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The Observer OF FARMINGTON

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CITES PERSONAL BUSINESS

Duke Resigns from Township Board

Farmington Township's controversial Trustee Thomas A. Duke has resigned from his post effective immediately. In a letter read at the Township Board meeting Monday night, Duke who is currently in California, cited the press of personal business and the heavy responsibilities of Trustee. Duke cited

the "forward looking administration" and the "dedicated service which members of this administration have given to the Township" in his letter of resignation. The letter took the Board by surprise with the trustees, Thomas Nolan, Earl Oppertbauer, and Arthur Bassette, stating that this was news to them. Duke had mentioned privately that he was finished with politics and told *The Observer* a few months ago that he did not intend to run for another term. He had, however, slightly more than

two years of the term remaining to which he was elected in 1964. He was first elected in 1960. To say that Duke was controversial is somewhat of an understatement. People either loved him or hated him and their feelings about him often colored feelings about the entire Township administration. Probably the greatest controversy arose over the construction of the Independence Green apartment project at Grand River and the I-96 expressway. Residents cried foul and

conflict of interest when the rezoning to allow construction of the units passed the Township Board. In fact, a petition drive to force an election on the question, was started and petitions filed with the Township Clerk's office. Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan ruled that the petitions carried an insufficient number of signatures

and offered the opinion that an election need not be held. Those opposing the project took the matter to the Oakland County Circuit Court and the matter is still on the Court docket waiting for a ruling. In the meantime, an election was called at a public meeting which was conducted and the luxury apartments put up for rental. During the recent incorporation election Duke was a candidate for charter com-

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DUKE



THE PIT STOP at 23830 Farmington Rd. in the City of Farmington lost its ceiling last week. This was the scene the next day. Investigators were examining the incident to discover just what had caused the fire.

First Shot Fired

When the City of Farmington filed annexation petitions for 1838 acres of prime land in the Township the feeling of those who had led the fight for incorporation was one of vindication. Political success indicated that coming as it did the move helped Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall in the primary battle for the Republican nomination for the Township office. Hall is opposed in the August primary by Wendell Brown and Allen C. Heyn. Brown is the better known of the two challenging the incumbent and he most recently served as president of the

Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township, Inc. Brown had no comment on the City's action when he was contacted by *The Observer* last week. The Preservationists endeavored throughout the incorporation campaign that the threat of annexation attempts had been magnified by the Township officials. Last Friday a 19-year resident of the Township, Edna T. Cope of 23118 Longacre St. in Woodcroft brought an open letter to Wendell Brown and the official members of the Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township to *The Observer*. In the letter he chal-

lenges Brown to set up a group to fight the annexation attempt and to withdraw his candidacy for Township Supervisor. Cope states that "the lightning move on the part of the City Management came as a shock to me although I had made up my mind when the election was over, at which your Committee won handsomely (or, I should say, disgracefully, telling us in plain language that our taxes will have to be increased to absorb the \$440,000 estimated Township tax for the area that the City had decided to take in. "As you know, Mr. (Continued on Page 10B)

The issue of pay raises for Farmington Township officials has cropped up once again. At the meeting prior to the Nov. 1964 elections the Township Board met in a special meeting and voted raises for the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer. The Board said that under state law no action could be taken prior to the last meeting before an election. This incident raised a furor with the Democratic

Supervisors Ask Board About Wages

In today's complex world of teacher-school board relationships, the Farmington School Board has heard a new request. The administrative and supervisory personnel of the school district have requested recognition by the board as a "bargaining unit" to participate in decisions concerning salaries, hours of work, holidays, vacation days and other relevant working conditions. After considerable debate, the board took no direct action. However, several questions were raised. Several board members objected to the term "bargaining unit" and said there were areas of no parallel type of group relationship among supervisors in the business world. The Board decided that they wanted a legal interpretation of the forming of a bargaining unit before any positive action is taken. The question arose as to how far up the administrative (Continued on Page 10B)

candidates for Township offices charging that the action was hushed up to avoid publicity and that the raises were out of line. At that time the Board

Township Stands Firm Will Not Re-Hire Drury

Farmington Township and failure to report for work on two specified days. At the last Board meeting two weeks ago Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan told the Board that the State Labor Mediation Board had requested that the Township review the case and consider re-hiring Drury on a probationary basis for a specified time. The Board voted to meet with Drury in an executive session prior to Monday's meeting to see if any new facts would come to light. Two weeks ago the Board indicated that in the light of the present information available it was not receptive to the idea. At Monday's meeting Clyde Altop, an organizer with Metropolitan Council No. 27 which has organized the building inspectors, was present along with George Crook, electrical inspector in the Township. Drury was not present, although Altop told *The Observer* that he and Drury had met with the Board prior to the start of the regular session. The Board unanimously voted to uphold its previous decision in the matter and not re-hire Drury. Altop told *The Observer* following the Board action that he would inform the

State Labor Mediation Board of the vote "tonight" and also convey "my personal opinion of the lack of cooperation on the part of the negotiating team on this request for rehiring Drury." (Continued on Page 10B)

