

# The Farmington Enterprise

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FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN

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## Boundaries Report Delayed Typ. Fiscal Year Begins; Budget Hazy

The boundaries committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors will meet again, probably early next week, for further discussion of petitions asking an election on incorporating part of Farmington Township as a "City of Farmington Hills."

The supervisors committee met for nearly an hour Thursday, before adjourning to collect more information on a Genesee County lawsuit which might affect the legality of the "Farmington Hills" petitions.

COUNTY COUNSEL Robert

P. Allen asked for a few days so that he could check the Genesee case, which reportedly may involve a question of the reasonableness of the boundaries of a city.

If the case appears to have no similarity to the Farmington case, presumably the supervisors boundary committee will meet early in the week and make a recommendation that the full County Board either set a date for an incorporation election or reject the petitions.

The recommendation is expected to reach the County Board at either its April 17 or April 25 meetings. Officials saw little chance the full board could get the recommendation by its April 11 meeting.

If, however, counsel Allen finds the Genesee case raises a legal point that could be applied here, then it would be difficult to say what action the supervisors boundaries committee might take.

RAISING questions Thursday about the proposal to incorporate part of Farmington Township were Wood Creek Farms Village President William E. Brown and Councilman David Martin, who appeared before the boundaries committee.

They noted that their village, most of Sec. 1 of the township and the Village of Quakertown had been left out of the incorporation proposal.

Without attacking the incorporation plan, they asked about the legality of (1) leaving Quakertown as an unincorporated island surrounded by a city, (2) leaving the eliminated areas to organize a dis-

jointed township, and (3) placing the triangular piece of land in Sec. 1 bounded by Middlebelt, Northwestern and 13 Mile in the incorporation proposal.

In reply to their questions, attorney Allen said there are such township "islands" inside cities, and segmented townships, elsewhere in Michigan. But he asked for a few days to check the Genesee case in order to be certain that no new boundary-type questions were being raised.

By TIM RICHARD  
Enterprise Editor

Farmington Township last week began its new fiscal year without knowing for certain its tax base, its tax rate or its budget size—and with one of its biggest possible expenditures not even shown in its budget.

The irony is that it all appears to be done according to law and necessity.

And the township will be a good two months into its fiscal year before all the unknowns are nailed down in black and white.

FISCAL 1967 ended in March with the Township Board's transferring a \$77,000 surplus from the general fund into a building fund.

The building fund, according to Supervisor Curtis Hall, now has grown to about \$250,000. This fund isn't shown in regular operating accounts.

Purpose of the building fund is expansion of the township hall, which the supervisor estimates will cost \$225,000. A special building and grounds committee is currently interviewing architects.

Current thinking, Hall said, is to turn about 80 per cent of the present township office space to the badly cramped police department. Most other buildings move into the new addition.

WHERE DID the building fund come from?

It was built up over several years as of March 23, just a week before the fiscal year ended, sales tax returns from the state were \$244,000, nearly \$27,000 more than the budget estimate; miscellaneous permits and fees brought in nearly \$94,000, nearly \$22,000 more than expected; and inspection fees were almost \$4,000, some \$25,000 more than anticipated.

That's how the most of last year's \$77,000 surplus came into being.

ON PAPER, the new budget for fiscal 1967-68 is \$968,088, some \$195,208 or 25.3 per cent higher than last year's budget. This doesn't include construction of water and sewer lines, which are handled in separate funds through special assessments.

Several big items account for most of that \$195,000 increase.

Police — \$256,000, an increase of nearly \$66,000 or 35 per cent over last year's budget.

The township would get two of those mills from a special levy first approved by voters in 1964 for fire and fire protection. This will bring in a cool \$240,000.

The budget also asks the other 17 mills even the township of 15 collected in winter for county, school and township purposes and divided by the county Tax Allocation Board.

Currently, the township is getting 1.2 mills. Whether it can get the additional half-mill it wants remains to be seen.

County Tax Allocation Board will begin hearings in

May, issuing a decision around the first of June.

