

Mayor Offers Facts Favoring Annexation

On August 5 voters in the City of Farmington and a 73 square mile area to the west and south of the city in the township will go to the polls to decide whether this area will be united as one city of ten square miles.

"Between now and this time city officials will try to present as many facts as possible to the voters to the advantage of both the area proposed to be annexed and the city to be united," City Mayor Robert Lindbergh told the Enterprise Tuesday.

"City officials will be glad to meet with any groups of individuals to discuss the proposed annexation in answer to questions," the mayor said. "These wishing to discuss matters relative to this are asked to contact the City Manager's office to make arrangements for a meeting. It was also indicated that the city assessor would be available to answer questions at the home in the area proposed to be annexed on request and tell the owner exactly what taxes would be paid if the area were under the city tax structure."

ONE OF the biggest advantages to the residents in the proposed area is the availability of having an adequate water supply made available to them, Mayor Lindbergh stated.

The city can be supplied now to all residents in the heavily built-up areas in the section proposed for annexation in need of water without any expansion of the present city water system, he said.

He cited facts compiled by the Detroit Public Works Department last year to make a comprehensive survey of wells in the present city water system, showing that 945,000 gallons of water was consumed per day by city residents and that the per capita consumption was 645 gallons. The continuous pumping of city wells was established to be 1,536,000 gallons per day and 1,275 gallons per person.

Although somewhat less elaborate than earlier plans were submitted by architect Peter Evans and rejected by Board members on this ground, some dissatisfaction was still expressed.

It was generally felt by the Board that moving the building closer to Shawasssee Road might provide for adequate facilities at a slightly lower cost. However, the architect was the plan for a one-story unit. His opinion was that a two-story structure, apparently favored by the Board, would be more than a one-story building because of added fire-proofing and stairway expenses which would be a heavy item.

Action was delayed pending a more detailed study of the new plans by the building subcommittee of the Citizens Advisory Committee and Board members.

The Farmington Area United Foundation annual public meeting for the election of officers will be held at the Detroit Public Library, Thursday, July 24, at 8 p.m.

The public meeting will be in the cafeteria of the O. E. Dunekel Jr. High School at 32850 W. 12 Mile Road.

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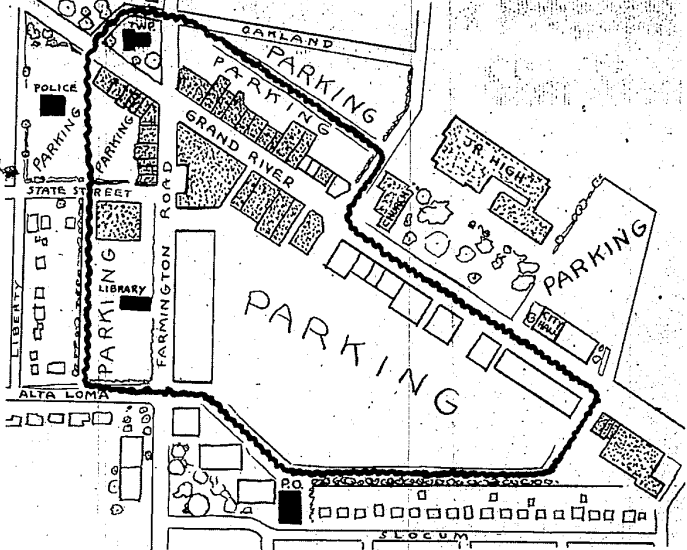
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SEVENTIETH YEAR - NUMBER 42



PLENTY OF PARKING at the right places and with excellent traffic routes would result from this plan as presented by Geer & Associates. To some extent the buildings shown with dots are representative of the present buildings, and the open squares or rectangles represent abutments to be built. However, these should definitely not be regarded as exact buildings, old or proposed.

Parking areas would include the enlarged present municipal lot, an area around the new library on Farmington Road, lot extending back from Grand River to Oakland, and the large lot south of Grand River. The parking

lot on the right would be used mostly for school parking. The black wavy line shows how traffic could run both ways around the main business buildings, and go through or onto all the parking lots. Traffic would be left on Grand River, of course. Note that it is proposed to change the angle of Oakland behind the township hall so it would run directly into the other parking lot. Also, the perimeter parking route would run north of the houses facing south on Slocom. The City Planning Commission found a few details that might not work out, and realizes in any event that this can be only a plan to work toward, and the result in five or ten years might be somewhat different.

