

The Farmington Enterprise

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, June 2, 1966

TWENTY PAGES

10 CENTS

Over 14,000 Signed Up to Vote in Twp.

The voters of Farmington Township will go to the polls on Monday, June 6, and decide whether to incorporate as a Home Rule City and also to elect nine Charter Commissioners from a field of 26 candidates.

There are a total of 14,103 registered voters in Farmington Township eligible to cast ballots in the June 6 Election. Approximately 500 new registrations were taken during the month-long period prior to the May 9 deadline for voter registration and Township Clerk Floyd A. Carus predicts a record turnout for the Special Election.

INFORMATION ON ALL 26 of the Charter Commission candidates can be found on Page 10 and 11 of this week's Farmington Enterprise.

The polling places for the 15 Precincts in the Township as well as the description of each precinct's boundaries follow and a Township Precinct Map can be found on Page 7A of this week's Enterprise.

PRECINCT 1 is bounded on the East by Truck Road, on the south by Eight Mile Road and on the north by Nine Mile Road and the I-96 Expressway. The polling place for Precinct 1 is the Gill Road Elementary School, 21125 Gill Road.

PRECINCT 2 includes the east one-half of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying north of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 2 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 3 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 3 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 4 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 4 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 5 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 5 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 6 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 6 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 7 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 7 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 8 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 8 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 9 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 9 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

PRECINCT 10 includes all of Section 33, also that portion of Section 33 lying south of the I-96 Expressway and North of Nine Mile Road, also the southwest portion of Section 36 which lies south of Grand River Avenue. Precinct 10 voters will cast ballots at the Wheeler Street Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler Street.

Home Rule Question Set For Monday Vote

Study Committee Views

On November 8, 1965, a petition was filed with the Oakland County Clerk seeking the incorporation of Farmington Township as a home rule city. The filing of the petitions was sponsored by the members of the Township Board and concurred in by the members of the Township Planning Commission.

The Township Board then appointed a 12-man pre-incorporation study committee to study the incorporation subject, get the views of the people, gather facts and make recommendations prior to the election. The final report was recently prepared and has been distributed this week, by mail, to Farmington Township residents.

NATURE OF OUR COMMUNITY
"Farmington Township has been planned to develop into an outstanding residential community. Long range planning, adequate zoning regulations and actual development consistent with the plans are all necessary.

The purpose of a development plan is to establish the goals desired by the community and the means for attaining those goals.

"Farmington Township is a low density residential community. The Township as planned will have a lower density than West Bloomfield Township, Livonia, Southfield and Birmingham.

"In order to achieve our goals we call for an economically balanced community. Experts warn that reliance upon residential property as a tax base leads to high tax rates.

"The loss of territory within one of our established sewer or water districts could cause loss to the remainder of the township.

TAXATION
"Many citizens fear that the adoption of a home rule charter automatically causes taxes to increase.

"After extensive research on this subject we find no support for the class offered them and projections, to indicate that a change in city status would increase taxes in any amount over that which can be expected.

See Study Committee Page 7-A

The Opposing Views

The Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township, Inc. was organized in March, 1966, by a group of Farmington residents, interested in preserving Farmington Township under the Township form of government. The committee and its members have actively opposed the incorporation movement through public meetings, studies, and distribution of literature to Township residents.

Excerpts from the Committee's Fact Book are as follows:

INTRODUCTION
"The Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township is not a one-shot organization. It is made up of concerned citizens from every section of the Township . . . and welcomes members from all portions of the Township.

"Its first job is to defeat the proposal for incorporation. But it will remain active after the election to study and work on other Township problems. 'Eternal vigilance' is essential.

COMMITTEE FUNDS
"The Committee's funds come from contributions of its members . . . and will spend its funds on research, printing, mailing and informing citizens.

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION
"Farmington Township has entered in the same court its contention that control of population and population density is essential. . . . Equally important is control of its territory.

"In the past, the City of Farmington has attempted to annex portions of the Township four times. Two attempts were successful and the last try failed by only 25 votes. Further attempts at annexation are almost certain to come.

TAX BASE
"Tax base is that amount of value existing within a community which is subject to taxation. The higher the tax base, the lower the tax rate.

"Farmington's tax base is dangerously low, being the lowest of twelve comparable communities.

"The only practical way the tax base will be increased is by the annexation of new residential tax base. . . . The possible loss to the community, financially, by annexation of its territory is approximately 5 square miles would ultimately be a minimum of \$440,000 per year of income.

"The loss of territory within one of our established sewer or water districts could cause loss to the remainder of the township.