It may be that the county authority will trim the township's request by a half-mill, back to last year's 1.2 mills. If so, then the township board will have to trim some \$60,000 from the budget.

ANOTHER UNKNOWN is the tax base—the total valuation of all taxable property in the township.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, it was \$108 million. For the new fiscal year, it's estimated at \$120 million.

If that estimate is correct, one mill will yield \$120,000; two mills, \$240,000; 3.2 mills, \$384,000; and 3.7 mills, \$393,600.

The uncertainty is caused by the county equalization factor—the multiplier designed to bring all cities and townships into line, despite different local assessing policies. This question will be answered in several months.

UNCERTAIN, TOO, is the outcome of a public hearing. Under the new state constitution, every local government budget has to be the subject of a public hearing. Farmington Township's will come in June, after the Tax Allocation Board has acted, Hall said.

Clearly do these hearings affect the position of township board toward a budget that has worked on for months.

There appears to be little the township can do except squawk. If it is so inclined—and that's uncommon. In the latter days of the 20th century, people don't go to public agency meetings unless they have a specific neighborhood gripe.

WHAT, THEN, does the general fund budget figure last year that began April 1 actually look like?

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THE ENTIRE McCREIGHT family (from left): Lynn, mother Wilma, new arrival David, Lee, Charley, Edith Ray and Susan.

## Congress Helps Family Grow

By SHIRLEY BERGER

Visitors to the Ray McCreight home at 2673 Drake Rd. are apt to be greeted by a small, dark haired dynamo hurling himself into their arms and chattering away in Korean.

The little dynamo is four-year-old David, the fourth of the McCreights' adopted Korean children and theirs by right of a special act of Congress.

David's three older sisters were adopted in 1961 under the laws of Korea, but a new U.S. law limits such adoptions to two per couple. Thus, it became necessary to get a "private" bill introduced, which then-Congressman Billie S. Farnum did in 1966.

FOR AWHILE, it was questionable whether the bill would pass because it was among 66 left over to the end of the session. Only five of these survived.

One day last October, Congressman Farnum called to tell the McCreights that David was theirs except for a few additional loops of red tape. The U.S. Immigration authorities completed their investigation of the family, then cabled Tokyo telling their inspector there to make his investigation on his next monthly trip to Korea.

Procuring a copy of the signed bill used up another month. Pan American airlines reserves six seats every two weeks for passengers such as David and, when numbers warrant it, schedules a chartered flight for those waiting to be processed.

Finally, on March 10, Ray and Wilma McCreight got into a plane and flew to Chicago to meet the newest member of their family. It was late when they returned, so they put down their very tired little bundle to see whether he was familiar with a bed. (When the girls first arrived, they had preferred to sleep on the floor.) But David seemed quite at home and immediately climbed in to sleep soundly that first night between his new parents.

IN THE MORNING, the girls took over. Lynne, 11; Lee, 8; and Susan, almost 7, wanted to make sure that their new little brother was complete in every respect. Big brother Charlie was on the spot, too, and they even counted David's fingers to make sure none was missing. Charles, age 6, was born to the McCreights just five months before the girl's joined the family.

For a few days, until David's internal clock was readjusted, he wanted to sleep days and stay awake nights. This and the matter of communication were the only two minor problems encountered.

Wilma McCreight, who studied the Korean language for a couple of years after the girls came, acts as translator until the new arrivals conquer the complexities of American.

Both Wilma and Ray are teachers at North Farmington High School. She teaches chemistry; he teaches math. For this reason, the children attend nursery school and an all-day kindergarten, thus minimizing the baby sitter problem.

All of the children do well in school, and the girls seem to have the built-in music talents native to so many of the Korean people. All three girls take piano lessons and have studied singing privately.

Lynne has trumpeted and violin lessons at school, and the others will be allowed to choose their instruments when they reach the proper grade level.

THE McCREIGHTS lost a boy of 14 to an unaccountable attack of Spanish influenza in 1959. The Bernard McCreight award for scholarship at O. E. Dunckel Junior High School has been established in his memory. His parents have chosen to fill up the empty spaces left in their lives by building a new family.

