

# the farmington

## enterprise & observer

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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's  
**hot line**

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what's inside

### Poverty Pocket

Dilapidated houses, impassable roads, rat-infested basements and swamps sparked some Farmington mothers to band together to help improve one run-down square mile of Farmington Township. The first in a series of articles on what they call "Farmington's slums" begins today.

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### Joint Drug Center?

A former Farmington junior high teacher has been named director for the drug abuse program in neighboring Livonia and hopes that Farmington will join Livonia in sponsoring a joint rehabilitation center for drug addicts. His "one-man campaign" to get Farmington's Rap Line committee to join with Livonia, Clarenceville and Westland is reported inside.

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### Offer Sex Classes

The Farmington Area YMCA is once again accepting enrollees for its sex education program for adults and students. Look inside for dates of the classes and information on how to enroll.

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### Plan For Retarded

Much progress has been made in our care of the mentally retarded, but much more needs to be done. Read about the hopes of those closest to those members of society — their parents.

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### The Settlement

GM and the UAW may have written a contract in Detroit, but the fellows and gals in the locals have to vote on it and settle their local contracts. Bob McClellan wraps up the local scene.

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CONCERN makes one newspaper different from another...

!?



Read this concerned difference in today's LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Education Expenses Rise \$2 Million In Farmington

Farmington's Board of Education presented a \$15.4 million proposed budget for 1970-71 to a small group of citizens at a special budget hearing Monday night.

The new budget shows an increase of more than \$2 million from last year's total expenditures of \$13,384,508.

ABOUT 25 taxpayers showed up to hear an itemized account of the proposed budget.

Local revenue provides 65% or \$8.7 million of the school district's total income while

the state supplies 35% or \$5.3 million.

The local revenue is derived from a tax base of \$293.5 million which is the total state equalized value (SEV) of taxable property within the Farmington School District.

The bulk of the taxable property, \$220.9 million, is located in Farmington Township. The City of Farmington's tax base is about \$56.3 million, and the portion of West Bloomfield Township even though state school aid

is up \$246,000 and local tax revenues up \$1.4 million over 1969-70.

THE OPERATING tax levy for Farmington is 29.93 mills (\$29.93 per \$1,000 SEV) including the 8.43 mills allocated by Oakland County.

West Bloomfield residents are taxed 29.73 local operational mills which also includes the 8.43 allocated millage.

Additional costs hiking the budget by \$2 million were in the areas of instructional salaries, books and supplies. The budget rose by \$2 million even though state school aid

is up \$246,000 and local tax revenues up \$1.4 million over 1969-70.

Total instructional costs are up \$1.5 million over 1969-70 and teacher salaries rose \$905,000 over last year. Some of the extra cost is due to increments in salary schedules and not all is due to negotiated increases.

The cost for books and supplies is \$98,000 higher than 1969 because of the State Supreme Court's ruling that local school districts must supply free books and supplies to students.

ESTIMATED expenditures were broken down into categories:

Instruction—\$11.7 million in 1970 compared to \$10.2 million in 1969. This comprises about 70% of the budget.

Administration—\$451,642 this year; \$408,551 last year.

Operation and maintenance—\$2.2 million in 1970; \$1.8 million in 1969.

Transportation—\$361,744 this year compared to \$350,631 last year.

Some of the additional cost is covered by a \$707,261 surplus from the 1969-70 school

budget. Projected surplus for the new fiscal year is earmarked at only \$799.

CUTS in the new budget will come chiefly from capital outlay in the areas of building improvements and purchases of furniture and equipment.

Building improvements were cut from \$45,000 in 1969 to \$29,500 this year while equipment costs were reduced from \$103,850 in 1969 to \$41,500 in 1970.

Total proposed capital outlay for 1970 is \$79,230 compared to \$154,040 last year.

## Accepts City Manager Job

# City DPW Director Resigns

The City of Farmington is losing one of its bright administrators who has resigned after only six months to accept the job as city manager of Hart.

George Vondrak, director of the city's Department of Public Services (DPS), will leave Farmington Dec. 7 to become the top executive for the northern Michigan resort town of Hart.

Vondrak was hired by the City of Farmington as DPS director six months ago. The excellent credentials he brought with him also explain why he is leaving.

VONDRAK HAD spent 20 years as a police officer and four years as a DPW administrator for the City of Dearborn.

