

1-City: A Product Of Expansion

By the year 2000, just 30 years from now, the population of the Farmington area will nearly triple.

The area's population is already growing at a rate twice as fast as Oakland County and more than three times that of metropolitan Detroit.

That tremendous growth in population alone is a sure indicator that significant changes in the area are inevitable and are certainly already in progress.

THE RURAL wide-open spaces atmosphere of Farmington is giving way to urbanization and the process will continue to accelerate right along with the population growth.

Population increases alone don't tell the whole story of the

changing Farmington scene, though. The Farmington Area Governmental Organization Study, conducted by Michigan State University in February 1969, showed that property values in the area have increased much more than in the county as a whole.

Between 1960 and 1965, Farmington Township's property value grew by 146 per cent, with the average in the county as a whole being just 72 per cent.

The greatest growth rate occurred in the category of industrial development, while residential development showed the greatest actual dollar increase.

According to the MSU study, "Growth has occurred and is now occurring in the Farmington area at a rate faster than that of the county, region, state and nation."

Acceptance of the fact of this growth is a major basis for current attempts to find the best type of government for the area.

FORWARD LOOKING area residents are concerned that

(Following is the first in a series of articles explaining why Farmington Area residents should vote "yes" on Nov. 4 to combine the four governments in the community to form a single, new city. The views are offered by Citizens For A Better Farmington, chaired by Russell Gilbert, which is a group of area residents in favor of consolidation.)

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The growth be channeled in desirable directions and that the new needs of the changed area will be met most efficiently.

With the rapid rate of urbanization will come an increased demand for the services provided by the governmental units now serving the Farmington area.

These four governments will have to change, either formally or informally, to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Backers of the proposed consolidation move feel that the planned, controllable change consolidation will allow in the best way of insuring a good new government will result.

As noted in the MSU study, "Of the present governmental

by neighboring cities without the consent of the township residents.

PLANNING FOR future development within the township is greatly affected by the possibility of annexation. In addition, the township is by nature designed to serve small populations with small demands for services.

The village form of government was never intended to be a final form, but it is considered a temporary answer to the needs of population concentrations in a township.

It is unlikely that the village, because of its size and small population can exist without the township. The township provides services to Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown now that the small governments themselves would not be able to provide.

The next article in this series will explain why consolidation of the four governmental units within the 36 square mile area of Farmington is the best method for arriving at the desirable city form of government for the growing area.

Allen Writes

A Dialogue Of Dissent

(Following is another in a series of articles written by John Allen on behalf of NE, a group of city residents opposed to the question of consolidation.)

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Someday soon, a nice young man, carrying a brightly colored pamphlet, will come to your door and—

"Good morning, madam, I'm from the Citizens for Consolidation. I'm here to tell you about the Nov. 4 election."

"Tell me more—what does it say?"

"Well, the ballot says 'For consolidation of the City of Farmington, Farmington Township and the villages of Quakertown and Woodcreek Farms, Yes or No.' And the second part will list some names for Charter Commission."

"I see, if I want consolidation, I vote yes. If I don't, I vote no—simple."

"But madam, we want you to vote yes, so we can have a charter commission. Then there can be some more elections."

"Don't be silly, young man. Why should we spend all that money, if I don't want consolidation?"

"Just some citizens - but we are for consolidation."

"I understand - but who is against it?"

"Just some citizens - and John Allen."

"Who's he?"

"He's a local preservationist who likes Farmington as it is."

"Oh, you mean the one who writes all those articles on the editors doesn't agree with?"

"But did you see what the editor said about him?"

"Sort of lost his cool, didn't he?"

"Yes madam, but Mr. Allen has been telling everyone big tales and big politics. Says we should concentrate on what we have."

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