

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Weekend of March 18-19, 1972

## How Can City Help Burdened Detroit Centers?

By EMORY DANIELS

Suburbia's responsibility to the City of Detroit is apt to be discussed, at least briefly, at Monday night's meeting of the Farmington City Council. The question is whether Farmington should do something to help relieve the financial crisis facing the Detroit Zoo, Art Museum, Historical Museum or Detroit Library System.

Raising the question is C.M. King of 32030 Valleyview Dr., Farmington, who sent a letter to the city council March 8 asking the council to consider the donating \$6,000 to Detroit to help finance the institutions enjoyed and often used by Farmington residents.

KING SUGGESTED that the council budget \$6,000 to be donated to Detroit and allocated as follows: \$2,000 to the art and historical museums; \$2,000 to the zoo; and \$2,000 to the library system.

"We are a normal educated, middle-class, bedroom community of this great metropolitan area," comments King. Our culture, especially as it pertains to our children, is in no small way dependent on the metropolitan culture centers.

"I believe the good example of Farmington would be followed in good time by other suburban communities as they realize how dependent they are on these superb Detroit facilities."

CITY FATHERS, as could be anticipated, are hesitant to budget \$6,000 to donate to the City of Detroit, but they are appreciative of the many benefits derived by Farmington residents of these institutions.

Six thousand dollars, however, could be spent to improve the Drake Road Park or City Park or allocated as donations to the Farmington Community Center, YMCA, Farmington Area Advisory Council (Rap Line) or go toward a civic arena the council is studying.

But the idea of providing help, other than monetary, to Detroit has been accepted by some city officials.

MAYOR Wilbur Brotherton, for instance, thinks the council might be receptive to passing a resolution endorsing the charter amendment being proposed by Detroit Mayor Roman Griggs.

The Griggs amendment would allow the Art Museum, Historical Museum and Detroit Zoo to charge admission to suburban residents. The present Detroit city charter prohibits admission fees but does allow charges to be levied for parking.

Because of Detroit's serious financial plight, the cultural institutions are also in serious trouble. The zoo is in danger of being closed, and "save the zoo" campaigns have already been started in many suburbs.

The art museum recently started the practice of asking for donations as visitors enter the front door. The only criticism heard thus far of this practice is whether Detroit residents who pay Detroit taxes should be asked to donate.

"There is a fair chance that the council would adopt a resolution supporting the Griggs amendment," comments Brotherton. "There is something to be said in the observation that persons who use these facilities should pay."

ROBERT DEADMAN, acting city manager, also looks favorably upon the Griggs amendment.

Deadman points out, however, that Farmington Township residents use the city's two parks without being charged admission but adds that Camp Dearborn has long charged admission for non-Dearborn residents.

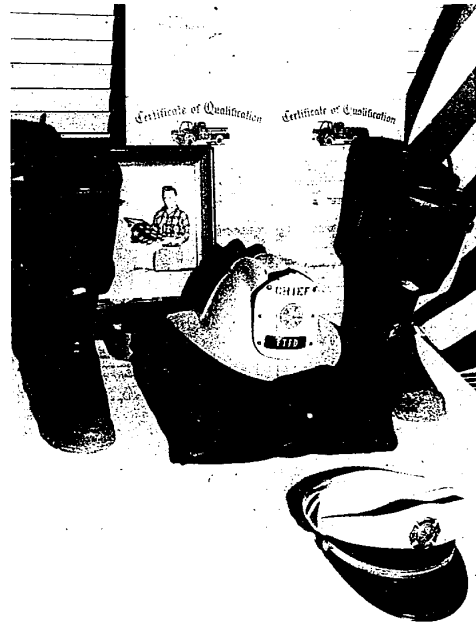
Deadman feels it is reasonable to expect suburban residents to pay admission for the art institute or zoo and says he personally would support Griggs' amendment. Another approach, Deadman added, would be to establish a metropolitan authority which would control the zoo and other institutions enjoyed by metropolitan residents.

If the metropolitan authority were given complete control over the zoo, Deadman says, then it would be sensible for communities in the greater Detroit area to make financial contributions to the authority.

"The Detroit Zoo should be on an authority basis just as the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Park Authority where all benefiting communities contribute funds.

"I am tentatively not completely opposed to area support if you can have area control, but I am opposed to Farmington giving Detroit any money without having any say-so."

Action may not be taken Monday night, but it is significant that Farmington officials are prepared to talk about the problem and recognize the consequences if the cultural umbilical cord is ever severed.



THE COMMUNITY is mourning the death of Ray Geary, the first and only fire chief the Wheeler Fire Hall has had. He served as Wheeler chief for 20 years. (Fran Evert photo)

## Community Mourns Fire Chief Ray Geary

Raymond W. Geary, fire-chief of Wheeler Fire Station of Farmington Township for 20 years, died March 11 after an extended illness.

