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City Kicks Off Centennial Friday

Celebration to Run Until December, 1967

A hundred years is a long time when viewed during the lifetime of a man. It's not so long, however, when it's viewed in the perspective of the history of nations and ages. Viewed from this perspective the United States of America is a young nation. Viewed from this perspective the City of Farmington is a young community. To mortals, though, a hundred years is still a long time. It is this combination of youth and maturity which the City of Farmington will observe beginning this Friday. At Monday night's Council session Farmington's Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton officially proclaimed the period from May 6 to Dec. 31 as the Centennial of the City of Farmington. While the official centennial observance gets underway on Saturday, the City officials are jumping the gun a bit by scheduling an open house for Friday, May 5, at the City Hall. Hours of the open house are 1 to 5 p.m. City Manager John Dinan said that refreshments will be served and city officials will be on hand to greet the residents and to explain the workings of city government.

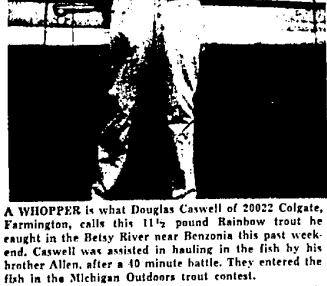


Youth Has Foot Severed On Hayride

A 17-year-old Farmington youth almost lost his foot Saturday night when the hay wagon in which he was riding was struck by an automobile on Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia. Injured was Robert Leach, 17, of 22264 North Brandon, a student at Farmington High School. Leach's foot was almost severed in the accident and he was operated on at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia Saturday night. Monday the hospital reported his condition as "fair". The rest of the students were treated for minor injuries and released. Another Farmington youth, Thomas Williams, 16, of 27765 Nine Mile Rd., returned to the hospital later Saturday night and was treated for fractures of the leg and knee.



FARMINGTON'S COUNSELORS Norman and Katherine Kinney of North Farmington and Charles Waubens of Farmington High School, consulted former students who are now students at Michigan Technological University in Houghton at the school's fourth annual Principal-Counselor-Student Conference April 27.



A WHOPPER is what Douglas Caswell of 20022 Colgate, Farmington, calls this 11 1/2 pound Rainbow trout he caught in the Betsy River near Benzonia this past weekend. Caswell was assisted in hauling in the fish by his brother Allen, after a 40 minute battle. They entered the fish in the Michigan Outdoors trout contest.

Planners Cast Wary Eye Upon Apartment Sites

Apartment developments under construction and the Township Planning Commission has turned thumbs down on most of the requests for rezoning for multiples in the past year. Last week, the Planners expressed concern about the number of apartments being built on land already carrying the multiple classification and took steps to rescind a parcel of land on Farmington Rd. back to the single home zoning. At issue was a site plan presentation for a 53-unit development to be constructed on the north side of 12 Mile Rd. just west of St. Fabian Church. Commissioner Russell Nankervis stated that "I feel this is an extension of the existing multiples" and asked Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan "what are the legal ramifications if we rezoned this property right now?" "A court case and we would probably lose" was Brennan's answer so the possibility of rezoning that particular 10 acres was dropped and the site plan approved. The Township Planning Commission did, however, set a public hearing on the rezoning to residential from (Continued on Page 4A)

Township Assessment Up Over '66

Newly released figures concerning equalized assessment value for Farmington Township disclose an \$11,735,281 increase from 1966 figures, part of a \$345 million increase for Oakland County that has sent county assessment figures over the \$3 billion mark for the first time. Figures for the city show a \$2,227,210 increase from \$30,444,889 last year to a 1967 value of \$32,672,190. Township figures have advanced to \$119,761,780 from \$108,026,499. Monday's annual equalization report in the county board of supervisors includes figures for Oakland County's 24 townships and 24 cities. County tax equalization director Herman W. Stephens reported that of the 24 townships, 16 have complied with the state requirement of a 50 per cent of market value assessment rate. Stephens noted, however, that Farmington Township is one of those that has yet to adopt the 50 per cent rate. Township assessor Robert Romer pointed out, however, that his office is currently taking steps to bring the township's operation up to the state-required norms. "It's been a matter of lack of time and personnel to adjust to the state requirement," Romer commented. Chief assessor for the city, George Clement, said that Farmington's figures were equalized at a 1.00 rate, as opposed to a 1.13 rate for last year. The new rate signifies that Farmington equalization has followed the 50 per cent requirement exactly, as have the efforts of most Oakland County municipalities.

