

The Observer

OF FARMINGTON

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VOL. 3—NO. 22 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1966 33425 Grand River, Farmington Philip H. Power, Publisher



Community Goes to Court Tuesday

The City of Farmington will appear in the Oakland County Circuit Court at 9 a.m. Jan. 3 to show why the court should not issue the injunction sought by the Township to restrain the City from providing any water and sewer facilities to the newly annexed portion of the city.

If granted the injunction would stop any City action until the dispute is settled between the City and the Township.

In the suit which will be heard by Judge Arthur E. asked for:

A declaratory judgment that the City is bound by the various agreements the Township has made with the Oakland County DPW for water and sewer facilities and that the City be prohibited from construct-

ing any facilities which do not connect into the existing systems and that the City be obligated to charge the tap in fees.

The City is equipped to provide service with its existing facilities as far west as Drake Rd. and would use the County lines for the remainder of the area.

Prior to the annexation election the City Council quoted a price of the cost of installing these services as considerably less than what the Township officials estimated the cost.

City Manager Joan Dinan has stated that this contract is firm and that no matter what the outcome of the suit the price will remain the same.

Since the Township alleges that \$800,000 in funds would be lost to the Town-

ship if the City follows its planned course the cost to the general City budget if it loses the case would be rough.

On the other hand the Township at large is required to pay for the cost of these facilities under the general millage voted to develop the industrial area and it would put quite a hole in the Township coffers if it loses the case.

The basis of the legal argument seems to be whether the financial settlement should be on the basis of the area as it exists today or its potential.

The 457 acres annexed by the City currently accounts for about one percent of the Township's general revenue. The potential is far greater than that, however, as the area is still relatively undeveloped.

Needless to say the City says that it is legally held to make a settlement on the basis of what is already developed, while the Township is fighting for a settlement on the overall potential of the land.

If the Township wins the case the funds will not go to the Township, but rather to the County and thus help to reduce the Township's overall indebtedness.

In its suit the Township alleges that the City made representations during the annexation campaigns which stated that:

"The property owners in this area would not be required to pay connection charges equal to those required by the Township for sewers;

"The property owners would not be required to pay connection charges and debt service charges on water facilities; and

"The City would supply water supply and sewer facilities to at least a portion of the area by extending the City services which are independent of the Oakland County DPW."

Under agreements signed by the Township the facilities in the area are to be provided by the County systems and the Township at large is bound to pay the construction costs.

The construction costs are paid for by the tap in fees which under Township ordinances are \$150 per foot for \$350 for a direct tap in to the line for sewers and \$75 per unit or \$400 for a direct tap in for water plus a \$20 unit service charge each year for each unit.

Office Rewards Postman

Quick thinking and quick work by a Farmington postman in November was rewarded on Christmas Eve by the U.S. Post Office.

It all started when Robert Helgren was delivering mail on Rosa wood in Farmington Township. He noticed smoke coming from the Scott house at 33117 Ronwood and blew his horn as an alarm.

The babysitter, 16-year-old Harold Luttman of 21198 Cass, Farmington, went to the door to find out what was the matter. Helgren told him that he thought the house was on fire and helped to bring the four Scott children, Marie, 7; Robinson Jr., 6; Elizabeth, 3; and Eric, 2; from the house.

A few days later Harold's mother, Mrs. Harold Luttman, wrote to the Postmaster General of Farmington, Postmaster Henry Trombley, telling of the incident.

Mr. Helgren, just going his way, saw the Scott children may have been trapped in the burning house," she said.

"When we bow our heads at our Thanksgiving dinner table, we will be saying a special prayer to God to thank him for Mr. Helgren and his help. Thank you, post office, for having such a wonderful man on your staff."

The Post Office Department agreed with Mrs. Luttman that Helgren's action was "something special and on Christmas Eve presented the postman with a special award of \$100.

FARMINGTON'S HOMES are a blaze of lights with the holiday season, as shown in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sald, 2002 Valley Side Drive took the first prize, while Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lion of The Salds were the second place winners in 2567 Colony Circle won third place.



Township Has Busy Year With Elections

By CURTIS H. HALL
Farmington Twp. Supervisor

Nineteen sixty-six will probably be remembered longest by our citizens as a year of controversial election issues. We began the year with a pending proposal for incorporation of our Township as a home-rule City having just prevented the annexation of an important portion of the Township to the Township by a narrow margin.

After considerable debate pro and con our people overwhelmingly decided to stay

mal Planning Commission and received a grant of Federal Funds for a three-year updating of our Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Plans are now completed and a contract approved with the City of Detroit City Water for the entire north-east section of our Township including the two villages. Negotiations between the Department of Public Works and the Townships of West Bloomfield and Farmington have assured the completion of the 13 Mile Road Sewer Arm which will permit service to the north-east section of the Township including Woodrock Subdivision which is badly in need of such service.

On the future schedule is the paving of Drake Road between Grand River and 11 Mile Rd. and the paving of Power Rd. between 10 and 11 Mile Rd. The paving of 11 Mile Road will be completed from Orchard Lake to Power Rd.

