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The Observer OF FARMINGTON

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With Four Weeks Left To Go Campaign Picks Up Livelier Pace



FIRE GUTTED the upper level of the Fred Hamlin home at 22627 Brookdale last Wednesday afternoon. It took 15 men from the City's Department of Public Safety an hour and 45 minutes to extinguish the flames. One man, Det. Sgt. William, was injured during the fire and is still in the hospital. Two others, Alan P. Watson and Robert Walcott, received minor injuries. Estimated damage to the home from the fire, smoke and water was \$20,000. Cause of the fire was not known.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This week The Observer begins a series on the question of the incorporation of Farmington Township into a home rule city. Voters will go to the polls on June 6 to vote whether they wish to incorporate into a home rule city and elect a nine man charter commission to serve during the overall vote in the affirmative.)

By SUE SHAGHNESSY The question facing the voters of Farmington Township on June 6 is probably the most important decision that the residents will be faced with during the foreseeable future. They will decide whether or not they wish to incorporate into a home rule city and, at the same time, elect nine members to a charter commission. Naturally if the majority of the voters say no to incorporation then the charter commission will never meet. However, whether you vote yes or no on the incorporation question you will be expected to cast your votes for the nine individuals

and camps as advocated by the various groups. However, this week we wish to point out a few very pertinent facts. The Farmington school district will not be affected by the incorporation. (Continued on Page 8-B)

Committee Outlines Incorporation Issues

The Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township held its first public session last Monday night. Members of the audience which numbered about 50 heard a discussion of the pros and reasons against incorporation into a home rule city from Philip D. Daniels of 2215 Alhambra. Daniels recounted that the threat of annexation was the prime reason behind the move toward incorporation according to the proponents. Annexation, he asserted, is no threat because everybody in the Township would have an opportunity to vote on the question. "With one exception," he noted, "because the City of Farmington has less than 15,000 population only the people in the area affected would be asked to vote on the proposal, but if Livonia or Southfield tried to annex any portion of the Township the entire population of the Township would have to agree to such a move. "Imagine a homeowner voting to increase his taxes \$400 to \$500 per year and then you have a three on one case in this case," he said. Referring to Novi, Daniels pointed out that the Village of Novi was meeting to incorporate as a fourth class city and as such must publish notice of intent to annex an area one



"IF YOU THINK the litter pictured in your photo editorial is bad" said the women in your photo. The above is what our photographer found. phone "you should see the mess at 21113 Ran.

Church Rezoning Stalled While Owner Is Sought

After wrestling verbally for more than an hour Monday evening with what now seems like an age-old problem—the change of zoning to provide a parking district for the First Methodist Church—Acting Mayor Howard Thayer adjourned the public hearing before City Council with the hope—and hope only—that the contesting factions could return in two weeks with a plan which the Council could adopt. While it lasted the hearing had all the aspects of a melodramatic comedy and at times the confusion left even the partisan spectators shrugging their shoulders.

It all began when Attorney Howard Bond, appearing for the Church folks, stated that he had an agreement in which the Universalist Church would agree to dispose of the property — provided the First Methodist Church could get the zoning changed from R-1 Single Family status to R-1 P, which is the designation for parking. At this Attorney Glenn Coulter, representing the People, took exception to the remark "unless that instrument (the agreement) is put on the table and made public."

This request was refused. At this point W. L. Nelson, of the Planning Commission, arose to be heard and he tied the entire proceedings into a hard knot. "How can the Church ask for rezoning when it doesn't own the property," he inquired, and every one looked aghast. Finally Attorney Coulter took the floor again and pleaded that he didn't want to resort to a law suit, but that he wished all sides could get together — attorneys, spokesmen, and the Planning

County Nixes Traffic Light

In the immediate future there will not be a traffic signal erected at the intersection of 12 Mile and Middlebelt Rds. in Farmington Township, but the action will be taken within the next few weeks. On April 22 the Roads and Bridges committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the following: "No further action be taken by this Committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners towards the installation of a traffic control signal at the intersection of Middlebelt and 12 Mile Rds. at this time because the said installation is not warranted. The Oakland County Road Commission will take additional traffic counts at the intersection during the next two months. If these new counts exceed Nov. 1965 counts and they are very close to the Warrants Minimum Vehicular Volume, as it is suspected then a traffic control signal be erected in the combined basis of traffic being very close to this warrant, the accident experience which is admittedly higher than average, the lack of really good sight distance in one quadrant and the knowledge that development is occurring in the area which will cause the traffic and the

War Waged on Pollution

Farmington has declared war on those industries that are fouling the air and bringing about a serious problem. Possibly because only two firms showed interest in the cost of improved incinerators, but the City Council has ordered the City Attorney and the City Manager to draw up an ordinance—as firm as possible—to deal with the problem. All industrial concerns in the Alta Berger Industrial Subdivision had been warned about outside burning, but only the two showed any interest in the ordinance. It was explained that not too much was being asked and, even now, the ordinance requested, is not to be as "tough" as that adopted in Livonia for the simple reason that the industry in Farmington is not of the heavy type. But, light as it is, the pollution must stop.

