

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## Charter Vote In November?

*Tax limitation--the most controversial portion of the document--is yet to be decided.*

By DAN McCOSH

Will cityhood for Farmington Township be on the November ballot? Charter commissioners working on the proposed charter for "Farmington Hills" have agreed among themselves to vote on that question Sept. 1, according to Commission Chairman Robert McConnell.

The question of a tax limitation for the charter--the most controversial portion of the document, the commissioners feel--is yet to be decided.

The tax limitation and the "catch all" city ordinance section are the last to be written, according to McConnell.

they could produce a final draft by the deadline if they could agree on a rough draft by Sept. 1.

COMMISSIONERS agreed on the basic form of the government for the proposed city--a non-partisan, seven-member council with a professional city manager.

Bonding and many of the technical complexities of the charter also met with ready agreement, and progress was rapid until this month.

Tax limitation was supposed to be discussed Aug. 17, but the commission ended up putting off the item until later.

"We decided to go to city finances, and then come back to taxes," McConnell said.

The commission is apparently divided among those who want a limitation very low--in line with current township services--and those who want more room for future expansion.

Limitations suggested have run from five mills to more than 10. McConnell says he personally is thinking of a "flexible millage" geared to future growth--starting low and raising it as the population increases.

COMMISSIONERS have been meeting twice a week since the township primary election. Both candidates for Republican nomination for supervisor are on the charter commission--McConnell and Earl Teeple, whom McConnell defeated in the primary.

Commissioners agreed to the stepped-up schedule until Sept. 1, according to McConnell.

Deadline for getting the finished charter on the ballot is six weeks before the election, and they estimated

## Township Funds YES For 1 Year

### Local All-Volunteer Program Is Urged

The Farmington area Youth Employment Service (YES) was assured of a year of operation Monday when the Farmington Township Board approved \$5,000 for financing the project.

The township board became the third local unit of government to contribute money to the project, following the lead of the city and school board. Private funding has also come from the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis.

Voting for the appropriation, Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said he expected the fledgling agency to investigate the possibility of becoming an all-volunteer program in the future, voicing the opinion of several other board members.

The final vote was 4-2 in favor of the appropriation, with trustees David Slader and Fredrick Lichtman voting "no." Trustee Earl Oppenheimer was absent.

THE DECISION capped several months of persuasion led mainly by John Anhut, president of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber has taken the YES as its "youth project" and pledged \$1,000 to the operation this year.

At the board meeting, Anhut

"We have bent over backwards to mend fences, to answer all of the criticisms of the program."

--John Anhut

said, "We have bent over backwards to mend fences, to answer all of the criticisms of the program."

"The employment agency angle has been overlooked. We are trying to find an avenue to the school board, to demonstrate what business needs."

"We've got to come out of



HUGE-- This sunflower was grown by John Coffee, 8, of 38242 South Farmington Lane from a seed he found in his gerbil cage. Started in a paper cup, the two-stalked plant now looms higher than the garage. (Evert photo)

## today's hot line

Volume 83 Number 92

### A Holiday!

Offices of Observer Newspapers at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, will be closed Saturday and Monday for the Labor Day holiday.

The next midweek edition will be published Thursday, Sept. 7, instead of the normal Wednesday.

Normal Monday deadlines for news and advertising will be changed to Tuesday next week only. Deadline for classified advertising will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. next week only.

## what's inside

### School Budget

The Farmington school budget indicates the school board is trying to restore some cuts made last year. The money to do this is coming from an unexpected source, as an in-depth report on the budget indicates.

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### Round Table

An attempt to get students more involved in school affairs ran into some tough going last year, the participants admit, but they are coming up with some improvements for the future.

