

Today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 25 28 pages, 4 sections

A New Play

The North Farmington Players will give a play its first U.S. offering. The play was done for the first time a few months ago in Stratford, Ontario. Details on the premier and a plot summary are given inside.

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Best Looking Homes

Winners of Christmas decoration contests sponsored in the city and township were announced this week, and no sooner are the winners learned than photographer Ralph Evert brings you pictures of the best decorated homes in Farmington.

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Where To Ski?

For ski buffs, we have a large map showing nearly every important hill and lodge in the state. You'll want to clip and save it, as well as read the stories on our Winter Sports Page.

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Happy New Year!

All Observer Newspapers offices will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day. Deadline for classified ads is 5 p.m. today (Wednesday).

Upcoming

A Preview

A preview of what to expect in 1971 will lead off the weekend edition of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer, which will also include reviews and previews by Farmington City Mayor Wilbur Brotherton and Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples.

SENSITIVITY makes one newspaper different from another . . .



Read this "sensitive" difference on today's WOMEN'S PAGES

1970's Top News Stories

Merger's Defeat, Drug Prevention, Sex Ed

By EMORY DANIELS
There were a number of headlines proclaiming events in Farmington in 1970 but the

greatest number concerned the annexation election which must be considered the number one newsworthy for the past year.

Actually, 1970's number one newsworthy in Farmington is but part of a long sequence of boundary moves which saw

1969 end with defeat of consolidation on Nov. 4, 1969. The new year began with the State Boundary Commission hearing a petition to in-

corporate Farmington Township, Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms.

That petition was rejected by the state as was a subsequent substitution asking for the consolidation of the three units into a home-rule city.

A court fight followed which consumed the rest of the spring and half the summer. Oakland County Circuit Court ruled the state was correct and ordered the county to establish an annexation election requested by the City of Farmington.

Summer came to an end and the fall months were devoted to a political campaign on whether the southern half of Farmington Township should be annexed to the city. On Nov. 3, 1970, the annexation question was defeated.

The story continues into 1971 with the township hoping the State Boundary Commission will approve a petition seeking an election to incorporate Farmington Township and Quakertown into a home-rule city, leaving Wood Creek Farms out.

THE SECOND top newsworthy of 1970 probably is establishment of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) as a community-wide drug abuse prevention program.

The FAAC is a joint effort between Farmington Township, City of Farmington, Farmington Public Schools, clergymen, doctors and community volunteers.

This story sprouted when Farmington teens organized

the Rap Line program directed by the Rev. Ralph Rideout, then pastor of North Farmington Baptist Church. Rap Line caught on with Farmington's teens and began to grow rapidly. Antioch Lutheran Church offered some of its space to help house the program. A number of concerned parents joined as volunteer aides and soon the group incorporated.

Related events include a program featuring the film "Way Out" sponsored by the North Farmington Kiwanis and a Drug Awareness Series sponsored by the Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary.

About the same time, Oakland County completed a detailed study on drug abuse and a county blue-ribbon committee advised that county funds be dispersed to local communities for preventive programs.

Meetings held in Farmington resulted in the Rap Line group becoming part of the FAAC with Rideout resigning as pastor to become full-time executive director. The city, township and county contributed funds and Farmington Schools donated personnel and a building.

A relocatable classroom was given to the FAAC and now serves as an administrative headquarters and counseling center. The FAAC is expanding and will continue to be a newsworthy organization in 1971.

THE THIRD most important newsworthy in 1970 concerns the work and

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LIVING NATIVITY—Residents shopping in Downtown Farmington Center during the holidays enjoyed the nativity scene near the White House Valet featuring live figures. The figures

were young people attending the First Baptist Church of Farmington. They appeared in the nativity scene for two hours each night except Sunday until Dec. 23. (Evert photo)

Township Sets Jan. 28 Hearing For Proposed Retail Complex

One of the most important public hearings to be held affecting Farmington Township development will be conducted by the planning commission on Thursday, Jan. 28.

That date has been set to reveal to residents plans for a

large, commercial center proposed for 13 Mile between Halstead and Haggerty Rds. The hearing will be held in Farmington Township Hall, on 11 Mile west of Orchard Lake, beginning at 8 p.m.

If approved by the commission, the development

would result in the largest retail center in the Farmington area and would spur further growth in the north-west portion of the township.

PROPOSERS ARE a group of developers who have formed the HTK Corp.,

specifically for the proposed retail center.

The HTK Corp. consists of Homart Development Co., Taubman Co., Taubman Co., Inc., of Southfield, and Richard Kughn of Southfield. Homart is a subsidiary of Sears, Roebuck & Co. which

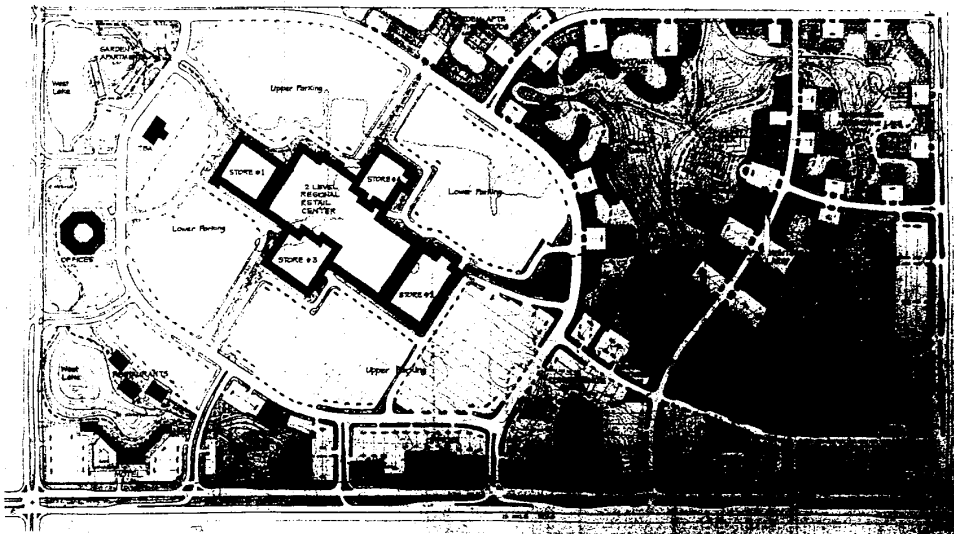
will be the main tenant of the center.

HTK hopes to build a large enclosed mall on the 300-acre township site. The firm has purchased the land and has started clearing the site but must have the rezoning approved by the planning

commission before going any further.

The developers have a target date of the fall of 1974 to open the enclosed mall. Speculation is that the major tenants will be Sears, Penney's and Hudson's. This is the

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CENTER'S LAYOUT—Shown above is the conceptual site plan for the regional retail center proposed by the HTK Corp. of Southfield for the 300-acre site north of 13 Mile between Halstead and Haggerty Rds. in

Farmington Township. Haggerty is on the left side of the drawing and Halstead on the right side with 13 Mile at the bottom.