THE ARCHITECT stated that he was now ready to begin with the project of having a complete check of the heating system at the Ten Mile School made, as requested by the Board earlier. Difficulties in the system have been encountered for some time. Allen pointed out in discussion, however, that it would be impossible to get a longtime check of the heating system at the Ten Mile School, as requested by the Board earlier.

Approval was also given of the purchase of several pieces of equipment for addition under construction at the Farmington Junior High and Senior High.

DeLaying the sale of the last \$1 million from the \$17 million bond issue approved in April last September was unanimously approved.

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Building Activities Off During First 6-Months

New home construction in both Farmington City and Township was down substantially for the first half of this year as compared to the first half of a year ago, according to figures released recently on building permits.

The township building department reports indicated that they issued only 150 permits for new home starts during the first half of this year. Last year they issued 210 permits during the first half of 1957. This represents a 29 per cent decrease in the total number of permits issued during the first half of 1957.

The city gave out 23 permits for additions during the first half of 1957. This year during the same period only 13 permits for additions were requested.

April and May were the busiest months in the township. In April 45 permits for additions were issued for new homes having a total estimated valuation of \$778,150. Also issued were 18 permits for additions and seven for new residents. In May 33 permits for new residents, having a total valuation of \$786,410, were issued during the first half of 1957.

Permits for additions and seven more for garages. Five permits for swimming pools were also taken out in April.

The city issued five new home permits in both March and April for a total of five being taken out in June. The one being permitted was given in February. Only four permits were

Farmington Enterprise

Leadership - Our Purpose Service - Our Goal

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1958

TWELVE PAGES

School Tax Proposal Carries by Slim Margin

Those who cared enough to go to the polls Monday to vote in the special school election voiced an almost equal split in thinking on the type of educational program they want in the Farmington School District.

By a slim 30-vote margin, voters approved the millage increase proposal resulting in a slightly higher total school tax rate to permit the continuation of the presently outlined educational program. The results made it clear, however, that an almost equal number

willing to see a sharply curtailed program put into effect rather than stand another, even though small, boost in taxes.

A total of 2,368 voters went to the polls, with 1,207 casting their ballots in favor of the proposal and 1,171 against it.

A total of 44 ballots were spoiled. It was a heavy "yes" vote in Precinct 2, the area north of Ten Mile, which permitted the issue to carry. Voters in Precinct 1, where balloting was heaviest, rejected the proposal.

The total vote was slightly higher than the number cast in the regular school election earlier this year. It still represents less than 22% of the qualified electors in the district, however.

Ballot Must Be Kept Private

Voting is a private matter, a local citizen found out much to his displeasure at the special school election Monday.

Refusing to go into the voting booth to mark his ballot stating that he wanted all to know how he voted, the man was promptly informed that his ballot was invalid.

According to Sec. 728 of the Election Laws for the State of Michigan compiled in 1955, any person showing his ballot or part of it and how he voted shall not be permitted to cast it. It further states that if he refuses to turn over the official ballot to election officials, he can be ordered arrested.

Injured Fatally In 2-Car Crash

Thirteen year old James Denison of 2849 Parkhill was killed Tuesday morning in a head-on crash on Orchard Lake Road a short distance south of Alameda. The accident occurred at 8:25 a.m. when a 1957 William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

At last report Richard F. Denison, 18, and Ralph J. Garry, Jr., 18, of 3375 S. Cadillac Ave. were still in serious condition, both suffered fractures, severe lacerations and internal injuries. James was traveling a van, was proceeding north on the main highway and Denison south. Township police are handling the accident did not indicate the cause.

Also injured were two other teenage passengers riding in the same seat of Denison's car. Leonard and Cecil Costigan of 29150 Twelve Mile were also reported as still in serious condition at Beaumont Hospital.

Seeking Books, Funds to Stock New Library

An appeal to all friends and patrons of the Farmington Public Library for books and contributions to buy books and equipment was made this week.

Those who have expressed a desire in the past to contribute as well as all other individuals and organizations who wish to contribute to either the book stock or library equipment to make their contributions now.

Most School Addition Work Now Completed

Reports given at the regular meeting of the School Board Monday night revealed that work on the additions at the Middlebelt, Shawasssee and Elk elementary schools is now completed.