Thayer Charges Nature Trails Are A 'Menace'

By DAN OKRENT A planning commission report that recommended a study of the feasibility of "nature trail" construction along the southern shore of the Rouge River was batted back and forth amid accusations of "idiotry" at Monday night's meeting of the Farmington City Council. Castigating the planning commission for suggesting the fostering of a "menace" to the public safety, Councilman Howard W. Thayer decried nature trails as being "wonderful places for lovers, sex deviates and child molesters." Thayer cited last week's "double rape-homicide" in Westland as being evidence of what might happen should the nature trails be constructed. Under the planning commission's recommendation, the nature trails would be routed and developed by Farmington resident, Harley Thornton, a naturalist for the state and the developer of similar trails in the Proud Lake Recreation Area. Thornton has volunteered his abilities to the planning commission. In addition to criticizing the commission, Councilman John D. Dinan for refusing to allow residents who own property fronting both sides of the river in the area in question to build fence on the south side. Dinan, who noted that the extent of south side land holdings is limited in depth to perhaps 12 feet, stated that any such fence building would be strictly an example of spite on the part of homeowners who oppose the nature trail plan. In addition, he commented, such fences might obstruct river-cleaning efforts on the part of the city. Thayer centered his charges concerning the nature trail "menace" on the fact that such trails would, by their wooded-area nature-courtesy infiltration by various criminal types who would hide in the forested sections. Councilman Hugo E. Peterson concurred in substance. In reply to Thayer's comments, Councilman John A. Allen pointed out that the area in question, as it exists, "has paths and shrubs that currently conceal danger that might occur. If there would be danger after the site was approved," Allen contended, "think of the danger that might exist before improvement." (Continued on Page 4A)

Trailer Park Code Gains Planners' OK

The Farmington Township Planning Commission has recommended an ordinance governing trailer parks to the Farmington Township Board. Action by the commission came last week after a public hearing on the matter. If the Township Board adopts the proposal, the ordinance will: • Require that notification by mail be sent to all property owners within 1,000 feet of proposed new trailer courts of the scheduled public hearing. • Prohibit courts within 1,000 feet of a residential district unless 80 percent of the property owners agree to the proposal. • Require an average lot size in new trailer courts of at least 3,000 square feet of space exclusive of drives and the minimum site for the lots is set at 35x85 feet. • Require a recreational area equal in size to at least 200 square feet per trailer site, which shall be no longer than one and a half times its width. • Set a minimum standard of 750 square feet of floor space in each trailer for the first two occupants and an additional 100 square feet for each additional resident. Township Clerk Floyd A. Catrins has termed the ordinance as an attempt to establish some standards which the Township does not currently have in the ordinances. Officials estimated that there are currently six trailer parks operating in the Township.

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BOARDED UP after a fire in which a 70-year-old invalid was killed is the George Hoffman home at 21516 Rockwell, Farmington Township. Hoffman and his wife, Margaret, were alone in the house when the fire broke out. Mrs. Hoffman and a neighbor, Mrs. Eunice Christmas, were unable to move Hoffman alone and by the time police arrived at the scene smoke and heat kept them from entering the house.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The year of 1967 marks the centennial of the founding of the Village of Farmington that was established on May 6, 1867, and
WHEREAS, The Village of Farmington incorporated as the City of Farmington in 1928, and
WHEREAS, For the past century the City of Farmington has been an important factor in the economic growth and productivity of the Farmington area, and
WHEREAS, The City of Farmington is deep in heritage and tradition from its pioneer founders to today's modern urbanization. It stands today as a symbol of a community of historical value and one with a bright future, and
WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the centennial of the founding of the City of Farmington be celebrated to commemorate the significance of the establishment of this great community.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wilbur V. Brotherton, Mayor of the City of Farmington, do hereby proclaim the period from May 6, 1967, to December 31, 1967, as the Centennial of the City of Farmington.
I urge the people of the City of Farmington to join in with their fellow citizens to participate in the activities and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our forefathers who were responsible for the establishment of the Village of Farmington and the fine heritage that has been passed on through the years making the City of Farmington a better place to live and raise a family. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Farmington to be and caused.
Done at the City of Farmington, this 1st day of May, in the year of our Lord 1967.
WILBUR V. BROTHERTON
MAYOR

Two Injured In Township

Two Farmington residents suffered minor injuries in separate traffic accidents on Farmington Township roads. Donald A. Daley, 40, of 27865 W. 13 Mile Rd., was treated and released at Botsford Hospital Wednesday afternoon after the car he was driving was struck from behind by another driven by Robert D. Sherwood, 26, of Walled Lake. Daley told township police that he was stopped on Orchard Lake Rd., south of 13 Mile Rd., waiting for a car to complete its turn when his car was hit. Sherwood was ticketed for failing to stop in the assured clear distance ahead. On Thursday afternoon, Stanley G. Brustock, 67, of 9761 Farmington Rd., received slight injuries when his car collided with one driven by Dianne James, 18, of

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Stanley G. Brustock, 67, of 9761 Farmington Rd., received slight injuries when his car collided with one driven by Dianne James, 18, of