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# The Observer

## OF FARMINGTON

This Week's Press Run  
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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Pa ul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Westland and Townships of Plymouth, Redford and Farmington  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1967  
 33425 Grand River, Farmington  
 Philip H. Power, Publisher

# Library Proposal Goes to Voters May 22

Residents of Farmington Township will go to the polls May 22 to vote on whether or not a one mill levy for the period of 10 years for the purpose of library expansion.

In the formal proposition, which was approved by the Township Board Monday night, the proposal is earmarked "to be used first for the construction and equipping of adequate library facilities upon the site now owned by the Farmington City and

Township District Library on the south side of 12 Mile Rd. . . . and any surplus thereof to be used for other capital improvements and operating expenses of the Farmington City and Township District Library or any other public library serving Farmington Township."

Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan told the Board that he thought the wording of the pro-

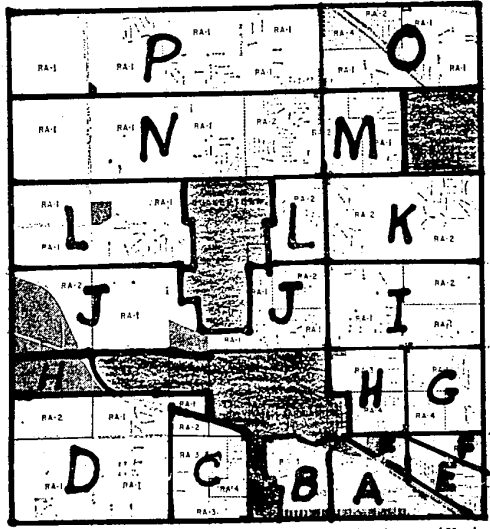
position expressed the intent approved by he Board when it voted to place the matter on the ballot.

Trustee Earl Oppertbauer stated that he thought the proposal was well worded and would emphasize that the proposition would be primarily for building a library on the 12 Mile site. This will have to be understood in order for the proposition to have a chance of passing, he observed.

Township Supervisor Curt Hall observed that,

the wording of the proposal would ensure that "we won't be getting into a stalemate on a two and two Board." (Under the District Library set up both the City and the Township have two representatives on the Board.)

"This ensures that the people in the northern portion of the Township will have library service," Hall asserted, "and if they don't we just won't let the tax."



FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP has set up a new schedule for rubbish collection. The map outlines the various collection areas. Days for pickup are: A—First Monday; B—Monday; C—Wednesday; D—Thursday; E—Friday; F—Second Monday; G—Tuesday after second Monday; H—Wednesday; I—Thursday; J—Friday; K—Third Monday; L—Tuesday after third Monday; M—Wednesday; N—Thursday; O—Tuesday after first Monday; P—Wednesday; Q—Friday; R—Fourth Monday.

# Township Drops Its Stand On FARC Reorganization

The Farmington Township Board voted to drop its insistence on the reorganization of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission for one year Monday night.

Under previous instructions from the Board Trustee Earl Oppertbauer had pushed for a complete reorganization of the FARC.

This reorganization had called for three representatives from the Township, two from the Farmington School District and one each from the City of Farmington and the Clarenceville School District.

After the first reorganization meeting of the group Oppertbauer outlined his

plan and asked the representatives of the other three governing bodies to check and report back.

Monday night Oppertbauer told the Township Board that he had heard from the representatives of the two school boards who said that their groups had no objection to the proposal.

"However, the City's representative Mr. Ralph Yoder has advised me that the City Council gave him no formal instructions," Oppertbauer said. "He said that he wanted to present some alternate proposals, but didn't say what they were."

"We don't want to see the program stymied for the coming year just because of the failure of the City to recognize the fact that we don't want to be caught in a similar position to that of the Library District Board."

"Therefore," the trustee continued, "I recommend that we accede for a period of one year to the idea that one representative from each of the governing bodies serve. However, the committee should be advised that we will expect that one year from now a change be made in order to be fair and proper representation, according to the population and support of the governmental bodies of the FARC."

"It is obvious," he concluded, "that the Commission will not be able to meet the needs of the coming year if we continue to receive obstinate opposition from the City."

# Township Approves Proposal For Regional Organization

The Farmington Township Board gave its approval to participate in the proposed Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments on a trial basis for a one year period Monday night.

Voting on the proposal, which will cost the Township an estimated \$750 (under the 1960 census figures), was six in favor with Trustee James Skillman abstaining.

Township Supervisor Curt Hall termed the proposal, which calls for voluntary, regional cooperation among the local governmental units in a six county area, as "a step ahead in facing the enormous problems that are going to face us."

Trustee Thomas Nolan said that he was inclined to give the proposed organization a year's trial to see if it worked. Trustee Arthur Bassette said that he would support the proposal because "it appears that there must be overall planning and we need an overall source in as much as this is an voluntary and advisory group," he said, "I will support it. I didn't say that I liked it, but I will support it."

Trustee James Skillman

said that he had two major questions about the proposal. "I wonder if you need another level of government," he queried and "I also wonder if it would give anything to Farmington Township and what it would cost us not only in dollars and cents, but in the loss of self government."

"Hall said that this proposal would do away with the Detroit Regional Planning Commission which has done a tremendous job on planning and coordination. "This is an advisory group," he emphasized.

Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan compared the proposed organization to a trade association which allows private industries to cooperate on mutual problems, but still allows for the private competitive spirit.

"Perhaps this Council will help to prevent the imposition of metropolitan government on another level and if we don't take steps to solve our problems the state or federal government will step in," he added.

Hall told the Board that a total of 80 local governmental units in the six southern Michigan counties had signified their intent to participate.