Architect John Allen also indicated that only minor work remains on additions at the Bond, Gill Road and Ten Mile schools. He discussed with the Board some minor additions proposed at the latter school and some of the problems encountered in getting work completed at the other two schools.

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Landscape Co. Not at Fault

Trustee Douglas Hammill reported at the School Board meeting Monday night that he had met with representatives of the Wayne-Oakland Landscaping Co. regarding landscaping work done at three schools and was in agreement with them that much of the difficulty in getting a job done was not their fault.

Improper finish grading at the schools by the building committee, but not caused of much of the trouble.

The Board agreed to make payment for work done at the Dunekel Jr. High and William Grace Schools but to delay payment for work at the Woodlake School.

Hammill's tentative agreement with the landscaping firm calling for the school district to furnish black dirt and seed for repair work providing this fall with the landscapers over the labor award agreed to by other Board members.

Rare 1782 Bible Brings Bickings Sizable Sum

A copy of one of America's rarest and priciest books, the first Bible printed here in English, was sold recently by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bickings of Power Road for the sum of \$1,475.

Making the purchase was the McGregor Library at the University of Virginia.

The rareness of this particular edition of the Bible somewhat by accident, Mr. and Mrs. Bickings immediately were that 50 copies are known to exist today, although Robert Aitken is believed to have run off a fairly large edition; possibly 100 copies.

EARLY RECORDS indicate that the Bible was presented to James Righter in 1784 at the age of 14 years. Righter, the printer, was born in Scotland. He came to this county seeking a liberty he could not find in his native land. Trained as a printer, Aitken went to the city of New York to set up a shop. He became so well known as a good printer that he was named the official printer of the Congress during the Revolution.

Revamping of Downtown Area Needed Badly Say Planners

Downtown Farmington will not again become a lively, healthy business area without large, convenient parking areas and cooperation of private and municipal interests.

This was the gist of the complete report made last Thursday by Geer Associates, planning consultants, to the City Planning Commission.

THREE MAPS showing the proposed general plan for the downtown area development, suggested traffic flow, and stages by which the overall plan might best be accomplished, were submitted.

The general plan and traffic flow ideas have been combined into one map, shown above.

SUMMARIZED first is the background thinking up to now. Because of the importance of the entire city, the report is being published herewith almost in its entirety.

Downtown Farmington has become a big shopping area as an important shopping and office district for the area. As with most established downtowns, its growth was not guided by any well thought out overall plan.

THE PUBLIC interests involved in this problem are direct and vital. Tax base, correction of sources of blight and deterioration, traffic and parking are some of them.

THE STUDY emphasized that realization of this potential, both current and future, depends in large part upon the provision of necessary facilities to serve it.

EXISTING physical facilities were then compared with this potential. The planners say existing downtown performs a small fraction of the current as well as future potential.

OBSELETE street layout, inadequate off-street parking, poor circulation, deterioration, and stagnant vacant land hinder sound growth. It was confirmed that without correct and private, both public and private, the downtown area's strong potential cannot be realized.

5 to Compete in Soap Box Derby

Five boys from Farmington will be competing in the annual Soap Box Derby sponsored by Chevrolet dealers throughout the state this Saturday in Detroit.

An official spokesman for the Chevrolet dealer, Bill Root, disclosed:

To be held on the official Soap Box Derby at Mound Road and Outer Drive, the first heat will get underway at 9:30 a.m. Given their shot for the grand prize of a college scholarship and a chance to travel to Akron, Ohio, to compete in national competition will be: Richard Thomas, 14, of 20789 Randall; William C. Prisk, Jr., 14, of 26257 Angling Road; Thomas Abtler, 15, of 32006 Shawasssee Road; and Randy Roman, 12, and Fred Roman, 15, who spend their summers with relatives where at 29596 Ridgewood.

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Obviously, it is impossible to plan and buy wisely if we do not know what we are buying. We are available for books and equipment.

Mildred P. Droegge, assistant librarian, stated in the present library is approximately 1,500 volumes. The minimum capacity in the proposed new library building would be 2,000 volumes with ample room for additional book stocks. There is a need for every type of book except text books.

Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Farmington School Board will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, at the home of Mrs. J. H. Mosman, 2849 Parkhill. The agenda will include the election of a new president and secretary, and the election of a new treasurer.