

# Farmington Hills Balloting Set For May 16 Primary

The question of whether Farmington Township will become a home-rule city will be decided by voters on May 16.

Date for the cityhood election was confirmed when Gov. William Milliken signed the bill calling for a state-wide presidential preference primary on May 16.

The State Boundary Commission earlier had decided informally that the cityhood election should be held the same time as the state primary to spare the township expense of conducting a special election.

The Boundary Commission will adopt the official written orders for a May 16 election when it meets March 1 for a pre-conference hearing in Wolverine Lake Village or that same day in the evening in Novi.

THE BALLOT on May 16, a Tuesday, will contain the incorporation question plus names of candidates seeking election to nine charter commission seats.

If the cityhood proposal passes, the nine commissioners elected will then begin meeting to draft a charter to decide what form of government the proposed new City of Farmington Hills would have.

A second election is then held to approve the proposed charter. Once the charter is approved, the township officially begins functioning as a city.

The cityhood question to be on the May 16 ballot asks that Farmington Township and the villages of Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown be joined into one city.

All areas of the township are included, unlike early attempts when certain sections were excluded. If accomplished, the governmental units in the Farmington area would be reduced to three: the present City of Farmington, the new City of Farmington Hills, and Farmington Public Schools.

Under the procedure of incorporation, neither village will have the right to veto the question nor will

they have a guarantee of a minimum of one person on the charter commission.

When balloting is concluded May 16, all the votes of township and village residents will be counted together and a simple majority of the total votes cast will decide the outcome.

THE ELECTION will be conducted by the Oakland County clerk's office, says Township Clerk Floyd Cairns, which means charter commission candidates must file their nominating petitions in Pontiac.

Deadline to file nominating petitions for the charter commission is 4 p.m. Friday, March 24, with County Clerk Lynn Allen in the Oakland County Service Center on Telegraph in Pontiac.

Deadline for residents to register to vote is 8 p.m. on April 14. Voters may register in the township hall on 11 Mile just west of Orchard Lake, including the 18-21 year-olds.

## Against Bussing Ban

The League of Women Voters of Farmington has taken a position on constitutional amendments to ban bussing. The league explains why it is opposed to such constitutional bans.

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## Another Alley Oop

For years we have assumed that only Alley Oop can jump inside a time machine and go back in history. But now there is a group of young scientists who have a time machine of their own at North Farmington High School.

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## A Michigan Musical

Oklahoma has a good thing going for it in the musical of the same name. Two members of the Farmington Musicals may be in the process of doing the same thing for Michigan. You'll be able to see for yourself in April.

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## To Make Debut

The new Southfield Ballet Company is having its debut soon. Many of the company's members come from Farmington and Livonia.

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# FOCUS: Suburbia



If you have the feeling that you may turn out like the fellow on the left after you've paid your taxes, read today's FOCUS: Suburbia and learn some good basic information on the mysteries of income tax.



## 200-Plus Gathered To Honor John Dinan

About 210 persons turned out Wednesday night to honor John Dinan, city manager of the City of Farmington for 11 years until resigning effective Feb. 1.

The large number of friends and associates filled the dining room of Glen Oaks Country Club to hear Dinan roared and toasted and to bid an official community farewell.

The dinner began with a presentation of a resolution honoring Dinan that was recently enacted jointly by the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives.

The state resolution, praising Dinan for his outstanding leadership as city manager, was presented by Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) and Rep. Raymond Baker (R-Farmington).

A similar resolution, adapted by the Farmington City Council, was read and presented by Mayor Wilbur Richardson. Councilman John Brotherton, Councilman John Richardson later took the podium to present Dinan with a set of golf clubs on behalf of the city.

PURSELL described Dinan as one of the outstanding city managers in Michigan and added that leaders in this region know him well for the efficient job he performed administering the city. Baker briefly commented:

TAKES PODIUM — After hearing hours of praise given for his service as city manager, John Dinan takes the podium to thank the 210 persons who attended a banquet in his honor Wednesday night. (Ralph Evert photo)

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## Childhood Vision Is Restructured

By W. W. EDGAR

Most folks are forced to look through the mist of years to envision scenes of their childhood and often times the view is distorted because of the ravages of time.

This is not so with James Vaughan, a retired insurance man now living in the Flamingo Mobile Home Park in Farmington.

TO HELP pass away time and relieve the boredom of retirement, he has built a replica of the St. George Church he attended as a child in Trenton, Ontario, Canada, more than six decades ago.

The church, a model of perfection, is his pride and joy and his face is wreathed with smiles when he tells you: "It even has a pulpit, choir loft, and pews on the inside with carpeted aisles."

And, with a nod toward his wife, he wears an expression of real satisfaction, when she turns the switch and organ music comes through the door and an open window in the model.

"I worked for close to four years making it," Jim tells you, "and it is as close to a duplicate of the church I knew as a young lad as I can make it."

IT IS constructed of individual oak wood bricks, each of which he carved himself, and laid with plastic glaze as a substitute for mortar.

"I don't know just how many bricks it took", he says, "but there's part of me in every one of them."

Born in Trenton, 69 years ago, Jim started his church activities as the lad who pumped the organ every Sunday morning. From there he graduated to the role of a choir boy

and moved up the ladder until he became superintendent of the Sunday School.

"Those were real happy days," he says, "and after I moved to the States in 1924, my thoughts often went back to the old church.

"At the time I lived on Groesbeck Highway and one day I conceived the idea of trying to build a model from memory. It soon became my most prized possession and the model, in its various stages of construction, always went with me when I moved."

AFTER IT was finished, Jim took his model of the old church up to his summer home in Bancroft for display during the Christmas holidays.

"The church up there didn't have an organ," he says, "but you should have seen the faces of the people when we started the organ music in our little model. It made the entire holiday season worth while."

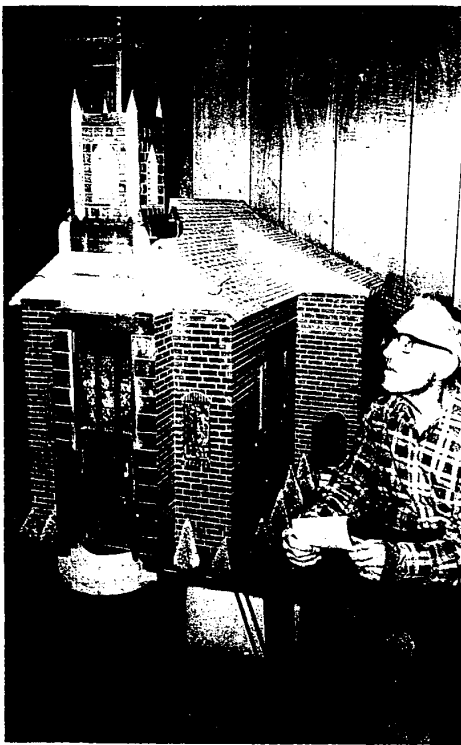
The St. George Anglican Church in Canada that served as the model was built more than a century ago. Its stately architecture is something to be admired.

"I attended four services each Sunday for seven years," Jim points out, "so I had a good idea of what it was like when I started to build."

The one thing that sort of stumped him at the start, was what to do about the stained glass windows.

"I solved that," he explains, "by taking picture post cards and special Christmas cards and fitting them behind glass in front of the lights. And I liked the problem."

No wonder it is his most prized possession -- a clear picture of his childhood.



CHILDHOOD RESTRUCTURED — James Vaughan of Farmington has spent his time in retirement restructuring a childhood memory -- the St. George Church in Trenton, Ont., Canada. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)