

# Farmington postmaster on look out for new post office with elbow room

By CORINNE ABATT

The first big step toward a new post office for Farmington and Farmington Hills was taken this month. An announcement that the post office is seeking a site and/or building has been published and posted.

Farmington Post Master Ken Harris said, "We're finally getting to the point where something is going to happen."

By this time the regional office in Chicago has recognized the need in Farmington and approved the acquisition of land for building or possibly the purchase of a building which could be remodeled.

## Crumpet winners prepare for finals

Many local players were successful in the finals of the Oakland County Tennis and Crumpet mixed-doubles tournament which was played at the Franklin Racquet Club, Sept. 18.

In the Open Pro-Am division, Carole Riley and Bill Strong of Birmingham defeated Laura Tate and Lee Keating of Birmingham.

John and Mia Berish of Grand Rapids defeated Ann and Peter Trees of Birmingham in the finals of the Class A division.

In Class B play, Mary Renshaw of Birmingham and Oscar Zemba of Farmington defeated Tom McFarland of Farmington and Deana Kenyon of Livonia.

Mary Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick of Birmingham defeated Dick and Linda Corace of Bloomfield Hills in the Class C finals.

These four winning teams will compete against finalists from Dearborn, Grosse Ile, and Grosse Pointe in the Metro Super Finals at the Wimbledon Racquet Club, St. Clair Shores, 5 p.m. October 2. Tickets are \$1.50 each and will be available at the door. Cocktails and food will also be available.

Ideally, Harris said, he would like to see a new post office located around Eleven or Twelve Mile in the Orchard Lake or Farmington Road area.

The building to meet the needs, both present and future would be about 30,000 square feet, more than twice the size of the present post office and annex combined. A 3 1/2-acre site would be suitable.

HARRIS SAID he was well aware of the feelings of the people of Farmington and had taken them into consideration.

"There has been a post office in Farmington since 1888 and the people don't want to give that up."

He said that the completion of a new post office is "three to five years down the road—providing there are no snags."

Since the lease on the crowded annex at Middlefield and Grand River is up next year, Harris said he would like to find another larger building to take over the annex operation and if the new temporary place is large enough, he would move all processing and carrier operations there. This would leave only retail services and boxes at the present site until that lease is up in 1978.

When both the annex and the present post office are vacated and moved to a new, permanent building, Harris said he would like to have full retail and box service in a store front on Grand River. This

would mean that there would still be a post office in Farmington, although the processing would be done at another building.

Harris said that all of the material to substantiate the need for a new building has been received and approved by the regional office.

"The priorities have been established. Farmington is growing and we certainly have to catch up with the times."

DURING THE MORNING hours when the mail is being picked up for delivery, the aisles of both the annex and the main building are so crowded that it is difficult to walk through.

Harris said, "A new larger building will

boost morale among employees and result in much better service to our customers. Farmington has been bypassed too many times."

He said that in his years as a career person with the post office, he had seen growing patterns similar to what Farmington is going through several times.

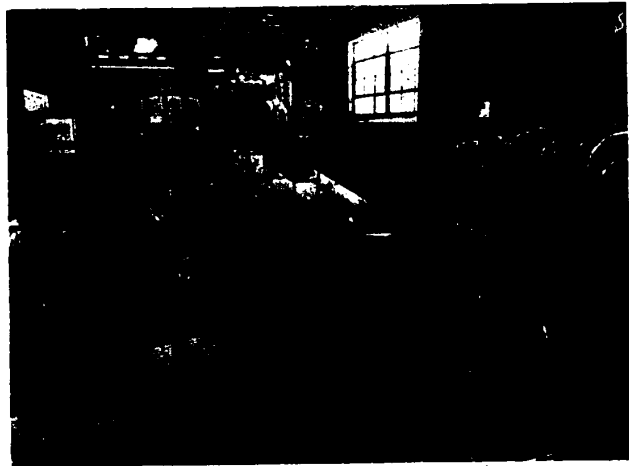
"The main post office becomes too small, then you go to bigger and bigger annexes. We went through the same thing when I was with the post office in Southfield. Southfield's new building has proved to be cost effective."

All monies for a new building are controlled by the capital investment committee of the regional office.

The big problem now is to find available land to build on or a building that could be remodeled.

Harris said, "Our problem is there is no variety of available buildings to choose from."

But Harris is now certain of one thing, there will be a new 30,000-square-foot post office in the area—probably by 1980.



The ramp in the Farmington Post Office annex is considered a hazard when it is full of mail carts going both ways. Roger Kelcherman provides the muscle while Dave Olson watches. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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Rick Brown loads mail in a congested area. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

**Obituary**

VIRGINIA C. SAMPLE

Southfield resident Virginia C. Sample died at age 65 on Sept. 14 while at home.

Mrs. Sample was a local musician. She is survived by her husband Scott from Southfield and a son Scott, Jr.

The funeral was Sept. 15 at the Henry-Sanquet Funeral Home in Farmington. Memorial services were held in Muscatine, Iowa. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

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