They heard of Harry Holt, an Oregon farmer who switched to a full time career of matching up Korean orphans with parents who had quantities of love to offer. So far 3,500 children have been brought to America with his help. Four to five hundred are still waiting in the South orphanage.

The McCreights say that it isn't difficult to bring over two children.

First step in the process was to send a letter of inquiry to the Holt Adoption Program, Box 95, Creswell, Ore.

The county, state and immigration people have been just wonderful from start to finish," they agreed.

When Lynne throws her arms around her mother, and the smaller ones romp together on the rug, the love and laughter in this happy household indicate that it was a compatible decision for all.

Teenagers may seek advice on their problems from a panel sponsored by the Greater Farmington Youth Guidance Committee.

Answers to teens' letters will be published by The Enterprise.

YOUNG PERSONS in the Farmington area may request advice on schoolwork, family relations or other personal problems.

Letters will be coded to keep them confidential and anonymous and turned over to a panel of professional consultants, who will consider the problem and provide a written answer.

These answers will be published in The Enterprise's "Teens Letterbox," which will be an editorial page feature. The identity of the letter writer or will, of course, be withheld.

Letters should be addressed to: "Teens Letterbox," Youth Guidance Committee, 33423 Grand River, Farmington, Mich. 48024.

Under reapportionment, Farmington, because of its population, is mathematically entitled to 13 supervisors—or 51 seats.

District 8 would take in Farmington 1 through 11 in Farmington Township, about three-fourths of West Bloomfield Township and the City of Sylvan Lake. Its population would be 25,529.

FARMINGTON as a whole stands to gain, at least mathematically, by the reapportionment.

At present, the area has two supervisors — Delos Hamlin, representing the city, and Township Supervisor Curtis Hall.

The two hold 23 per cent of the voting power on the 87-member board. (In political terms, however, they hold considerable power because Hamlin is chairman of the board and Hall is on good terms with him.)

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## County Remap To Help And Split F'ton

Greater Farmington — the city and the township combined — stand to gain a relatively louder voice on the Oakland County Board of Supervisors under a "one man, one vote" formula due for public discussion this week.

The county's five-man apportionment commission will hold a public hearing on County Board representation Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the supervisors' auditorium in Pontiac.

The apportionment commission, composed of four Democrats and one Republican, has agreed that the County Board should be reduced from the present 87 members picked from cities and townships to 57 members picked from special districts.

POLITICALLY, Greater Farmington would be divided among two districts, according to the map.

District 9, with 24,889 per-

sons, would include all of the City of Farmington, the part of Farmington Township south of 12 Mile Road plus the Village of Wood Creek Farms.

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## Aid Offered Local Teens

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## Vocational Tax Plan Faces Tough Road

Besides electing board of education members on June 12, Farmington School District voters will also take part in a county-wide proposition to raise about a half-mill for vocational-technical education at the high school level.

The proposal, ordered in to the ballot Tuesday by the Oakland County Intermediate school board, faces rough going.

There is increasing voter resistance to taxes, according to Farmington board member Monroe Osmun of Pontiac.

If Farmington Township voters will decide on a one-mill district library construction proposition May 22.

Madison Heights School District at the same election will vote on two proposals to

talting 17 mills for operations — and the proposals face rough going because both were defeated last September.

A Southern school district voters will be asked to renew a five mill operations tax — after turning down a 5.5 mill proposal only two weeks ago.

The ballot proposal calls for 29 local school districts, all part of the Oakland Intermediate district district to ask voters for funds to set up four vocational-technical training "centers" throughout the county.

"THE AREA center courses should be supplemental to the student's home high school," says a proposal to the school boards from the superintendents.

Possible occupational areas include auto mechanics, office work, dental office assistant, metalcutting, welding and business machine operating.

The intermediate board would contract with local boards to build or furnish space for the area voc-tech centers.

COST OF building four facilities is estimated at nearly \$5.5 million, which the state and federal governments might be expected to pay as much as half.

Operating cost is estimated at a bit more than \$1 million a year, with the state paying as much as 75 per cent.

The four voc-tech centers would have a capacity of 1,360 full time students.