Edison Tells Its Side on Wiring

Engineers from the Detroit Edison Company met with the Farmington Township Planning Commission last week and pleaded the utility's company's side of the case for underground wiring requirements in the Township. The company is not opposed to underground wiring within the subdivisions, but does object to a proposed ordinance which would require all lines—even those on the premises to go underground. Edison contends that this is costly and poses maintenance and repair problems. The engineers also pointed out that what they termed "little black boxes" would be (Continued on Page 10B)

increases: Supervisor \$15,000 from \$10,000; Clerk from \$8,500 to \$11.50 and Treasurer from \$8,000 to \$11,000. The last previous raise was passed in 1960. Petitions were circulated following the general election and a total of 1,624 valid signatures were delivered to the clerk's office on Dec. 1. An election on the question was scheduled for Feb. 15 where the proposed pay increases were defeated by a vote of 2,599 to 928. At Monday night's meeting of the Township Board Trustee Earl Oppertbauer brought the matter up and referred to this campaign. He said that he still felt that the Township Administration deserved a pay increase and that he proposed discussing it fully prior to any action, being taken so that the opposition would not have the opportunity to cry foul. The Board seemed to agree with him and decided to turn the matter over to the Citizens' Salary and Pension Committee and ask them to report back in September to Board consideration and action. This committee was originally proposed as a 10 man bipartisan group with an equal number drawn from both the local Republican, and Democratic organizations. The committee served with only eight members, but Farmington Supervisor Curt Hall suggested that perhaps the additional members might be appointed to bring it up to full strength. The Township Board will hold, Collins, Avery, Oppertbauer, Nolan and Bassette present voted unanimously to turn the proposal over to the citizen's group for study.

Planners Complete Hearings

Farmington Township's Planning Commission whizzed through three public hearings at its monthly meeting last week with relatively little discussion from the audience. In the third case the residents of the area voiced their opposition to a proposed office building at Edmonton St. and Farmington Rd. just north of Eight Mile. Residents cited increased traffic in the area as one of the main reasons for their objection. The Commission, however, felt that this would be the highest use for the property and that the office classification would better serve the neighborhood than a business classification. The commission also approved the rezoning of 11 (Continued on Page 10B)

planning. A public hearing on the 1966-67 operating budget for the Farmington Public School District has been scheduled July 5 in the Administration Building at 8 p.m. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

Budget Hearing Set

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Founders Festival To Feature Talent Show

Professional entertainment featuring Farmington residents will be one of the many highlights of the upcoming Second Annual Farmington Founders Festival July 29, 29 and 30. A variety show, the "Founders Follies" is scheduled for Friday, July 29 at 8 p.m. at one of the area high schools. The show, like the theme of the Festival—"Farmington Honors Its Own," will feature talented residents worthy of recognition in the entertainment world. Director George Assemanny

many, who lives in Farmington, is director of the well-known choral group, the Kendallarks. Composed of Farmington residents, the Kendallarks will appear in the show to present some of their favorite numbers. Dorothy Sedick, accompanist for the show and a Farmington resident, is director of the McKenney Choirists, who will perform. Dorothy and Eleanor Skillman, and other well known residents, will treat the audience to their "twain piano" renditions which brought down the house three years ago at the Jaycee's annual musical. Members of the South Oakland County Suburbans Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, many of whom live in Farmington, are also scheduled to perform. This group is directed by Farmington resident Marian Green.

Bob Chesley and Norm Potts, both well known in the community for their entertainment ability, will appear in that capacity. A selected number from this year's Jaycee Show "Show Boat, A Comin'" will ensure a place in the audience. Tickets may be purchased at the Board of Commerce office on Grand River as well as from members of the show. Advance purchase will

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What's Inside FARMINGTON Amusements — 1-5B A&P Food News — 9C Business Directory — 2D Church Directory — 9C Editorial Page — 8A Food Fair News — 9-B Home Improvements — 6-8B Kroger Food News — 7C Sports Pages — 2-3B Want Ads — 1-10D Women's Pages — 1-6C

Twp. Eyes Car Wash Zoning

Farmington Township Planners will consider an ordinance regarding car washes at the next meeting of the Township Planning Commission July 28. Under the terms of the new ordinance, however, car washes, both the traditional and self-service types, will be governed. If adopted the ordinance will require the establishments to: Have a front yard set back not less than 20 feet; Completely enclose the facilities for washing vehicles with the exception of vacuuming and drying areas, but these may not be in the front yard and must be at least 25 feet away from any residential district; Provide off street parking for any cars required to wait in line and this parking area must be hard surfaced and dust free; Shield all lighting and direct it away from adjacent residential districts; Construct a 100 foot obscuring wall where abutting a residential district; On parking requirements an automatic car wash must provide space for each employee and additional space that is five times the maximum capacity of the establishment; Self-service car washes must provide five parking spaces for each bay plus the space provided within the stall under the terms of the proposal.

GEORGE ASSEMANNY

Have Cash Will Travel

If you are looking forward to vacation time, you know how important it is to have a car wash. There are no more long lines. You can build your vacation fund by selling your car before you leave. Call *The Observer* making a call and then place your FAMILY AD as soon as possible. Call 476-7025

No Change Stated

The Independence Day holiday on Monday will not affect rubbish collection in the City of Farmington. According to an announcement from the Department of Public Services the regular schedule for collections will be observed next week.

THE FOUNDERS FESTIVAL is receiving all kinds of publicity. In the picture the Sennay Gunderson Family of Belleue Wash, show how they are carrying the word through the western United States. One of the Gunderson boys is pointing to the poster describing the Elks Ox Roast Lodge in Farmington?

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