City of Farmington because we liked the things the city could do for us."

Allen said consolidation is bad because it would:

1. Deny people preferences: services, convenience and responsive government.
2. Result in polarization: residential development in the north and industrial in the southern sections.
3. Increase township taxes: and
4. Dilute city services.

ALLEN SAID 1966 divided Farmington into two parts, and the area is showing evidence of becoming increasingly residential in the north and industrial in the south.

He said city services would be diluted because taxes from city residents would be used to pay for services for the township — DPW and road equipment, and park facilities.

"You cannot special assess for park facilities," Allen said, "or for road equipment and you'll suffer in services."

Consolidation causes problems, said Allen. How will the police department be handled? City police service a dual role and township police do not. yet both are paid the same pay.

"Can the township police be asked to do a dual job at the same pay?" Allen asked.

Another problem would be park works, Allen said, because a DPW would have to be provided for the township area. "What about parks?" asked Allen. "We want parks for the general public, not subdivision parks."

He also said a consolidated city would result in problems in the areas of transportation, social services, correctional institutions and result in "big politics."

ALLEN SAID small cities are better because:

1. Government is responsive to the needs of people.
2. The tax dollar directly benefits the taxpayer.
3. Small cities have better control of planning.
4. Small cities are more efficient because people do more work — some employees wear two hats such as public safety employees.
5. Small cities have a better

ALLEN WAS then given the floor again to rebut Richardson's remarks.

"Maybe yesterday the trend of everything was towards bigger government," Allen said, "but today we find the big things are not the best things and the small things are best."

Allen then read a statement criticizing consolidation for the role they played in the filing of incorporation and annexation petitions. "That statement was printed in the Oct. 15 Farmington Enterprise & Observer."

"I had no part in this," Allen said. "I don't believe in incorporation or annexation."

IN REBUTTAL Richardson said: "Size has nothing to do with the services you have."

"If anything will polarize the area, it'll be the defeat of consolidation and the presence of two cities instead of one."

"I don't want to be a buffer of the township's slums," Richardson said. "The only way city residents can do something about the problems next door is to become part of them."

The entrance to the city on Grand River looks bad. That's a township problem now, and there is not a thing we can do unless we are a part of it."

"The only way to control our environment is to become a part of it," Richardson said pointing out the environment extended beyond the city's boundary line."

UNDER A consolidated city, services for the township residents would increase, said Richardson. "But it won't dilute city services."

Richardson said the study by City Manager John Dinan estimated a tax rate of 8.6 mills "on the basis of the township would receive the same services the city people do now."

He said this will not be an overly difficult task since both township and city have a state equalized valuation "SEV" per capita of \$4.20.

"With the same SEV per capita and new land to develop in the township, how can we be a loser?" Richardson asked.

## Charge Farmington Doctor Performed 2 Abortions



**BY WYLIE GERDES**

Dr. Norbert O. Anderson of Farmington stood mute Friday in court on two charges of performing abortions and a charge of engaging in sexual intercourse under pretext of medical treatment.

Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand set bond at \$5,000 which Anderson posted.

Thomas Flunke, Oakland County prosecutor, said Anderson was charged after an eight-month investigation by the Farmington Township Police Department, the State Board of Medicine and his office.

MAXIMUM SENTENCE for abortion is four years for each charge, Flunke said. The third charge is punishable by a maximum of 10 years in prison, he added.

Anderson's medical office is at 29700 Orchard Lake Rd., just north of I-94. He is practicing as a psychiatrist.

Lt. Russell Conway, head of the detective bureau of the township police department, said Anderson is a licensed physician but not a certified psychiatrist. He said no certification is necessary for a licensed physician to call himself a psychiatrist.

AN ACCQUAINTANCE of Anderson's told The Enterprise & Observer the doctor is a competent psychiatrist and explained why he is not certified.

Before certification is granted, a doctor must practice psychiatry for a specified period of time before he can appear before the specialty board for certification.

Anderson is fulfilling that requirement, the source said, and as soon as it is met will apply for certification.

TOWNSHIP POLICE records show Anderson is a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School.

One complaint alleges that Anderson engaged in sexual intercourse with a Livonia woman on the pretext of medical treatment.

The complaint alleges the events happened April 10, 1968 and Dec. 10, 1968 and "others" times between.

One abortion complaint alleges Anderson performed an abortion on Mrs. MacDonald June 12, 1968. The other abortion allegedly was performed on Mrs. MacDonald by Anderson, Feb. 12, 1969.

DATE FOR preliminary examination has not been established. Scheduled to be called by the prosecution are Conway, the Livonia woman, Dr. Donald C. Swan of Southfield, a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of the Michigan Department of Public Health, and a representative of a bank.

Flunke said the State Board of Medicine will make a recom-

## Opposes 1-City

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## Quakertown Ballot Set

Five candidates are in the race for two seats on Quakertown's village council which will be decided Nov. 4.

Mrs. Clifton Strasser, Quakertown village clerk, said Quakertown voters will mark five ballots Nov. 4.

A charter amendment, a utility franchise and regular village office races will be decided besides the consolidation question and consolidation charter commission.

MRS. STRASSER termed the five candidates for two village councilman positions a "pretty good response."

Candidates are Robert Allaben, Betti Huff, Jack Humphries, Clifton Strasser and David Yates. Allaben is an incumbent councilman and Strasser is a former village assessor.

Candidates for village offices other than councilman are unopposed. Fred Lockhart, a present village councilman, is unopposed for village president. Robert Orians, now village president, is retiring after two years in the position.

VIVIAN JURUSEK is unopposed for village clerk. She will replace Mrs. Strasser, who has served for six years.

Arthur Toal, formerly village road commissioner, is unopposed for treasurer, and Jean Hamialo is the single candidate for village assessor.

If passed, the charter amendment will allow the village council to set the salaries of village officials. Quakertown officials now receive \$1 a year.

Also on the ballot, Mrs. Strasser said, is renewal of Detroit Edison's franchise in Quakertown. She said the question is a formality which must be voted upon every 25 years.

## Single City Means Redevelopment

(On Nov. 4, Farmington Area residents will be asked to choose whether a nine-man charter commission shall write a charter to combine the four governmental units into a single, new city. A reason why a charter commission should be given the chance to explore the benefits of consolidation is given below in another in a series of articles on what a single city means.)

There are sections in the Farmington area which are worn out and badly in need of redevelopment.

The city hopes to redevelop its downtown business center. Some of this redevelopment will require federal funds and without consolidation the city must compete with the township for the federal dollar, a dollar to be spent to benefit the entire area.

Residential redevelopment is needed in both city and township. Bad conditions in the southern end of the township cannot be ignored. Old homes in the city are depreciating and if not checked the depreciation will lower the assessed valuation of the city's residential property.

Merchants may have the money to redevelop commercial areas, but residential redevelopment usually is financed through public tax offers. Even downtown redevelopment will require tax dollars for re-routed streets, boulevards, miniparks, parking areas, etc.

The city cannot redevelop its depreciating residential areas alone and would have an easier time with its downtown project if backed by the finances of the entire community. The township cannot possibly eradicate its sub-standard areas with its financial resources as a township alone.

A single city could redevelop commercial and residential areas in the entire community and reverse the wearing-out trend in some sections which otherwise would probably remain unchecked. That's what consolidation means.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer



RALPH YODER