

the Farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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How City And Township Taxes Would Compare In Future

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The Year Ahead

"Exciting" is what newly-elected Township Supervisor Robert McConnell calls 1973. He sees a lot of projects "getting off the drawing board" during the coming year.

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Community Center

A full line of activities is planned for the coming winter months at the Farmington Community Center. To find something to do in your spare time, turn to:

Page 2A

Cross-Eyed Lions

If you like clowns and cross-eyed lions, you'll want to be in Clarenceville on Jan. 20. The Clarenceville Entertainment Series, which brings the big bands to Observerland, has pulled off still another entertainment coup.

Page 8B

Boy Guru

He and other imported religious leaders come in for some sharp barbs from our religion columnist, Lester Kinsolving. See Religion Update in the Church Section.

Page 5A

Decline

Fewer students on the University of Michigan campus express church preferences these days, and the figures, when compared to those of a couple of decades ago, are pretty startling. The story is in the Church Section.

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"YOU and YOUR BANK"

Don't miss this interesting issue. Your bank offers services you may not be aware of. Read about it in

FOCUS: Suburbia

JANUARY 6

By DAN MCCOSH

An unusual look eight years into the future of local government was provided when what amounts to budget projections to the year 1980 were released by Farmington Township Supervisor Robert McConnell.

"Business does it all the time," he said, saying it was necessary to "look down the road" to find out where the township-city is going. His purpose was to allow a direct comparison between projected expenses of the township, and the proposed City of Farmington Hills.

WHILE IT is not normal political practice to predict a tax hike eight years ahead of time, McConnell maintains there will be one, regardless of whether or not cityhood becomes a reality.

THE TOWNSHIP currently operates on 1.2 mills allocation (\$1.20 per \$1,000 valuation). To this is added two mills voted for police and fire protection, plus 1½ mill for the library, a total of 4.7 mills. This isn't the bill the taxpayer receives — schools, colleges and county taxes make it total 50.2 mills in the township.

The valuation of the township — a combination of added buildings and inflating real estate prices — has been increasing on the average about 10 per cent a year, according to McConnell.

The 10 per cent figure was used to compute projected growth in the tax base of the area. A five-year forecast of township expenses, between 1974 and 1978, indicates the township will be approximately \$49,000 in the red by 1978. The increasing expenditures are based on negotiated contracts with township

employees, McConnell said. An added 1½ mills, beginning in 1974, would be needed to balance this budget, with few increases in services, according to the projections.

THE CITYHOOD picture isn't much different, with some exceptions. The main one is that the city would get nearly four times the present allocation from gas and weight taxes for road improvements, a approximately \$53,000 in 1974. The proposed charter calls for a six-mill limitation the first year of operation, going up to seven mills the second

year, and one more mill every two years to a maximum of 10 mills by 1980. If the full amount was levied by a city council, and the tax base grew at 10 per cent, this would mean a \$4.8 million budget by 1978, compared with \$3.5 million if the area stayed a township.

The added money in the proposed city budget would go towards expanding the police department, building a new fire hall, expected to be needed by 1976, and adding some city services like a proposed rescue service, according to McConnell.

HIS "GROWTH" figures are "conservative," he says, adding it is possible the tax base will increase at a rate making a lower millage possible. "I don't want to count on money that might not be there," he added.

McConnell's figures, which were the main basis for the charter commission's voting for a graduated millage in the proposed charter, indicate two choices for Farmington Township residents. Either more taxes will be necessary to continue status quo operations, or real "city services" could be provided but at a still higher tax rate.



JUDGE MICHAEL HAND (right) was sworn in recently for his second term as judge of the 47th District Court. John O'Brien, newest circuit judge in Oakland County, did the honors. (Evert photo)

How Area Police View Local Crime

By CAPT. DAN BYRNES

Over the past year the Farmington Department of Public Safety has seen several changes.

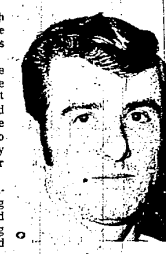
The chief took over the position of city manager, the position of captain was made, two sergeants left the department and three men were promoted to the position of sergeant.