Taxation
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"After extensive research on this subject we find no support for the class offered them and projections, to indicate that a change in city status would increase taxes in any amount over that which can be expected.

See Study Committee Page 7-A

WHY OPPOSED
"We are opposed to incorporation because we like the present country style of living. . . . We like the clean air, ample play space, sparse traffic, spacious neighborhoods, good uncrowded schools, absence of industrial neighbors.

"We like the democracy of township living. We like to know that when we have a special need for service, we can get together with neighbors and form a special assessment district. . . . don't have to wait for the entire community to wake up to our needs. . . . and people in other neighborhoods can't saddle us with the cost of supplying their services."

"A city form of government would not affect the way our schools are run. . . . but incorporation raises problems in connection with the education of our children. Livonia incorporated for much the same reasons we are being urged to incorporate. . . . Township problems. . . . Livonia voters defeated a proposed school tax increase.

"We have reached the saturation point of the taxpayers' side. . . . Why? Because wherever and whenever an area has incorporated, builders have found it economically advantageous to erect zoning restrictions and fill subdivision after subdivision with hundreds upon hundreds of homes. . . . They've done it in Livonia, but haven't been able to do it us."

STREETS-ROADS
"The proponents of incorporation . . .

Plan Apology For Delay
Members of the Township Planning Commission approved the writing of a letter of apology to proponents of a rezoning request after a hearing at their regular meeting of May 25.

The proponents, represented by A. C. Kahrl, have appeared on several occasions to request rezoning of lots 55 through 66 located on Shawwassee Road east and west of Purdue Street.

The original request was for a business classification to allow the construction of a party store on the site and a public hearing was set for the April 28 meeting. At the hearing nearby residents voiced opposition to the proposed party store, but indicated that an office zone for the property would be acceptable.

MR. KAHL STATED that the owners would be satisfied with any change in zoning that would allow some use for the property, since it is unsuited for residential as now zoned.

Kahrl then changed the request from business to office and the request was scheduled for public hearing on May 25. When the hearing came up at the May meeting board members realized that it could not be held because it had not been re-advertised after the change had been made.

Kahrl left the meeting after expressing strong disappointment over the unnecessary delay in getting the property rezoned.



THE FESTIVAL FUND SIGN now decorating the top of the Farmington Board of Commerce Office in the Downtown Farmington Center shows the thermometer on the rise with two months still to go before the Founders' Festival July 29, 30 and 31. Gus Trites (left) of the Trites Sign Company of Farmington and Ed Balda of the Board of Commerce are pictured at work erecting the sign. Trites donated the sign which is being used to keep citizens informed on how the Festival Fund Drive is progressing. Farmington merchants and businessmen are urged to contribute to the fund which will be used to help stage this year's Founders' Festival.

3 Boys Killed On Twp. Highways

Three separate fatal accidents in Farmington Township this past week claimed the lives of three Farmington teenagers. The deaths brought to a total of seven the number killed on area highways this year and gave rise to the formation this week of the South Oakland County Traffic Promotion Society.

No Comment On Bank Zone
No comments were forthcoming at a public hearing before the Township Planning Commission on May 25, on the rezoning of property at the southeast corner of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads.

Mr. Figley, representative for the Michigan Bank of Detroit, stated that the bank had finally acquired the balance of the property needed for a bank, shopping center and parking area.

The Commission approved the rezoning of lots 12 through 30 inclusive of Block A, Farmington Heights Subdivision from residential to parking, and lots 31 through 49 inclusive of Block B, Farmington Heights Subdivision, including all of vacated Fordson Avenue from Orchard Lake Road to Greening Street, from residential to business.

LAWRENCE JOHNSON, 14, of 30415 South Skilledon in Farmington was killed on Tuesday night, May 24, when the bicycle he was riding was struck by a car on 12 Mile Road just west of Green Castle. The driver of the car, Edward S. Butcher, 29, of 3022 Wicklow in Farmington, told Township Police he did not see the youth but felt the impact and "knew he had hit something". Both were headed west on 12 Mile Road.

See Accidents Page 8-A

THE OLD BARN BEHIND Henry Old's gas station burned down Tuesday night. The Farmington Elks just recently moved their Ox-Roast equipment out of storage in the place.

THE SPOTLIGHT THIS WEEK in the Farmington Founders' Festival Bread Growing Contest falls on Doug Snyder (at right) of the Farmington Elks. Doug has kept his whiffers trimmed quite well and would be a leading candidate for "hottest beard honors". If it wasn't for the fact he's ineligible to win because he belongs to the Elks, one of the contest's co-sponsors. The other contest sponsor is this newspaper.

