

THE OBSERVER OF FARMINGTON

This Week's Press Run is
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Northwest Wayne County's largest group of serving homes in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Garden City and Farmington. Townships of Redford, Nardin, Plymouth and Farmington.

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VOL. 1—NO. 23 Advertising and Editorial GA 2-3160 — Want Ads GA 2-0900 Wednesday, January 13, 1965 33425 Grand River, Farmington Paul M. Chandler, Founder



PANCAKE SUPPER has the attention of these youngsters from Farmington's First Methodist Church as they prepare for the big event in the church parlors on Friday, Jan. 22, sponsored by the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The group includes: (from left) Susan Humble, Nancy Breisch, Lisa Gelatin, Steve White, Sandy Nordyke and Janice Sutherland.

Farmington Ahead of Township in Growth

A whopping growth of 30.8 per cent in population was recorded by Farmington during the past four years, while a more modest 19.9 percent hike was the pace in Farmington Township.

That's the story told by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission in its latest report on population shifts in this region.

Population in the four-county Detroit region has grown by nearly 19.2 percent since the April, 1960 federal census, the Commission revealed in its survey, with the sharpest upsurge in Wayne County recorded by Livonia.

Livonia's gain of 29.5 per cent in population puts today's figure at 86,400 in the city, compared to 66,702 at the time of the 1960-census. A total of 27,000 homes now exist in the city, up a big 31.7 per cent from the 1960 figures of 17,014.

In Redford Township, the new study shows an opposite trend, while in Plymouth, Farmington Township, Farmington and Farmington Township the growth is close behind that of Livonia's.

Redford, the closest of the listed suburbs to Detroit, reached its peak in population growth in the mid-fifties. During the past four years, only 535 new homes have been added in the community, boosting dwelling units from 18,165 to 18,700, for a 2.9 per cent growth.

The population, similarly, showed but a 3.4 per cent rise in the same four-year span. (Continued on Page 4)

Three Candidates Quit Race for Senate Seat

Three Democrats remain in the race for nomination to the State Senate seat from the 14th District, following the withdrawal from the election of three others last week.

James McCarthy, Leo Meagher and Paul Livingston all removed their names from the ballot, and two of them endorsed remaining candidates.

On the Republican primary ballot, all six candidates who originally filed remain in the race.

McCarthy, who was the Democratic nominee in last November's race, withdrew in favor of Ed McNamara, Livonia City Councilman. McCarthy was beaten by Paul Chandler, whose death on Dec. 12 left vacant the seat.

Meagher, a Farmington Township resident, said he would support Elsie Gilmore, a Livonia and former Wayne County Democratic Chairman, who remains in the race.

Livington, an insurance agent from West Bloomfield, made no commitment to any other candidate. "I withdrew," he told The Observer, "because I was uncertain as to the support I could have pulled. At this time, I am not endorsing any other candidate."

A statement from McCarthy said, "I am withdrawing as a candidate from the 14th District Senatorial race. I have given serious consideration and discussion with my wife and family. I decided to call other candidates and party leaders on my decision."

"During my deliberation I not only evaluated the partisan vote distribution throughout the district, but also evaluated the candidates, all of which are worthy Democrats, and felt that Councilman McNamara is an outstanding statesman who will draw universal support."

"I am offering my full support to Ed McNamara in whatever capacity he deems I can best serve."

"Being the nominee in the November election and knowing the District well, I am confident that we can win the seat with a united effort behind McNamara."

Meagher issued the following statement:

"I feel that it is incumbent upon any good citizen to offer his services to his government if he feels qualified, even if, as in my case, it would mean sacrificing my business."

"At a meeting that I attended of all the candidates of my district, I had filed, and was convinced that any of these candidates were well qualified to represent our district in the state senate. I was particularly impressed with Elsie Gilmore, who seems to have a very keen understanding of the problems of our state, particularly in the area of education."

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Petition Drive Flops On Village Green Vote

The Village Green apartment development apparently hurried its final barrier when Farmington Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan ruled that a petition drive aimed against the plan is insufficient to force an election.

Brennan said the petitioners lacked "the required number of signatures;" that "the wording of the Petition is insufficient;" and that "the information with respect to the property owners signing the Petition is incomplete."

The Attorney read his decision at a meeting of the Township Board, on Monday night. The spectator seats were all filled, and many of the administration's political enemies were on hand.

But Brennan's report stirred little controversy. The general attitude seemed to be one of indifference—perhaps even of relief—that the long discussed issue was at last out of the way.

The Republicans, as well as the Democrats, were well represented. Both sides conducted themselves with a sort of good natured rudeness.

