

# MSU Experts Will Make Area Governmental Study

The services of a team of Michigan State University experts were engaged Thursday night by the Future Farmington Area Study Committee to conduct a governmental analysis of the 36-square-mile community.

The fee, \$5,000. The committee also voted to ask the four existing governments—the Township of Farmington, City of Farmington and the Villages of Woodcreek Farms and Quakerstown—to provide the necessary funds pro rated on the equalized valuation of each.

These decisions were made after the committee had heard a detailed proposition from five

representatives of MSU's Institute for Community Development and Services, under whose direction the study will take place.

Dr. Duane L. Gibson, director of the Institute who headed the delegation from East Lansing, said the investigation can be started early in January. He anticipates completion by next Oct. 1.

HE RECALLED that last spring the institute had placed a \$3,500 price tag on its services for a Farmington study and explained the increase to \$5,000 by saying, "This will take more time and energy than our first plan."

Major assignment for the crew sent here by MSU will be to examine alternative ways of organizing government for the area, and to determine the consequences of each," said Dr. Gibson.

The committee was told that data to be examined will include population, land use, economic base, tax and revenue resources and selected governmental services.

The proposal stated: "The relation of these factors to such forms of government as the following will be analyzed—township, charter township, village, city, special assessment districts, metropolitan districts and combinations of these structures."

ACCEPTANCE of the MSU study plan comes closely on the heels of two related matters which have kept the local political pot boiling in recent months.

First was the defeat at the polls in October of a proposal for incorporating part of the township as a separate city.

Second was the township board's more recent resolution asking that the three other governments join in fostering an election on the question of consolidating the entire area as one city.

Proponents claim this would legally guarantee continuance of the status quo while such a study as that by MSU is in progress.

Representatives of all four governments sat in with the committee Thursday to hear Dr. Gibson and his aides outline their plan, and several pointed questions were asked.

pertaining to the effect an election might have on the study.

"We still would aim for objectivity," he answered. "An election would not cause us to pull out unless the study was jeopardized by excessive partisan activity by the Future Farmington Area Study Committee as such, or its members. The actions taken by governmental bodies won't bother us."

It is with the Farmington committee that the institute anticipates having its contract for the project, not the four governments.

AN EXECUTIVE group to handle further dealings with the institute was recommended.

Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the study committee, will represent that body and each of the four governments will be asked to appoint one official representative and an alternate, as will the Board of Commerce, Jaycees and the League of Women Voters.

Highlights of the Institute's proposal included these statements:

"The primary objective is to estimate and project future needs for government services for the urbanizing Farmington area and to evaluate alternate organizational ways of meeting such needs.

"The study is designed to provide an analysis of governmental service obtainable through relevant, legally based alternative forms of government organization.

"The results of this study should provide baseline information which can be used by the study committee, government officials and the citizens of the area to determine which form of governmental or inter-governmental organization will best meet their future needs.

"Legal procedures for implementing changes in governmental structure and relationships will be cited and briefly described.

"Conclusions and recommendations concerning governmental organization and inter-governmental arrangements for the Farmington area will be made wherever, in the judgment of the institute staff, such statements are warranted by the data and its analysis."

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### Council Approves Bond Sale

Bonds to finance construction of water and sewer facilities in the Woodcroft Subdivision have been purchased by the National Bank of Detroit.

Bids for \$159,000 issue were opened at Monday night's City Council session. National Bank of Detroit was the low bidder.

A total of \$124,000 will be financed by special assessment, while \$35,000 of the bond issue will be general obligation bonds.

In other action the council: Approved 1968 bond plates for the two taxi services, Farmington Cab Company and Suburban Checker Cab Company, which operate in the city.

Named City Manager John Dihan as its legislative contact man to work with the Michigan Municipal League.

Scheduled a public hearing for Jan. 2 on a proposed rezoning to allow construction of a parking lot behind the Michigan Bell Telephone building.

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## 18,000 Tax Bills Ready

An estimated 18,000 1967 Farmington Township tax statements will go into the mail Monday, and by large the recipients will find their tax bills just about the same as last year.

