

# the farmington

## enterprise & observer

Wednesday, December 9, 1970

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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### Today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 19 92 pages, 7 sections

### what's inside

#### Leo, A Radiclib?

That's about right — persons born under the zodiac sign of Leo the Lion tend to vote a more liberal line when elected to Congress than anyone else. An Observer Newspapers team studied the voting records of 200 congressmen — including yours — and concluded that there is indeed a correlation between birth signs and politics.

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#### Dunckel's Deter

If you think Dunckel is getting Deter, it's true. Larry Deter, band teacher, has made a success out of Dunckel's junior high band over the past four years and it keeps getting detter and detter.

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#### Vietnam Rag Dolls

Housewives with spare time could be making rag dolls for Vietnam orphans, but first they'll have to read the story inside to find out how, which is told by a Farmington housewife.

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#### Winter Fun

People are discovering there's lots of fun in being outdoors in a Michigan winter — and they're reading this paper to find out more. Today there's Bill Cameron's "Ski Heil" column, and Lem Mesele tells where to cut your own Christmas tree.

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#### Roman Decor

An Observerland night spot has taken on a new look, and a nationally-known quartet will be here for the opening. The decor is Roman.

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### WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FILL HIS PROMISES?

You will if you begin your OBSERVER WANT AD program now. Place your ads for all those dust collectors and turn your results into toys.



522-0900



DAVID L. JONES is the new director of the Department of Public Services for the City of Farmington. Jones, approved Monday night by the city council, has helped build senior citizen housing in Livonia and Escanaba. (Evert photo)

## City Hires New DPW Director

The City of Farmington has recruited an expert in Senior Citizen housing as its new Department of Public Services (DPS) director replacing George Vondrack.

David L. Jones, Vondrack's replacement, has helped plan the construction of senior citizen low-cost apartments in the City of Livonia and Escanaba.

Jones was approved by the Farmington City Council Monday night as the city's DPS director to replace Vondrack who left Farmington Monday to become city manager for Hart, Mich.

JONES HAS lived in the Farmington-Livonia area for 47 years and is a graduate of Farmington Senior High School.

He spent eight years on the administrative team of Livonia Mayor Harvey Meolke as assistant director of public works. Jones left Livonia last April 1 following Meolke's loss to Edward McNamara in the Livonia mayor's race.

In Livonia, Jones supervised almost 50 employees in the water, sewer and sanitation divisions. As president of the Livonia Housing Commission, Jones assisted in formulating plans for construction of two senior citizen apartment buildings.

One 81-unit apartment has already been completed and the second is now under construction. In Escanaba, he served as executive director of

that city's housing commission which has just completed two senior citizen apartment buildings.

Jones was also chairman of the Livonia Building Authority which has acquired land for municipal purposes. Contracts have now been signed with the architects for Livonia's new city hall.

WHILE IN Livonia, Jones also served as a member of the Housing Law Code Board of Appeals and belonged to the Community Facilities committee of the National League of Cities.

During his Livonia tenure, Jones assisted in federal aid programs for Open Space grants, the city golf course, and a \$700,000 planning grant for sanitary sewers.

After attending University of Michigan, Jones served in China with the U.S. Marines. After moving to Livonia, he became active in community service work and was elected president of the Livonia Taxpayers Association.

Jones later was elected to the Livonia City Council and served as chairman of the council's financial and building committees.

He is married and has two children, daughter Judith Ann and son Richard David who is attending Central Michigan University. He started work Tuesday in Farmington as DPS director for an annual salary of \$13,500.

## Clark May Face Exam Thursday

The pre-trial examination for Dr. Ronald Clark, former Farmington physician, is scheduled to be held tomorrow (Thursday) providing the doctor recovers sufficiently from an ulcer attack.

Dr. Clark, charged with manslaughter in the death of Hannah Bowerbank, was to have appeared Dec. 3 at the pre-trial exam in Marshall, but had an ulcer attack while being removed from Jackson State Prison.