There were 16 in the free-wheeling statements from the spectators; interrupted by heckling, and followed by applause. The audience seemed to enjoy itself considerably.

Brennan, in his decision, cited a statute of law, to the effect that the 15 per cent of the population necessary to force a vote is "not limited to registered voters and include persons purchasing on land contract and assessed for taxes." He estimated this total as approximately 14,000 people.

Only 1,400 legal signatures were filed with the Township. This is far short of the necessary 15 per cent of 14,000.

Summing up his argument that the wording of the Petition was insufficient, Brennan (Continued on Page 4)

Allen Ingle Chided By GOP Chairman

Oakland County's new Republican Party Chairman Dale Feet has commented on what he termed as "unfortunate" remarks made by Justice of the Peace Allen Ingle of Farmington.

Ingle recently was highly critical of some Republican leaders' Oakland and Wayne Counties for publicly stating that they were pleased that an experienced, hard working former state senator, Farrell Roberts, was running in the special election in the 14th Senate District.

"Farrell Roberts, has an established record," Feet said. "A knowledge of the intricacies of legislative machinery and, if re-elected, would be one of the few experienced senators in what may be a very poor senate."

"Now, apparently because some Republicans are pleased that Farrell Roberts and men like him run for office, Ingle has decided to run himself," Ingle ran for judge of Circuit Court and was defeated in November by incumbent Justice Phillip Pratt, James C. Thorburn and Arthur E. Moore.

"Judges Pratt, Thorburn and Moore had long established excellent records, as attorneys, and in Moore's case, as a probate judge," Feet said. "Their ability was recognized by Governor Romney who appointed them to the Circuit Court. The voters of Oakland County recognized their ability by electing them full terms in November by huge margins."

"Ingle ran against them," Feet continued, "against their records and on his experience as a justice of the peace court in a township. It's no wonder to me that he was beaten so badly, and it's too bad he blames what he calls 'Republican chieftains' for turning out a huge Pratt, Thorburn, and Moore vote."

"I think it's unfortunate that some men run against others, and against issues, and not for the purpose of making a contribution to good government," Feet concluded. "However, in almost every election there is no winner who generally offers nothing constructive and less."

Farmington Schools to Instruct Adults in Child Sex Education

Before such classes could become a reality, a carefully screened instructors would need to be trained in a comprehensive and carefully designed program. Merrill-Palmer Institute will cooperate with the Farmington Public Schools to provide the in-service training of the instructors.

"A faculty committee has been discussing what the role of elementary schools is in sex education for the past two years. Out of this study came the idea for the classes," Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison said. "The staff felt that the schools weren't doing the job that was needed to be done."

For the past year a committee has been considering the role that the school should play in providing leadership and training for parents in the whole area of sex education.

Called the "Growing Up Committee," membership in this study group included elementary principals; Miss Helen Clark, Oakland County Public Health nurse; and Mrs. Albert M. Vollmer, former 12th grade home and family living teacher.

For two months this past fall the committee met in a series of workshops with Dr. Armin Grams and Laurence M. Lang of Merrill-Palmer Institute. They assessed what has been done in Farmington Schools in the past and explored ways in which the schools could serve the total community in the future.

The committee concluded that sex education in general is not being handled adequately in most school systems—including Farmington. While sex education is primarily the responsibility of the home, the committee found through its studies that neither parents nor teachers felt adequate to handle the subject.

When Farmington was a small school system with six elementary schools, the upper grade elementary teachers and the director of elementary education with the public health nurse worked directly with students and parents. The principal tool was a film "The Story of Menstruation." Sometimes discussion groups would be formed to deal with group-up problems.

"The program was informal, varying from school to school," Harrison said. "I think it concerns the problems of maturing boys. In recent years the Oakland County Health Department was (Continued on Page 4)



ONE of the first men Tom Nolan, new Director of the Republican Party, appointed as Precinct Captain was Jack E. Wendt of Kendallwood for District 10. (l-r) Above Mr. Nolan discusses future plans with Mr. Wendt.

Tom Nolan Replaces Byron Walter As Republican Chief

Tom Nolan of 22180 Ontario Court in Farmington Township is the newly appointed director of the Republican Party following the vacancy left by Byron Walter, who began his term as newly elected judge.

Tom has an extensive background in politics and community affairs. He founded the Garden City Republican Club, served as precinct captain, and as delegate to both state and county conventions.

He has been both president and on the Board of Directors of the Forest Park Association, and active in Goodfellow's, Little League, and other community organizations.

When asked what will be his biggest job this year he said unhesitatingly: "To establish unity in our party. I think our keynote will be conservatism with a large chunk of modernism."

