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The Observer
OF FARMINGTON

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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Paul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City, Westland and Townships of Plymouth, Redford, Farmington

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City Budget Of \$800,000 OK'd By Council

The Farmington City Budget of \$800,683.63 was approved by the City Council at a special meeting last week following the annual public hearing.

At the time of approving the budget as presented by City Manager John Dinan the Council set the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1 at \$11.50 per thousand of assessed valuation. This is the same tax levy as has

been levied in the City for the past six years. The budget, which includes pay raises for city employees range from 10 percent for patrolmen to three and a half percent in certain other classifications thus bringing the City into a more competitive salary scale with other communities.

Included in the fringe benefits is Blue Cross coverage for city employees paid for by the city. Under the program

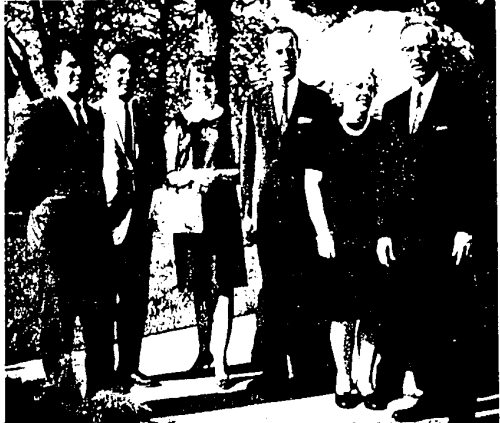
about \$10 a month in insurance costs will be paid from City funds. At the present time the City does not participate in Blue Cross coverage for its 47 employees. Broken down into general categories the budget provides for the following: In the general fund \$63,240 for general government; \$42,435 for staff agency costs; \$192,722 goes to the Department of Public Safety; \$160,240 for pub-

lic works; \$500 for public health and welfare; \$15,300 to the District Library; and \$38,920 for miscellaneous expenses. Thus the general fund totals \$563,357. The \$237,226.73 allocated to the water and sewer fund is broken down into: operation and maintenance, \$148,900; improvement, \$5,000; General obligation bonds retired, \$61,000; and the department's operating balance on

June 30, \$23,226.73. An additional Magic Square proposed for the 10 Mile School site came in for some questioning at the public hearing. Fred M. Seibert of 21628 Birchwood questioned the \$4,000 expenditure inasmuch as the school site is located so close to the boundary line between the City and the Township. Seibert said that he thought Township residents would realize more benefit from

this facility than City residents. Dinan said that plans were originally made to install Magic Squares at all the elementary schools located in the City and that the 10 Mile site was the last one, having the lowest priority. W. A. Nelson of 23708 Warner pointed out that this \$4,000 expenditure was all that is allocated in the budget for capital outlay for recreational development and questioned the fact

that more than 50 percent of the existing recreational facilities are located north of Grand River. Dinan told the audience that the Magic Squares had a separate recreational use from the City Park and Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton explained that plans had been made to improve the City Park with the removal of the well equipment building and thus provide additional space and playground equipment. Other proposals provided for in the general fund are: Broadening and expanding the Fall and Winter Recreation Program; and Beautification of the community with a \$2,000 allocation for additional landscaping at the Municipal Building and \$5,000 for improvements to the Public Works and Water & Sewer Yard.



THE VILLAGE OF QUAKERTOWN participated in Mayor's Exchange Day Monday as part of the observance of Michigan Week. Quakertown President Chuck Stevenson traveled to the Village of Goodrich just southeast of Flint, Mr. and Mrs. Sennet West came to Quakertown to observe the government. From left, are, Frank Lockhart, a Councilman of the Village, Bill Bowman of Thompson Brown, Mrs. Lockhart, Bob Orsini, a Councilman, Mrs. West and Mr. West, just after the group toured the Masonic Lodge. The Goodrich President was very interested in Farmington's Lodge as it is a Past Master of the Masons in his area.



