

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Weekend of September 25-26, 1971

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today's
hot line

Vol. 83 No. 101 56 Pages 3 Sections

what's inside

Clip & Save

October will be clean up time again in Farmington Township and, as a public service, the Farmington Enterprise & Observer is publishing the map showing which day the trucks will be at your house to pick up large trash items. Clip the map inside and keep it tacked to your bulletin board during October.

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Two Aftermaths

One aftermath of the stormy Farmington Township meeting Sept. 13 is a legal opinion from attorney Joseph T. Brennan on whether the supervisor can take a leave of absence from the township police force. Another aftermath is some personal editorial comments on the same meeting in Daniels Den.

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Agencies Warned

The Farmington Area Advisory Council is operating its drop-in center. "Someplace Else" and the Farmington Youth Assistance committee has received its financial allocation from Farmington Township. But a warning that these two groups, and the FARC, must get together has been issued.

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Whither Priesthood?

There's been a lot of discussion recently about the diminishing number of young men entering the priesthood. A leading spokesman for the priests themselves will be talking about the problem in Redford Township next week. The particulars are in our Church Section.

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State Hears City's Hopes To Annex Township Parcels

By EMORY DANIELS

The tangled history of Farmington Township's drive towards cityhood received another snarl Wednesday at the meeting of the Michigan Boundary Commission.

The added entanglement was a request by the City of Farmington to annex certain "pockets" of township land before an incorporation election is held.

THE BOUNDARY Commission, meeting on the township's incorporation request, agreed to hold a public hearing in the township on the incorporation petition on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

But prior to that hearing, the commission will hold a conference meeting in the township between the Farmington governmental agencies to iron out the city's arguments for annexing small portions of township territory.

Attending the commission's meeting in Lansing Wednesday were: Farmington City Manager John Dignan and Burton Shifman, Oak Park attorney serving as special counsel for the city on boundary matters; Howard Bortz, Quakertown Village attorney; Joseph T. Brennan, Farmington Township attorney; and Robert McConnell of Farmington Township who petitioned for incorporation in October 1969.

The Boundary Commission is under court order by the Michigan Court of Appeals to act on the petition filed by McConnell which seeks incorporation of the township.

Quakertown and Village of Wood Creek Farms into a home-rule city.

AS THE meeting started, Shifman objected to the process of incorporation being used and asked the commission to act on the substitute consolidation petition that had previously been rejected by the state.

David Calhoun, commission chairman, reminded Shifman that the substitute consolidation request had already been disposed of and the commission was under court order to proceed with the incorporation request.

"Under consolidation, a 'no' vote from any one of the three governmental areas voting on cityhood defeats the question. The villages do not have a 'veto' power under incorporation because passage only requires a majority of the total votes cast.

McConnell then submitted a report updating the Michigan State University boundary study and a copy of the township's recently adopted master land use plan. The updating of the MSU study reflected changes the 1970 census has made on population and revenue projections for the township.

COMMISSIONER Irving Rozian of Plymouth then asked the city's position. Shifman replied the city would oppose incorporation and seek annexation of certain township territory.

Shifman explained there were four or five pockets of

land which should be annexed because they are either adjacent to the city and isolated by expressways or are now being served with city water and sewer.

The city asked for a chance to present in detail its arguments to allow the commission to exercise its jurisdiction to annex small parcels with sparse populations without an election being held.

The commission decided to hold the conference on Oct. 27 and gave the city a deadline of

Oct. 17 to prepare its case and define more exactly which territories of the township it felt should not be incorporated.

THE ANNEXATION briefs must be filed by Oct. 17 with the township, both villages, McConnell and the commission.

The Dec. 2 public hearing will be held in Township Hall or one of the high school auditoriums, Harrison or North Farmington.

Calhoun said the com-

mission has found that government spokesmen have consumed too much time at hearings and cited as an example one township attorney who spoke for over an hour and then called 22 witnesses for examination.

The Oct. 27 conference will give the government attorneys and officers a chance to be heard. Calhoun explained, with the Dec. 2 hearing devoted to soliciting the views of residents.

November is completely booked with hearings and

meetings for the commission, and Dec. 2 was the earliest date a hearing could be held on the township's request.

Rozian commented Wednesday that the Farmington matter had "dragged on long enough" and the commission should make every attempt for a speedy conclusion to the question.

Rozian also asked both villages to submit to the commission their master plans or any plans the villages have for their future growth.