This will be Tom's 15th year in the Republican party and he intends an aggressive hard-hitting campaign. "I think," he said, "the local candidates are guilty of bad sportsmanship in their negative attitude toward the government. They had a fair chance in the elections, and were clearly defeated. It is obvious that the people did not want to have them govern them. Yet they continually keep up a harassment of the present officials which is bound to be costly to tax-payers in the long run."

The party, he said is investigating complaints from residents that when the pay raise petitions were circulated, many of them were simply asked, "Do you want a tax increase?" And were not told it was concerned with the officials' raises.

He will be ably assisted by his wife, Martine, in addition to raising four children. Youngsters she has done more than her share of community work. She is a member of the PTA, Jaycee Auxiliary, Muscular Dystrophy Drive, March of Dimes Worker, and Forest Park Homeowners Association.

"Tom concluded the interview by stating that he was really looking forward to this year. "I feel fortunate in taking over the Farmington Township Republican Party," he said. "It is one of the best organized and best functioning groups."

He will be aided by 12 precinct captains. As we left, he was busy scheduling the first meeting of the Republicans under his leadership.

Rezoning Brings Long Debate

Farmington residents filled the City Council chambers Monday evening to present their views on the proposed new zoning ordinance and map changes. More than 95 per cent of the three hour meeting was devoted to the ten changes in the city map.

No formal action was taken. The purpose of the open hearing was to allow the residents affected an opportunity to state their views. The City Planning Commission and the City Council will now consider the points made and restudy the proposal.

The City Planning Commission meets twice a month. Its meeting on the second Monday of the month is an open session while the one held on the fourth Monday is a closed work-study meeting.

Planning Commission Member Allen Nelson offered at Monday's hearing to meet with any group at any time to discuss and explain in the proposed changes.

In addition to expected complaints about certain proposed zoning changes criticism of city action was heard in not providing complete copies of the new ordinance and map changes to all members of the audience and

However, citizens had something to say about eight of the changes. The only two changes that did not draw a citizen response were the last two listed on the agenda.

The Farmington Road property which would be rezoned from R 1 E to R O, Education Research Office District drew fire from residents of the area as being "too general a classification to go behind a residential area."

Under the proposed rezoning, the classification would, as City Manager John Dignan also drew fire. The ordinance would encourage additional research and office uses which would prohibit disruptive influences on the community and would promote a campus like layout." He added that the classification was basically the same as R 1 O except that it would be for residential dwellings. Dignan emphasized that no manufacturing of any kind would be allowed.

It came out during the audience questions, however, that manufacturing that was essential to work of the building tract residents within 95 per cent of the square area.

The height of the buildings allowed under the ordinance also drew fire. The proposed specifications would allow two story buildings with a limitation of 35 feet in height. Residents objected, saying that the average height of two story homes in the area was 16 feet.

Some of the residents asked why not keep Farmington as a strictly residential community. They deplored bringing in further industry and stated that they liked Farmington the way it is and that is why they bought homes in the city.

Another question was why didn't the city allow the people to vote on the proposed changes. The audience was assured that any citizen has the right to circulate petitions to obtain a referendum on any city action.

Councilman Howard Thayer stated that his personal belief was that the city was setting aside too big a parcel of land for this kind of use and considering that this "might take years to develop."

The second item on the agenda concerned land on the north side of Grand River Avenue near Warner Street to east of School Street. This land is scheduled for rezoning from R 1 P, one family parking to C 2 general commercial district. Residents of this area objected to the change for a variety of reasons most of them stemming from the Junior High School on School Street. Traffic congestion, safety and

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Named as Architect Of Junior High School

The Farmington Board of Education has selected Lynn Smith Associates of Birmingham to be the architect for their proposed fourth junior high school. Hopefully, construction can be started by May or June of 1966.

A study of the projected enrollment figures seems to verify previous predictions that the school system will need a fourth junior high school by September, 1967.

The board took a look 15 years ahead and it was decided to take immediate action on the beginning planning stages.

The school system presently owns land in the 11 Mile-Haled area which has been spec-

Board Hears Bank's Plea

When the Farmington Township Board of Trustees meets on Jan. 18, it will take up the issue of the Detroit Bank and Trust for rezoning from residential to B-3 (business), to the rear of its lot at Middlebelt and Grand River.

Through an administrative oversight, a building permit was accidentally granted to the Bank on this residential site. As a result it began its rough grading. When the mistake was reported to the administration, it put a halt to construction.

Along with this matter, there will be a public hearing on sewers for Park Hill Subdivision.

Selects Delegates

At the regular Monday night meeting of the Board of Education, Board President Edwin G. Clifford and Trustee Herbert R. Neel were selected to represent the Farmington school board at the National School Boards Association Convention to be held in Boston April 3-8.

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