THE DEPARTMENT became actively involved in a computerized records system being formed in the county. New standardized forms and procedures are being developed for use by all participating agencies in the county, the end result being the exchange of information between agencies for a unified crime fighting effort. The community experienced a 12 per cent increase in burglaries for the

year. This figure was as high as 250 per cent during the summer months but has subsided.

To combat the increase the department, with the assistance of the Soroptimist Club of Farmington, instituted Project Theft Guard in the Community in an effort to mark and easily identify stolen property and deter criminals.

Drug related arrests increased 400 per cent among adults (those 17 years and older) and 150 per cent among juveniles (those 16 years and younger). It is not known from this increase if the incidence of drug abuse has actually increased or if those using drugs have become more open in their activity due to relaxed drug abuse laws. It is felt by this writer that the latter is probably the case.



CAPT. DAN BYRNES

the "fourth year of its traffic safety program and for the first time is experiencing increases in the number of traffic accidents, fatalities and injuries. Total accidents are up 12 per

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Holko: The Department Reorganized In 1972

Farmington Township Director of Public Safety Ronald Holko reviewed the changes in the police and fire departments in 1972.

"The police department has been reorganized to provide lines of authority, better utilization of supervisory personnel, and to provide maximum patrol," he said in a statement of the year's operations.

NEW TRAINING programs highlighted the past year in police work, he said.

Officers are now attending regular weekly training programs and some have been sent to special training courses. A special cadet program was also initiated, under a federal grant. This provides cadets with two years of college before being hired as full time officers.

New equipment also has been added to the operation, including improved equipment for the patrol cars and new radio equipment.

A centralized record bureau was established, and an automated microfilm retrieval system has been requested under another federal grant. In 1973, a computerized records system will be implemented under a countywide plan.

Reorganization in the traffic bureau, which was financed under a highway safety grant, and in the neighborhood patrols, which are now working in new districts, also was done in 1972, along with establishing weekly press conferences.

THE TOWNSHIP fire operation was also expanded. A new aerial-pumper fire truck has been ordered, and a



RONALD HOLKO

new fire station in the industrial park was opened. All fire units were placed under one administrative control, and new volunteers were added with improved training requirements. A centralized purchasing system was also established.

Drake Paving Suit Settled

Paving of Drake Rd., south of Grand River, will go ahead in the spring, following an Oakland County Circuit Court ruling

on the project in favor of the city. A suit was filed last spring by neighboring homeowners

protesting the paving project. The paving was originally presented, along with a proposal for rezoning 22 acres to "cluster housing" in the area.

Multiple Hearings Scheduled Monday

Hearings on multiple zoning for two portions of Farmington Rd. are scheduled for the Farmington planning commission Monday, at 8 p.m. in city hall.

A cluster housing project on a parcel of land south of Alta Loma, proposed by Conrad Heishman and Richard Kelly, will be considered.

A one-acre parcel on Farmington just north of Mapletun, to be rezoned from single-family to apartments (R-3) will also be considered. The proponent is Michael Tartaglia.

HOMEOWNERS were objecting both to the cost and to the unpopular clustering, which later passed the city council.

Ruling in favor of the city on the paving suit, Judge Arthur Moore said, "The court will not substitute its judgment for that of the local assessing policies."

The case was dismissed "with prejudice" and costs assigned to the plaintiffs. The council has decided to wait 20 days to see if an appeal is filed before going ahead with the project, which has been let to Detroit Concrete Products.

'72 Budget Hearing Next Monday

The \$2.2 million 1972-73 Farmington Township budget will have a public hearing Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Township Hall.

Just three months remain in the fiscal year covered by the budget, which covers the period between March 31, 1972, and March 31, 1973. Township officials said waiting for completion of

contracts for township employees was the reason for the delay in preparing the budget.

The budget projects \$849,000 in local tax revenue, based on 3.2 mills levied. The 1.5 mills for the library is excluded.

State sales tax distribution of \$570,000 is the other major source of revenue. The police department, with \$1.06 million, tops

the list of expenditures. The fire department is budgeted at \$131,000.

The document lists \$97,000 for roads and streets, \$48,300 for the township board, and \$62,000 in expenses for the district court.

The building department is budgeted at \$160,500 and "other services," which include rubbish collection, youth guidance and recreation, is \$100,000.