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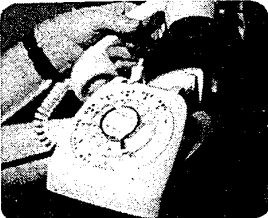
### C'ville Series

George Shearing heads the list of entertainers coming to Clarenceville this year. For names and dates of other appearances, turn to

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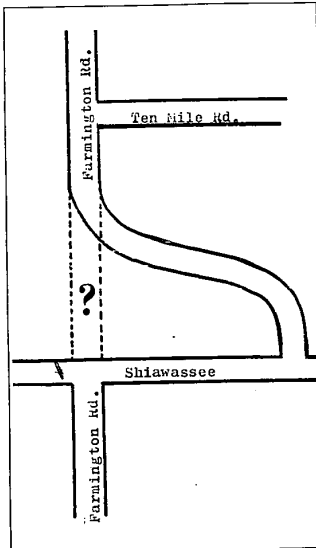
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## Plans In Future Farmington Rd. Change?

By DAN McCOSH

What is the future of the snaky section of Farmington Rd., which currently presents a challenge worthy of a downhill racer to motorists equipped mainly with station wagons instead of racing skis?

Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman says he has drawn up five plans calling for straightening the section of the road from the Farmington Community Center to Shiwasssee, but it doesn't look like any financing for the project will be available soon.

In fact, if the city does not get any assistance from state or federal sources, it would be 10 years before enough bond money is available for the project.

FARMINGTON RD. is one of four routes that go from north to south in Farmington Township, none of them well

suited to heavy traffic, according to Deadman.

The two-lane asphalt road starts its downward sweep about at the intersection of 10 Mile Rd. A breathtaking hill ends abruptly at a hard left-hand corner, followed by a second-right-hand corner just before a stop sign at Shiwasssee.

"The speed limit is 25 mph and there's a real reason for it," Deadman says.

Tires squealing on the curve and trucks downshifting to get up the grade have been the cause for many justified complaints from residents in Twin Valley subdivision which is inside the "S" curve of the road, according to Deadman.

"I think the noise is the main problem, but there is some worry about accidents," he said.

"The only real solution is re-engineering the road."

salaries of a director and secretary, \$3,000 for office space and \$2,625 in other operating costs.)

The \$5,000 pledge of the township assured the program of an additional \$3,000 in cash from the schools.

The school board approved cash for the program at a special meeting last week, contingent on the township approving the \$5,000.

TRUSTEE LICHTMAN, who has been the program's most outspoken critic, told the board he had contacted the head of a similar program in Bloomfield Hills, which is run by volunteers.

One of Lichtman's criticisms has been the high percentage of the budget that has gone to salaries of the director and secretary.

The Bloomfield Hills program operates with 30 volunteers and no paid director, he said.

At the last meeting, the YES people brought in directors of the Livonia and Southfield programs, which are run by paid personnel.

Anhut, head of the steering committee supervising the program, said he would look into the possibility of an all-volunteer program.

RE-ENGINEERING would consist of extending Farmington Rd., which now stops at Shiwasssee, straight through to the north section of the road. This would cut off the curves and reduce the grade of the hill.

There is little difference between the plans, except for the type of bridge or culvert over the river or the exact route of the road.

The plan Deadman favors does not cross most of the residential lots on the west end of the Twin Valley Subdivision. One house is on the proposed route, as is the Baptist Church at the present end of Farmington Rd.

If the route is changed, it would be the second time the street has been relocated in recent history.

The old route of Farmington Rd. was down "McQuire Hill," through another "S"

turn, and then onto a one-lane bridge.

Deadman remembers fighting many cars out of the river next to the bridge when he worked as a Farmington patrolman.

THE PLANS were drawn up to estimate the cost of the project (about \$750,000) and put the city in a position for serious negotiating with Oakland County, as well as making it easier to apply for grant money if it becomes available.

It would be a joint township-city project, with the city liable for about one-fourth of the cost Deadman said.

In the meantime, motorists are advised to be wary of the road. Added to the physical hazards of the road is stepped up traffic enforcement added last week, along with "rumble strips" warning drivers of the hill ahead.