A Proponent Speaks Up on the Issue

Farmington Township Trustee Thomas A. Duke issued a statement in support of the incorporation question facing the Township because "recent statements, letters to the editor, bumper stickers, word of mouth and other discussion and communications such as letters circulated with reference to the incorporation, prompt it. "The incorporation issue is an important one," Duke says, "and the fact that there are those who feel it is a right and proper move at this time, as well as those who do not, are all entitled to their opinions should all be heard and well in advance of the elections. "Speaking for myself, as an individual, I would like to state that: I like the Township form of government. This was my position when moving to Farmington many years ago. This was my position when running for election to the Township Trustee position, over five years ago. This has been my feeling continuously during my term as Trustee. The facts are that the Township has lost in the past, portions of its area by annexation to the City of Farmington. Eight years ago, proposals were on the ballot, which have divided Farmington Township into five separate communities, each requiring its own governing body and a great duplication of governmental service. So, basically, we have a situation which, continue as a Township, is constantly threatened with being annexed, piece by piece and very possibly in a matter of a few years. This is what the citizens of Farmington (Continued on Page 8-B)

At the other side of the house stands a metal lawn chair rusted by many rain storms, a pile of concrete and a pile of bricks, which shows the care and pride of the residents. This particular lot has been a problem to the residents and to the Township for many years. The tax bill for the past year was mailed to a Mrs. Sadie Weber at 1823 Ferdinand.

That's A Left-Handed Apology

Howard Thayer, one of the elder statesmen on the Farmington City Council is a man of strong convictions. When he says something he really means it. Sitting in as the president of Council Monday evening in the absence of Mayor William W. Brokerton, he made one of the most amazing apologies to the representatives of the Jaycees who had appeared in connection with their boat project. "I want to apologize to you fellows," Councilman Thayer said in all solemnity. "Last week I referred to your boat as junk... and I still think it is junk."

City Wrestles With Woes of Parking

What started as a serious discussion of the off-street parking problem in Farmington was turned into a riot of laughs at the Council meeting Monday night. City Manager John Dihan submitted a plan, designed to help the Farmington Cleaners and all others along Grand River Ave. The plan called for the relocating of the sidewalk, installation of a service drive and angular parking to a greater extent than the merchant had known previously. There was only one thing wrong. Bill Gardner, of Farmington Cleaners, was there. He asked for permission to explain his ideas of a solution. When granted, strides to the blackboard and produced a series of hieroglyphics that seemed to puzzle everyone but him. "Seems like we have the cart before the horse," Acting Mayor Thayer commented. "Seems like you should have been approved by the Planning Commission before it came here." Gardner was not to be denied. He came right back with it. "Why can't the Council adopt it pending approval of the Planning Commission?" he asked. "No Council member will send it to the Planning Commission and ask that action be taken as soon as possible." Gardner, who claimed the off-street parking had caused a drop of more than \$12,000 in his receipts for the first quarter of the year compared to 1965, commented, "And if you wait too long, just send a wreath."

Southern Township Areas Have 'Litter' Problems

The lot at 21113 Randall in Farmington Township is disconcerting. On it stands a house at least that's what they call it—which looks as though it will collapse in the first good wind storm. An old truck is parked on the front lawn. At the other side of the house stands a metal lawn chair rusted by many rain storms, a pile of concrete and a pile of bricks, which shows the care and pride of the residents. This particular lot has been a problem to the residents and to the Township for many years. The tax bill for the past year was mailed to a Mrs. Sadie Weber at 1823 Ferdinand. Taylor told The Observer that he would re-open the case and try to force Sadie Weber to comply with the zoning regulations. However, he added that if any of the neighbors see owners of the property to contact the Township police so that proper action can be taken. The water on Radcliff Rd. is the problem of some owners of the property in the area. They say that they have contacted Oakland County Road Commission and all that is done is to erect barricades which are usually knocked over by cars turning around. They say that there is often about four feet of water in the area after a rain and it overflows into the yards, ditches and completely covers the road. Residents add that because

Industrial Rezoning Denied by Twp. Planners

The request to rezone additional land for industrial uses in Section 30 was denied by the Farmington Township Planning Commission at its regular monthly meeting last week. Not only that, it was denied without any comments from the proponents of the idea. In fact, they weren't even present when the item was considered. The Commission originally voted to drop the item from its agenda when developers of the idea, the Thompson Brown Company and Smoker Co., did not appear. The item had been carried over from

Second Meeting Set

The Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township, Inc., will hold a second meeting to discuss the incorporation issue at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10 at East Junior High School, 25000 Middlebelt Road. The County matched this with \$50,000. Such roads are available in any section of the Township under matching funds," he said. "The roads in the area are not adequate for industry," Daniels pointed out and added that "as soon as we vote in a city it will be called upon to vote general obligation bonds for Class A roads in the area. This is the way cost runs away in a city," he said. "I believe that industry and business should buy their own (Continued on Page 8B)

C. Bicking Dies, Long Time Leader

Clarence Bicking, 79, 23610 Powers Rd. in the City died suddenly at his home May 1. He was a member of the Village Council in the 1920's and helped to write the Charter in 1928. During his tenure on the Council he helped to buy the first fire engine, oversaw the purchase of the City's first water storage tank and locate the City's first deep wells and installed the water system. Mr. Bicking and his wife, Imogene, built and operated the Springbrook Garage and Florist for nearly 30 years prior to their retirement in 1929. He was a life member and past master of the Farmington Lodge No. 151 of the F.&M. In addition he was a life member of the Northville Chapter of Masons and the Knights Templar of Northville. He was a member of the Walled Lake Baptist Church for more than 50 years. At the time of his death, Mr. Bicking was the oldest living Past Master of the Farmington Masons.

He survived by his wife, and two daughters: Alma Mae Turner and Christine Brown. Also surviving are six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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