WE HAVE A FEELING there will be a rash of entries in the Beard Growing Contest after word gets out next week on who the judges will be. Would you believe Gina Lollobrigida????

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS to the Don O. Nortons as they celebrate their sixtieth year of wedded bliss. It is given only to a favored few to reach this outstanding milestone in their lifetime. We'll wager they have a store of reminiscences that would sound like fairy tales to the modern generation. They can probably ever remember when it wasn't necessary to foot a bank loan to pay for a good steak dinner. Or maybe they recall when the big deal with cars wasn't whether they were safe to drive but whether to move the tool kit in off the running board.

FRIENDS OF OURS, checking in their dog book on emergencies that might possibly arise when they took their pet to the northern wilds over Memorial Day, discovered that the thing to do if he came off second best in an argument with a skunk was to give him a bath in tomato juice. This upset them considerably as they couldn't imagine a wilderness cabin being equipped with a bathtub full of that commodity. Even if it had been, it would be a probability has been utilized as an ingredient for Bloody Marys.

Safety Group Formed to Curb Hwy. Slaughter

Reaction to the tragic deaths on Farmington Township roads this past week was swift as law enforcement officers and interested citizens joined to create the South Oakland County Traffic Promotion Society, an organization which will be dedicated to reducing highway accidents and improving traffic safety.

Elected President at the organizational meeting of the new traffic safety group on Tuesday, May 31, was Sgt. Arlo Newell, Traffic Safety Officer for the Farmington Township Police Department.

SERVING WITH Sgt. Newell as officers of the group are Township Police Chief Irving H. Yakes, John I. Bain of the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, a Farmington resident, and doctors Donald Borman and L. E. Goldman of Farmington.

All five of the safety group's leaders had occasion this past week to become directly involved in the fatal accidents which claimed the lives of three Farmington teenagers. Borman and Goldman serve as coroners for Oakland County while Bain heads the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office serving south Oakland County in Royal Oak. Jerome Borman, Oakland County Prosecutor, is also serving with the group.

DRAFTED AT THE organizational meeting on Tuesday was a program for promoting traffic safety, especially among young adults and children.

Aims of the Society include campaigning for lower speed limits on area roads and police officers for traffic enforcement in the Township and bringing greater awareness of the problem to certain areas. If the law is to be strictly enforced on all those using our highways.

Det. Edison Concerned On Regulations

Mr. John Marin, attorney for the Detroit Edison Company, appeared at the May 23 meeting of the Township Planning Commission to present his clients' views on the proposed requiring of underground installation of distribution lines for telephone and electric services in new subdivisions.

Mr. Marin stated that Detroit Edison has been doing underground installation where practical, but would be extremely object to any regulations that would require all lines to be underground. He said that if the Commission decides that it is of importance to make such requirements he would strongly urge that exceptions be included in the ordinance.

UNDERGROUND installations within a subdivision are usually possible, he said; but the perimeter, feeder lines would be a problem in certain areas. If the entire Township were platted, feeder lines could be planned, he continued; but under the present development, perimeter feed lines must be overhead in most cases.

In discussion Commission members asked several questions that Marin said could better be answered by qualified engineers. He agreed to arrange for Edison Company engineers to attend the June 23 meeting to answer questions.

City's Recreation Dept. Concludes Spring Term

The city recreation department ended the spring portion of its program last week as it held "graduation exercises" for those who mastered the beginner's course in square dancing.

The festivities included several games for prizes, candy and cake, graduation caps, and a final tip.

A total number of forty persons completed the twenty-six week course for beginners and this group will form the nucleus for next year's intermediate class. A beginner's class is also planned.

All in all, 25 couples of 50 people participated in the major portion of the program. The men's group segment of the program saw an average of 28 persons participate as the total count was 524 for the twenty

weeks duration. The children's group participants numbered 911 for the same period.

Only 232 ladies turned out for the class offered them and plans are being made to improve this portion of the program. Musical accompaniment and varied exercises should improve this count next year.

The department also plans to include several other activities in the program next year and is open to suggestions from the populace. A bridge class is again planned and it is hoped by recreation officials that residents will be more responsive.

Large numbers have been reported by Clarenceville swim authorities of Farmington who have utilized the swim facilities in joint cooperation with the FORD.



FARMINGTON CITY CLERK Trena Quian is pictured above with the award presented to the City in acknowledgement of third place achievement in voting percentage and registration for the class offered them and plans are being made to improve this portion of the program. Musical accompaniment and varied exercises should improve this count next year.

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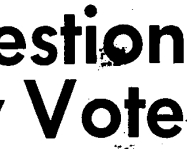
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