NARCO RAID — Farmington Township detectives staged another narcotics raid on Sept. 21 which resulted in the arrest of four young adults charged with possession of marijuana. Arrested were Shirley Lunsford, 21, Vanessa Lunsford, 19, Teresa Hohenadl, 21, all of 21169 Whitlock, Farmington Township, and Samuel Lombard, 22, of Inkster. Police raided the home at 21169 Whitlock, where Lombard also had been living, and confiscated a large amount of marijuana in the house and growing outside. Also seized were drug paraphernalia and other suspected narcotics. The four stood mute when arraigned Sept. 22 before Farmington District Judge Michael J. Hand and bond was set at \$2,500 each. (Evert photos)



MEA May Intervene For Faculty

By MARTHA MAHAN

A three-man Michigan Education Assn. (MEA) investigating team is due to arrive in Farmington Monday afternoon to survey the status of teacher contract negotiations preliminary to a threatened strike.

The Farmington Education Assn. (FEA) which represents the district's nearly 800 teachers, has set Oct. 4 as the date for a strike vote if settlement has not been reached on a 1971-72 contract.

THE TEACHERS now are working on an extension of last year's pact with each side reserving the right to terminate on 48 hours notice.

The investigation, an MEA requirement, is intended to bring "a somewhat detached viewpoint to what is generally an emotional situation," according to Roger Allen, FEA executive-secretary. The MEA also is interested "in seeing that its resources are not used into an ill-advised situation," Allen said.

Allen says this procedure was established by MEA to see that local associations are justifiably in any eventual consideration of strike action. The establishment of these guidelines also protects the state association against ill-advised commitment of state resources.

Allen went on to state that he was sure that any group of individuals armed with the facts would find the actions of Farmington teachers to be not only warranted but, in many instances, actually provoked.

MEANWHILE, both sides engaged in charges and counter-charges with talks reportedly stalemated and offers wide apart.

The FEA claimed the district's budget includes an eight per cent raise for teachers "which the board is unwilling to negotiate."

Supt. Roderick J. Smith conceded that the eight per cent figure "might be relatively close" for straight pay raises and increments combined, but is "very definitely not" just for salary hikes alone. Increments represent additional pay for years of experience and higher educational degrees.

The board has offered a two per cent increase and "built-in" increments represent a four to six per cent hike for a total increase of six to eight per cent, according to the board's chief negotiator, LeRoy Bartman.

Smith also quarreled with an FEA claim that "now-passed state aid gives the district \$170,000 more with which to work than was anticipated" and that savings from increments unpaid during the wage freeze provide another \$70,000 over previous projections.

"The same state law that gives \$170,000 more takes away \$240,000 so that we might well wind up \$70,000 in the hole," Dr. Smith said.

He referred to the Legislature's withholding of three-quarters of one per cent in state aid for a contingency fund.

"It is a reserve set up by the state which we have no control of, and we can get all, part or none of it as the state decides," the superintendent said.

The Legislature might well subtract the \$70,000 saved during the wage freeze from the \$240,000, he said. It appears the state has said that there are any savings, the

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Superintendent Reports:

Public 'Losing Faith' In Farmington Schools

By MARTHA MAHAN

Lack of money and lessening public confidence have jockeyed Farmington Public Schools into a "bleak" position for 1971-72.

But the system is not about to collapse.

These were major points made by Supt. Roderick J. Smith in his state-of-the-schools message to the Board of Education Tuesday night.

BECAUSE OF the unprecedented double defeat of requested additional

operating millage last spring and despite an increased enrollment of some 400 students, Dr. Smith said, the district has been forced to lay off personnel, enlarge class sizes and offer fewer services.

Increased property assessments have provided additional local tax revenue, Dr. Smith said, but the structure of the state school aid formula "drastically reduces the advantage of that local tax revenue and, therefore, the net increase to the school district is relatively small."

The same situation does not

apply to the city, township or county, he pointed out, and they do benefit from the gross increase.

PER PUPIL expenditures in Farmington have "historically been at the high average level in spite of the attempt to provide an exceptional program in competition to neighboring high cost districts," the superintendent said.

"There has not been much in the way of frills, and therefore, any reduction quickly affects the very narrow of the educational

program." (Per pupil expenditures this year are estimated at \$325 compared with \$345 last year, a \$20 drop, according to Business Administrator William Prisk.)

When the public refused to vote the extra \$1.4 million figure was required to keep the program at last year's level, Dr. Smith said, "drastic" cuts had to be made.

"An additional 400 students in enrollment would normally require a minimum of 15 teachers," he said. "Instead of adding to the instructional

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