MAYOR'S EXCHANGE DAY was a two-day affair for the City of Farmington. On Monday, Mayor and Mrs. Wilbur V. Brotherton and Director of Public Safety and Mrs. Robert Deadman travelled to Joazeville, Tuesday morning a group of Joazeville governmental leaders arrived in Farmington to spend the day. Greeting them at the City Hall was City Manager John Dinan. From left, the group included, front row, Mrs. Martha East, Gordon East, President of Joazeville; Mrs. Frances Wells, Mrs. Ila Fiebig, Councilman Arthur Fiebig; back row, Dorothy Van Zandt, Councilman George Van Zandt, Councilman Clifton Wells, and Dinan.

Council Approves Rezoning For Church Parking Lot

The Farmington City Council approved the rezoning of three lots on Warner St. to allow for the expansion of parking facilities at the First Methodist Church Monday night. At the next regular session of the Council the formal amendment to the zoning map will be introduced, but to all interests and purposes of the church has the assurance that after acquiring the property in question from the Unitarian Church it can be used for parking. Council action came following a statement by the Rev. Richard Markham, pastor of the First Methodist Church, outlining the reasons behind the desire of the church to purchase the property. These reasons are:

- The Church wants a parking lot over which it can exercise a measure of control.
Parking on Warner on Sunday mornings is "abominable" in the words of Rev. Markham.
The safety hazard created by church goers who must cross Grand River after parking in the parking facilities of the Downtown Farmington Center.
These were and are the fundamental reasons for our desire to acquire the property. Rev. Markham said, "and the church has never intended to use the land for anything but church parking."
In other action the Council granted permission to the Farmington Elks to use the Downtown Farmington Center Parking lot for their annual Elks Roast July 27 through July 30 in conjunction with the Farmington Founders' Festival.
Approved the purchase of the parking police cars and a standard car from Dameron Motor Sales at a total cost of \$6,564.30.

Markham and the additional space would alleviate this problem. The safety hazard created by church goers who must cross Grand River after parking in the parking facilities of the Downtown Farmington Center. These were and are the fundamental reasons for our desire to acquire the property. Rev. Markham said, "and the church has never intended to use the land for anything but church parking." In other action the Council granted permission to the Farmington Elks to use the Downtown Farmington Center Parking lot for their annual Elks Roast July 27 through July 30 in conjunction with the Farmington Founders' Festival. Approved the purchase of the parking police cars and a standard car from Dameron Motor Sales at a total cost of \$6,564.30.

Democrats Oppose Incorporation Challenge GOP to Take a Stand

The Farmington Democratic Club has taken a position against the proposed incorporation of Farmington Township into a city at this time. The action was expected and Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall, a Republican, termed the action "political expediency" when contacted by The Observer.

According to Aldo Vagmox, chairman of the local Democrats, the club took the position on the issue after a lengthy study of the advantages and disadvantages which would result from incorporation. Major reasons for Democratic Club opposition to incorporation are as follows: The move is premature in view of the fact that Farmington Township is less than three built up. The proposed city would have to assume costly services to sparsely settled and uninhabited areas. The Township is presently in an unfavorable tax position. Residents have had substantial increases in recent years and face a further boost in assessments from the present 22 percent of value to 50 percent as required in the revised State Constitution. This is the wrong time to

assume additional taxes which traditionally follow incorporation to city status," the club added. Proponents of incorporation have failed to make a positive case for adopting cityhood at this time relying almost entirely on the negative approach that

such a step is needed to prevent annexation of Township lands. "Such a negative approach would be an impediment to the development of a good community in that the proposed city would have been created on the basis of an alleged crisis

rather than a positive need," the statement continued. Township officials who filed the incorporation petitions failed to carry out a pledge to conduct an impartial study of the issue. Many of the same people who circulated the incorporation petitions were named to pass judgment on whether that action was in the best interest of Farmington Township. Refusal of Township officials to consider possible consultation with the City of Farmington has deprived the citizens of an opportunity to determine

Will Incorporation Affect Your Taxes?

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series on the question facing voters of Farmington Township June 6 on whether or not that area should incorporate into a home rule city. In addition to voting on this issue the residents of the Township will elect a nine member charter commission to serve should the move be approved by a majority of the voters.

Those pushing for incorporation say no—that taxes are determined by the level of service and not by the form of government. The Committee for Preservation of Farmington Township says that taxes will increase under a home rule charter.

