



IT HAPPENS EVERY SPRING — Although these middle-aged heroes would probably not last more than five innings against their sons, they look impressive on that annual first pitch to the plate. Dr. Rodenck Smith, school superintendent

(pitched), Ed Day, Little League commissioner (batter), and John Washburn, school board president (catcher) teamed up to open the South Farmington Little League season.

(Event photo)

How To Get Instant DPW

"Instant DPW."

This is the lag Farmington city councilman, Dr. John Richardson put on the effect that consolidation would have on township roads during a speech to a recent meeting of the Farmington Township Road Association.

Richardson said, "Consolidation has the advantage that it will provide 'Instant DPW' to the area which is now township since the present, very fine city DPW could be immediately expanded to handle the problem as far as roads are concerned at the time the new city charter is approved by voters."

"Under incorporation," Richardson said, "it would take one or two years after charter adoption before a new DPW garage could be erected, personnel hired, equipment purchased and the department could begin to function effectively."

HE ADDED, "Under the existing statutes, county road maintenance stops at the time a charter is adopted, leaving a new-incorporated area without any road maintenance at all."

Richardson compared the city's road operations to the township's operation under the Oakland County Road Commission, with a footnote concerning the township's limited influence in road maintenance and that, despite local efforts, 70 per cent of the townships roads are classified as inadequate.

Richardson held out the hope that under either consolidation or incorporation as a home rule city, the present township area would benefit from receipt of gas and weight tax payments to a more localized area.

He noted, however, "It is very difficult, if not impossible to determine at this point what the payment of gas and weight tax returns to the area would be if the township were incorporated as a city or part of a city."

"Such is the case," he said, "because one cannot know how the various streets would be classified as major or local streets."

"If all the streets in the township were taken over by a new city and if the primary and local street classification held, the returns would be \$112,000 for major street mileage and \$88,000 for local streets (based on 1967 population)."

"It is unlikely, however," Richardson said, "that the county would relinquish all mile roads to the new city. More than likely, most will be retained as part of the county systems. Thus the amount actually received would be considerable lower."

RICHARDSON CONCLUDED, "From my view, there is little difference in this matter whether the township becomes a city through consolidation or incorporation. In either case, the possibilities for correcting the road and street problems will be enhanced."

Following Richardson's talk, road association members adopted a resolution supporting consolidation of city and township.

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If you are 12 years old or younger and can handle your risks like it was computerized, then you want to enter the bike rodeo Saturday.

The rodeo starts at 10 a.m. in the Farmington Junior High East parking lot.

This is part of a nationwide program of bicycle safety sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to the riding contest, police officers from both the city and township will conduct a seminar on safety tips. And the Jaycees will have enough hot dogs and soft drinks to serve 350 bicycle riders.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three winners in the riding skill event, and as an added attraction, a trophy will go to the best decorated bike.

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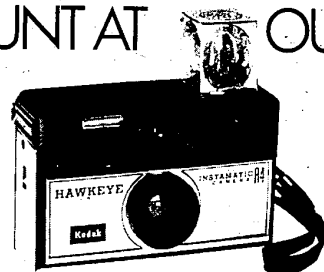
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