He was hired May 4, 1970, by the City of Farmington as a replacement for Ted DeBeane, who resigned as DPS director to go into private industry.

Vondrak, 45, will now be the chief executive for the City of Hart, a small community about 20 miles south

of Ludington with a population of some 2,500 persons.

"A thriving farm and recreation center in the midst of the Silver Lake Sand Dunes,"

The city manager job will cover a wide range of responsibilities. As a small-town executive, Vondrak will be directing Hart's police department, treasurer's and clerk's offices.

Hart has only three full-time administrators, Vondrak explains, with all other services directed by the city manager. Vondrak's administrative team will include a DPW superintendent, water and sewer board president, and hydro-plant superintendent.

He will be responsible to the mayor and the six-man council which legislates for Hart, which happens to be the county seat for Oceana County.

Vondrak now has his summer home in Hart and has spent a lot of time there with his family of eight children. He owns a mobile home on 80

acres about six miles from Hart.

AS DIRECTOR for Farmington's DPS, Vondrak supervised 12 employees and directed all DPS activities such as water, sewer, sidewalk programs, street maintenance, Venance, trash pickup, forestry, cemetery maintenance and parks.

He was just recently appointed to the City of Farmington Beautification Committee.

Vondrak was born in Detroit, graduated from St. Alphonsus High School in Dearborn, and earned a B.S. degree from Wayne State University.

Vondrak is only six credit hours away from completing work at the Dearborn U-M campus for a master's degree in community college administration.

He spent 20 years as a member of Dearborn's Police Department and was a detective lieutenant upon retiring. In the detective's bureau, Vondrak was a special investigator responsible for internal security and vice raids.

After retiring from police work, Vondrak was offered a job as social worker with the Dearborn Public Schools.

He was prepared to enter social work when Mayor Orville Hubbard offered Vondrak the position of sanitation director for the City of Dearborn.

Vondrak accepted and followed the Taft Sanitary Engineering School in Cincinnati, Ohio. "I learned the trade there and got a real liking for municipal administration," he recalls.

For the next four years, Vondrak served as Dearborn's sanitation director where he supervised 110 employees.

VONDRAK SAYS he feels bad about leaving Farmington. "I had fully intended to stay here for some time. This is a wonderful community."

Farmington is just the right size to operate efficiently and get things done. I'm very sorry to leave Farmington because it's an excellent community with an excellent group of people living here.

"I have been impressed with how cooperative and civic-minded the residents of Farmington are."

Vondrak was one of nine applicants considered by the Hart city council for city manager. He was first approached about the job last September while attending the county fair.

"I met the mayor at the county fair and he began talking about their problems."



LEAVING CITY — George Vondrak, director of public services for the City of Farmington, will leave Farmington Dec. 7 to become city manager for Hart, a northern Michigan farming and resort community. (Evert photo)

## Goodfellows Tell Annual Drive Plans

The Farmington Goodfellows are keyed up for the 1970 Drive after holding an organizational meeting to assign work to committee chairmen.

The Goodfellows also announce two important dates for this year's campaign to insure that there is "No Child Without A Christmas" in the Farmington area.

THE ANNUAL paper sale will be held on Friday, Dec. 11, and the food baskets and toys will be distributed on Dec. 23.

General chairman for this year's Goodfellow Drive will be Charles H. Williams,

president of FBS Associates, Inc. in downtown Farmington.

Williams has been active in civic organizations, in local government, and is serving as general chairman for the second year in a row. He lives at 34757 Arundel in the City of Farmington.

CO-CHAIRMEN will be Robert Button and Bruce Habermehl. Button, a CPA, will be responsible for investigation, assembly and distribution.

Habermehl, the local Firestone dealer, will again direct the paper sale as he has done in the past few years.

Habermehl is owner of Center Tire in downtown Farmington and a member of the city's planning commission.

Other key chairmen are: Shirley Richardson, dolls and dresses; Ronald Spielert, Harold Dettinger and Bill O'Connor, Toys for Tots Drive co-sponsored by the Farmington Girls and Marine Officer's Association; and John O'Gurek, school participation.

Other chairmen include: Frank McGuire, publicity; Frank Clappison, Farmington Jaycee activities; Robert Beauchamp, housing; Charles Schulkins, assembly; and Craig Rockafellow, distribution.

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