Who is right? Actually both statements have validity. Taxes are determined by the level of services required by the residents and not automatically by the form of government. It is also true that under a city charter the local legislative unit may levy millage up to the tax limitation included in the charter without a referendum of the people. This is not true in a Township. Each and every tax levy for local purposes must be approved by the voters under the township form of government. This is what the committee fighting incorporation is emphasizing.

Under the Michigan home rule act a city charter may contain a tax limitation of up to 20 mills. When the City of Livonia incorporated more than 15 years ago a five mill limitation was written into the charter. That commonly is currently in the process of charter revision and one of the primary reasons for this move is the fact that the City simply cannot provide the services required by the population within a five mill levy. Residents of Farmington Township are currently paying

to the programs of the past few years to realize this. Such shows as Miracle South, Thurber Carnival, Work Pacific, Brigadoon, Call Me Madam, and The King and I were produced in Farmington and were considered well above the average high school production. The Detroit Theatre Guild has commended Farmington Public Schools for their success with "exceedingly demanding productions."

One Man's Impressions of City Rule

EDITOR'S NOTE: With the election on the question of the incorporation of Farmington Township scheduled for June 6 The Observer asked veteran newspaperman W. W. Edgar, who was a member of the Livonia Charter Commission, to give the first City Council, to record his impressions of the campaign in Livonia and what happened. We publish it with the thought that the voters will find one man's experiences interesting and informative.

By W. W. EDGAR
For some strange reason any time a move is started to incorporate a township into a "home rule" city you'll hear

Nine File for School Board Posts

Saturday's deadline for filing for the Farmington Board of Education brought out nine candidates running for election to three vacant seats on the Board. The annual School Election is scheduled for June 13. Board President Leland G. Clifford of 33630 Hillcrest filed for the three year term that's open. He will be unopposed for that spot. The remainder of the candidates filed for the four year term. Included in this group are the two men, William E. Smolek of 28900 Wellington and John M. Washburn III of 21044 Birchwood, who were appointed to the Board during the past year to fill vacancies. Others filing for the two four year terms are: Richard J. Angelo, 29999 Barwell; John L. Klott, 5825 Tenth Place, Birmingham; Westley I. Mitchell, 30600 Springland; George W. Oils, 5229 Narmanhurst, Birmingham; Nancy S. Schlesinger, 31500 Franklin Fairway; and George V. Strelczuk, 21289 Birchwood.

Country Lanes Hit Second Time

Country Lanes on Nine Mile Rd. just west of Middlebelt was broken into over the weekend and receipts for the weekend were taken. The management at Country Lanes said that this is the second time this year that the establishment has been robbed. Larry Boncher, manager, said that business would be conducted as usual, however, while the damage done to the building is being repaired. The Lanes is currently forming summer leagues.

Festival Fund Drive Nets \$725 To Date

A total of \$725 has been contributed for the Farmington Founders' Festival by 47 donors, it was announced at last week's meeting of the Farmington Board of Commerce. The funds will be used to help stage this year's Festival planned July 28, 29 and 30. A kick-off dinner for the Founders' Festival will be staged tonight (Wednesday, May 18) at 6:30 p.m. in the Farmington Senior High School. Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh will be the main speaker and his topic will be "What Does Municipal Government Expect from the Business Community?"

Younger Set To Learn All Safety Rules

Bicycles will take their rightful place next Saturday, May 21, as they ease onto the auto at the Farmington Junior High School parking lot. The event is the annual Bike Safety Ride, sponsored by the Farmington Jaycees. All Farmington area children 12 years old and under are invited to participate beginning at 10 a.m. About 300 younger residents of the City and Township are expected to wheel their bicycles through a self-driving course. Dave Cushing, Jaycee Bike Ride chairman, explained that the bikes entered will be marked with a special reflective tape for extra night protection. The tape enables motorists to see bicyclists at night from as far away as 2,500 feet. A representative from the local police force will be on hand to give the contestants advice on Bicycle Safety Rules.



FARMINGTON'S TEACHERS went back to school last Friday to learn how to operate audio visual equipment. Familiarizing themselves with the potential of a tape recorder as a teaching aid are, from left, Carolyn Mahala,

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