Geary, 47, had served as a volunteer fire chief longer than any other chiefs in Farmington Township.

He was born and raised in Farmington and worked as a line foreman with L.E. Myers Construction Co. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, was a member of Farmington VFW Post 4033 and of the South Oakland Chapter 19 of the Disabled American War Veterans.

A plaque honoring Geary for his many year service has already been authorized by the Farmington Township Board and is being prepared for his widow, Mary Lou Geary.

Geary, who lived at 21660 Whittington Ave., Farmington Township, died at 8:25 a.m. March 11 in Boston General Hospital, Farmington.

Funeral services were held March 15 in the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Lawrence King of St. Matthews Church of Walled Lake officiating. Burial was at Colfax Cemetery, Bad Axe.

Other survivors include: daughter, Mrs. Connie Stawowy of Detroit; sons, Brian and Russell of Hubbard Lake and Mark of Farmington; seven sisters and three brothers.



DEATH SCENE — Danny Stone, 14, was killed Tuesday in a fire on Canfield in Farmington Township. Explosion of a gasoline can is believed to have started the fire which destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wright. (Evert photo)

today's hot line  
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what's inside

**NF Girls In Form**  
North Farmington's girls gymnastic squad captured sixth in the state. For the complete rundown of how Observerland girls fared, see today's sport section  
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**Chesley's Tops**  
Robert Chesley, Farmington civic leader, is one of 50 industrialists from across the nation being honored by the Air National Guard. Reported inside are his feats and the identity of the nominator.  
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**Feting Falsies**  
Thursday is the 150th anniversary of the invention of false teeth, which prompts Daniels Den to discuss an unrelated topic. But transition can be found between the lines.  
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**Botsford Opens**  
The many who have eaten in the Botsford Inn will enjoy the Farmington Jaycees' musical, based on the Botsford, which opens March 23 for a three-day stand in Farmington High.  
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**Multi-Media**  
That's how you could describe some of the happenings in the Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington. Get a word and picture view in our Church Section.  
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**DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU . . .**

**FOCUS: Suburbia**

**FOCUS: Suburbia**

that there's nothing to do in Observerland. Read the double issues of FOCUS: Suburbia for all that's available to you in the fair city of Plymouth and at "the track".

## Fire Kills Boy, Burns 2 Friends

A young Farmington Township boy was killed and two companions injured in a home fire Tuesday afternoon believed to have started by a gasoline can explosion.

Dead is Danny Stone, 14, of 23216 Canfield, son of Francis and Helen Stone. He was a student of Dunckel Junior High.

Receiving burn injuries were Robert Wright, 13, of 23216 Canfield, and Joseph Link, 12, of 23220 Canfield, both students of East Junior High School of Farmington School District.

Destroyed is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wright of 23216 Canfield, north of nine Mile and East of Middle Belt Rd. Robert is one of seven Wright children.

THE FIRE occurred about 12:40 p.m. March 14, and firefighters were on the scene within three minutes of receiving the call. Fifteen police officers and 17 firefighters were on the scene with fire trucks from stations one and three responding.

Wright suffered burns to the face, and Link received burns to the face and on both arms. Stone had been suspended from Dunckel, and the other two boys skipped school for the day. The house was unoccupied because both Mr. and Mrs. Wright were working at the time.

BEFORE the explosion, the boys were filling a one-gallon can with gasoline from a five-gallon can which had been kept filled for a chain saw and stored in the utility room, witnesses report.

The boys apparently were going to take the one gallon of gas to make a fire in a fort they had built, police believe. Mrs. Wright earlier had smelled gas from the gas water heater in the utility room and had asked Consumers Power to check for a leak.

It is not known for certain what caused the gas can to explode, but cause of fire has been determined as accidental ignition of gasoline, says Ronald Hoko, public safety director of Farmington Township.

Firefighters pumped water into the house for about two hours, but the heat was so intense that it was impossible to enter the utility room when firefighters first arrived, Hoko adds.

contents has been estimated at \$16,500. The family's insurance will cover \$15,000 on the house but does not insure the contents.

THE AMERICAN Red Cross is assisting the Wright family and has already provided temporary housing. Rumors had been circulating that the boy entered the house to rescue a man trapped inside and died as a result. Those rumors are completely false, however, because the only occupants in the home at the time of the fire were the three boys.

Tuesday's fire was the second fire fatality in the township this year. Earlier, an elderly man burned to death in a house fire on Colfax. The Stone boy was buried Thursday in Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia. Prayer services were held in Heehey-Sundquist Funeral Home of Farmington and funeral services in St. Alexander Catholic Church of Farmington.

Survivors include: mother, Mrs. Helen Stone of Farmington; father, Francis Stone of Colorado; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Beckley of Farmington and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stone of Colorado; brothers, Francis, Michael, David, and Mark; and sisters, Anne, Barbara, Amy and Mrs. Marylynn Luark.