Recognizing the growing problem of rubbish and trash removal, the Township has begun a study into ways and means of improving present practices.

All of the foregoing can only scratch the surface of the Programs of Progress which are constantly being developed in our Township. Overall your Township administration feels that 1966 was a successful year and looks forward to more progress in the coming year.

HALL

with the Township form of government despite its drawbacks. Encouraged by this action the City again attempted to annex portions of the Township, this time including virtually all of our industrial park.

Although we were ultimately able to defeat the city's bid for our industrial area we did end up losing the portion of the Township we had saved in the fall of 1965.

These major questions occupied much of the time of your Township government and probably the major amount of news coverage but during all this time your Township continued to push forward its Program of Progress. Sanitary sewer service was provided to several additional subdivisions, a new fire equipment was procured, the police force was enlarged, the police radio system was improved and other changes introduced to make it more efficient and to serve our citizens.

During the past year the Township established a for-

1966 Was Year of Big Expansion for Schools

By G. V. HARRISON
Superintendent of Schools

The year 1966 started in the 21 public schools of Farmington with 13,533 children and young people in attendance. The situation in 1966 is very much the same as that of the past 10 years in Farmington—continued rapid growth, with about one thousand more students in attendance than in 1965.

For the first time in 1966 the Board of Education negotiated Master Contracts under Public Act No. 379 of 1965 with four groups of employees:

- The Farmington Education Association representing the teachers.
- The Farmington Educational Secretaries Association.
- Local No. 1458 A.F.C.M.E. representing maintenance, operation, cafeteria and bus mechanics; and
- The Farmington Bus Drivers' Club.

The community can be proud of the good faith that was shown on the part of the Board of Education and all four employ groups in developing very workable contracts that have now been in operation for six months.

Some of the other highlights of the past year:

- A new program using Federal funds under 89-1 Title I started Feb. 1. The school district received a grant of \$112,760 to be used to enrich the experiences of those students who were facing learning problems and to help them become self-reliant unless their reading and other basic skills were improved.
- Dr. Harry Hahn, professor of education at Oakland University and a nationally known expert in the field

City Plans Ahead On Services & Taxes

By W. V. BROTHERTON
Mayor, City of Farmington

The keynote in the City of Farmington for 1966 has been one of expansion. Through the successful annexation of approximately 500 acres, the City increased its area by 38 percent which gives the community an opportunity to grow, prosper and provide municipal services in a more efficient manner.

With 95 percent of the community developed, the City desperately needed the room for expansion to stay abreast of increased cost of operations. The City is organized to service this additional population with little increase in operational cost because of the geographical location of this area and its proximity to downtown. We believe that the ultimate development of this property will produce more than \$12,000,000 in assessed valuation or \$120,000 in City taxes plus additional State revenues based on increased population and enlarged highway system.

The re-organization of the Public Works and Water & Sewer Departments was effectuated during the past year with the appointment of Director of Public Utilities Theodore E. DeBene. This appointment was designed to strengthen supervision in these departments and develop administrative procedures, purchasing, cost accounting and procedures for processing complaints and recording of their dispositions. Improved service has resulted through this additional administrative leadership in the operation of these departments.

The loss of our Public Safety Director to Sterling Township in 1966 required re-organization of our Public Safety Department. We were able to advance personnel within the department to fill this vacancy. Under the direction of our new Chief, Robert F. Deadman, the department has been functioning in a very efficient manner as evidenced with enforcement up

Township Racks Up Fatality

Farmington Township chucked up another traffic fatality last week when a Union Lake man died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Dec. 18 on the west end of Farmington Rd.

Dead is Alexander Galat, 40, of 3135 Brookline. A passenger in the car, Grace was taken to Eastford Hospital.

Galat's car hit a car turning into a driveway on 14 Mile Rd. driven by a 16-year-old Farmington boy. The youth told police that he was following his newspapers and was turning into the driveway. He said that he did not see the car in time to get out of its path.

Kendallwood Winners

Mr. and Mrs. William Young of 28610 Kirkside, won the first prize in the Christmas Decorating Contest in Farmington Township; Kendallwood Subdivision. Second place in the contest, sponsored by the subdivision homeowner association, went to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson of 2291 Hearstone, while Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lovett of 28793 Kendallwood Drive, won third place.

Javees Week Observed

National Jaycee Week will be observed in Farmington Jan. 15 to 21. The Farmington City Council voted to issue a proclamation of the week at its last regular meeting. The City also granted the Jaycees permission to erect a banner on Farmington Rd. just south of Grand River, but stipulated that this was not setting a precedent.

City Plans Ahead On Services & Taxes

20 percent over the previous year and accidents down. Farmington is one of the few municipalities to furnish drivers' licensing service.

Our licensing has increased 70 percent over the previous year as we are providing this service for a 60 cent mile area. Five losses which less than \$25,000 this year and the department has maintained losses not exceeding this amount for the past

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