The examination is being held in Marshall so that the prosecution can take testimony from Mrs. Ellen Winter, 66-year-old mother of Mrs. Bowerbank Mrs. Winter, who is suffering from terminal cancer, is expected to be the first witness to testify.

CLARK IS serving a 3-15 year sentence in Jackson after being convicted of manslaughter in the death of his former nurse, Grace Neil of Livonia.

The jury found Clark guilty of negligence in injecting sodium pentothal into Mrs. Neil and determined the injection of the "truth serum" was the cause of death.

Mrs. Bowerbank, Clark's former office manager, died in March 1967 — eight months before Mrs. Neil's death on Nov. 3, 1967.

The prosecution is attempting to prove that Mrs. Bowerbank also died from an injection of sodium pentothal and that Clark's alleged neg-

Continued on Page 3A



DISCUSS HOUSING — A large number of residents of Farmington Township's Section 36 attended a meeting recently in William Grace Elementary School to discuss housing problems. Speaking is

Albert Hitchcock from the Oakland County Office of Economic Opportunity. Seated at the table are Mrs. Marilyn Gendron (center) and Mrs. Jeanette Trisdale. (Evert photo)

### Last In A Series:

## 'Missing' Landlords Spur Blight

By LYNNE LUTHER

"A man's home is his castle and he has a constitutional right to privacy there," William Taylor, Farmington Township zoning inspector, told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

He and Ralph Bell, who make up the team of zoning inspectors for the township, said that was part of the problem of rehabilitating the poverty pocket in Section 36.

"It's come a long, long way in the past year," says Bell, who estimates the township has succeeded in condemning and ridding the area of at least a dozen substandard houses.

"A TYPICAL CYCLE," says Taylor, "is that people move in on land contracts—sometimes only verbal ones—from owners who live, frequently, in some other city.

[Following is the last in a series of articles written by Lynne Luther concerning the poverty packet which is contained within Farmington Township's Section 36. Today's article reports on the difficulties created by absentee land ownership.]

"These absentee landlords see what it looked like presently. He cited other sections of the township "that looked worse than that" and were cleaned up through township efforts — like Kimberlin Park subdivision and the Nine Mile Middle Belt area.

One of the biggest problems they encounter according to Taylor and Bell, is tracking rightful owners of homes to see that repairs are made and building regulations maintained.

"There is no future in these homes—before long tenants become prisoners there," Taylor said.

FLOYD CAIRNS, township clerk, said much has been accomplished in Section 36 and that "no one would recognize the improvement" who hasn't

"Owners of these homes take more pride in keeping their places up," Bell said.

And just as many houses have already been burned or torn down, according to Bell, so many more are "in question" and under investigation.

Under township ordinance, owners have 30 days to fix up substandard houses before court action is contemplated.

The annual Farmington Goodfellow Newspaper Sale will be held Friday, Dec. 11, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Farmington.

The Goodfellow papers will be sold by "old newsboys" at all major intersections in the Farmington area.

Proceeds from the sale of the special edition are used to finance the Goodfellow

Even so, "the township is limited in its scope of functions," said Taylor.

"Now that we have water and sewers in, except for a couple of streets," said Taylor, "it won't be long until the roads are paved."

And once that happens, it's like a shot in the arm for people who see that now something concrete is being done to improve the area.

"Everyone seems to start improving."

township officials like Cairns, Bell and Taylor.

"The easiest way to get a house condemned is through Oakland County Health Department which insists every home must meet certain standards in sanitary conditions, sewers and other areas of health."

The future looks "bright" for Section 36 in the eyes of

### Goodfellow Papers On Sale

Drive which assists 200 families each year.

Profits from the sale are used to help fill the Goodfellow baskets which contain food, toys and clothes for needy families.

The papers are sold on a donation basis and the Farmington Goodfellows ask all to contribute so there will be

"No Child Without A Christmas" in Farmington.

The corps of newboys volunteering for the Goodfellow Sale is provided by the Farmington city and township police departments, Farmington Exchange Club, Farmington Jaycees, Farmington and North Farmington Kiwanis Clubs, Farmington Elks and the Farmington Rotarians.