For the first time, each statement shows the equalized valuation of the property in question, as well as the total.

Township property lying within the Farmington School District is being taxed at a rate of \$46.64 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation. This compares with a rate of \$33.04 a year ago—but when this is almost a 50 per cent increase, assessments have been doubted.

Another change is that the equalization factor in the Township has been reduced from 2.10 to 2.01.

Of the \$46.64 per thousand, \$9.26 is earmarked for county use, \$4.74 for the township and \$32.64 for schools.

PROPERTY OWNERS within

TAXES MAY be paid prior to Feb. 14 without penalty. After that date, Michigan law requires that a four per cent penalty be added. This also is true for owners of property within the city.

A measure of the area's expanding population and economic growth is apparent in a comparison of the 1966 and 1967 combined equalization value of property in the city and township.

The township figure rose from \$108,026,499 to \$119,761,780, while in the city it jumped from last year's \$30,444,980 to its present \$33,672,190. Together the increase was from \$138,471,479 to \$153,433,970.

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Oakland Mental Health Board... 5A  
Sports... 9-10-11A  
Want Ads... Section C  
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**GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE**—A special machine scooped up this huge Black Hill Pine last week and moved it to a new permanent planting at the entrance to Hunter's Ridge. The pine is thought to be one of a few in that area which was brought from Germany's Black Forest. Forty feet tall, the tree will make a beautiful Christmas display during the holidays.

## M.A.R.S. Makes Yule Cheerier Overseas

Four ham radio operators of the Farmington community will participate in a nationwide program to send Christmas messages from area families to military personnel overseas.

Announcement of the plan was made by John U. Watzke, of Farmington, who is Michigan director of the Military Affili-

ate Radio System, an organization of more than 11,000 licensed amateur radio station operators throughout the United States.

"AS ITS prime functional mission and purpose, the M.A.R.S. organization provides—a completely voluntary basis—facilities for receiving and sending personal,

third-party, morale-building messages between military personnel overseas and parents, relatives and friends at home," Watzke stated.

He said the procedure is based on these three requirements:

The sender must provide the recipient's complete address, including name, rank, serial number and APO or FPO number.

Limitation of the message content to a maximum of 25 words.

THE FOUR qualified operators in Farmington ready to handle such traffic (and the phone number of each) include Watzke, himself, (476-1337), Walter DeLong (425-5622), Ken Trobrey (474-2050) and Ron Peterka (425-4368).

"We will gladly handle yuletide greetings or other messages any evening between seven and 10 p.m.," Watzke said.

### Around Farmington

Farmington Goodfellows have begun their drive to collect the names of needy families so that there will be "No Child Without a Christmas" in Farmington. If you know of a family needing Goodfellow assistance call either 474-3440 or 474-2384 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"Light Up For Toys!" That's the cry of the Farmington Elks as they prepare to canvass the city for usable toys Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 8 to 10 p.m. The Elks will stop only at homes which have the porch light on so if you have Toys for Tots, light up your porch light.

## Scouts Help Provide Festive Cheer For City



**UP IN THE AIR**—Karen Blodgett of Troop 1036 climbed the ladder to trim the top of the tree.



**UNDER COVER**—That's how Valerie West of Brownie Troop 344 put her ornaments on the tree as she retreated under a large umbrella.



**AN ANNUAL EVENT**—Each year Farmington's Girl Scouts trim the Christmas tree in front of City Hall. This year's rainstorm didn't stop the scouts from the completion of the project. Following the tree trim the scouts sang Christmas Carols.

## Add Many Features During News Strike

Realizing that readers will miss some of the major stories and features because of the strike of the Metropolitan Detroit Newspapers, the Observer Newspapers will keep you up-to-date in major events with each edition for the duration of the news blackout.

This edition contains:  
Detroit Lions have a big job ahead in New York... Page 10A  
Suburban Democrats support one of their own, Senator Sander Levin from Berkeley, for State Chairman... Page 10C  
Two local Congressmen ask the Administration to stop sending before raising taxes... Page 10B  
U.S. Treasury Dept. says it will not attempt to force collection of France's 6.85 billion World War I debt... Page 10A