The Farmington City Council and the Farmington Board of Education have also passed resolutions of intent to participate in the organization.

Following this action the Board named Fred Luchman of 26818 Kendallwood Drive as the Township representative on the FARC. Luchman, executive vice president of the Tulsa Oil Company, has been active in the local Little League.

The Board stipulated that Luchman be appraised of the Township's position on the reorganization.

# Add To 9th Grade Curriculum

In further revisions of the ninth grade curriculum, the Farmington Board of Education Monday evening approved the addition of Introduction to Speech and Current Events as one semester courses.

The previous action a few weeks ago Introduction to Typing also was approved as an additional ninth grade elective.

These changes were made upon the recommendation of Director of Secondary Education Joseph Nicita. Previously the staff

had spent two months examining other elective one semester courses in the curriculum.

This brings the one semester courses that are open to ninth grade students to eight. In addition to Typing, Speech and Current Events, they are General Business, Wood Shop, Metal Shop, Drafting and Civics.

General Business and Civics presently are offered for a full year, however the staff expressed a feeling that a one semester course in these two areas would be more appropriate.

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Trustee James Skillman

# Helping Hands Goal Supported

The Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary received endorsement of their Helping Hand Program from the Farmington Township Board and the Board of Education Monday evening.

The Farmington City Council gave their stamp of approval last week.

The Helping Hand Program is a system of emergency posts being established in private homes where adults are available to help elementary school children who might encounter difficulties such as illness, accident or harassment while en route to school.

The homes will be marked by a distinctive symbol, such as a large hand, to be prominently displayed.

# This Monday Is Last Day for Registering

You have until Monday, March 6, to register to vote in the City election April 3. Voter registrations are taken at City Clerk Trena Quinn's office at the City Hall Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you have not voted in the past two years or have recently moved you must register with the City Clerk in order to be eligible to cast your ballot. In order to vote in the election you must be a resident of the City, 21 years of age and have lived in the area for 30 days.

Residents of the Woodcroft Subdivision which has just been annexed by the City of Farmington are included in the City's voter roll if you were legally registered in Farmington Township.

Three City Councilmen and two municipal judges will be elected. The five incumbents are the only persons filing for the posts.

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# Only The Names Have Changed In The Local Battles

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** With all the current talk about annexation, incorporation and consolidation of the community The Observer decided to do some research into the 1958 battles in Farmington about annexation and incorporation. This is the first in a series about these campaigns. This week we examine some of the characteristics of the community in 1958.

**By SUE SHAGNESSY**

Only the names have changed, but the characters are the same. In fact not even all the names have changed.

That's the immediate reaction after one reads a case history prepared by two college professors on the 1958 attempts for annexation, and incorporation in Farmington. Wendell Brown figured prominently in the successful fight against the City of Farmington Woods in 1958. At that time Brown was a member of the Township Board and had the backing of the Township officials.

During the 1966 battle against incorporation into the City of Farmington Hills,

Brown and his group took on the Township officials.

Brown was the winner both times.

What actually happened in 1958 was a move to incorporate the Village of Quakerstown which was the result of a rumored annexation attempt by the City.

The City filed an amended annexation petition a few days after the Quakerstown petition was filed at the city's courthouse. The annexation attempt which included the Woodcroft and Heather Hills Subdivisions—was defeated. The Village of Quakerstown was formed.

Following this election a group of citizens from the Township League of Civic Associations filed petitions to incorporate an area of the Township into the City of Farmington Woods. One of the stated reasons of the group was to protect its boundaries against annexation attempts.

The area outlined included 143 square miles of the Township. The Village of Wood Creek Farms, which had been formed the previous year, was also excluded.

Residents of the southeastern portion of the Township then filed to incorporate into the City of Clarenceville. This was a 4.1 square mile parcel.

Proponents of the City of Farmington Woods suggested that the 7.8 miles in the south-

western part of the Township could form a Village of Woodcroft to protect its boundaries.

All this left just 4.5 miles in the Township.

The voters turned down the incorporation proposals in Nov., 1958 and the Township reverted to its normal status.

According to the history, which is published in a book "Profile of a Metropolis" available at the Farmington Library, during the 1950's the community had the following characteristics:

"Farmington Township had four times as many people as the City of Farmington, but they were spread out over 18 times as much land. . . . Most of the subdivisions did, in fact, have 'estate-sized' lots."

**She's a Scholar!**

Nancy J. Chamberlain of 28395 Grand Duke Dr., Farmington, has received a straight "A" grades for the Fall semester just ended at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. A sophomore, French major, she is one of 57 full time students at CMU to achieve this stature.

Although some of the subdivisions had a longer history, most of them had sprung up during the early fifties . . .

"With the exception of schools, governmental services in the township were minimal and were provided, for the most part, by county agencies such as the Road Commission and the sheriff's office."

The people who lived in the elegantly named subdivisions were mainly young middle- or upper-income families—commission salesmen, middle level executives, or members of a profession . . .

"In addition to the development dwellers, there were two other types of township residents. First, the true exurbanites . . . Many had found their roots in the township long before the suburban population wave hit, and they were hidden away on dirt roads and at the ends of private lanes. Finally the Township contained pockets of low-income families."

"The City too had felt the influx of those seeking the

suburban life. The population figures show that the period of most rapid growth for the City was in the decade of the fifties—mostly before 1958. Next week we will examine these various proposals and the people involved in the campaigns.



JOHN SMITH, manager of the Quakerstown Branch of the Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington, stands in front of the cutting ceremony. The public is invited to the three-day grand opening March 2, 3 and 4. Complete banking services will be offered at the facility.

GA 2-0900