

CITY LISTENS -- Residents of the City of Farmington to listen to the pros and cons and ask questions about consolidation. (Evert photo)

Brennan Tells Why 'Yes' Vote Is Township's Answer

Joseph T. Brennan, Farmington Township attorney, issued a statement this week indicating his personal support for a "yes" vote on consolidation Nov. 4.

Brennan has represented the Township of Farmington for more than 11 years, and five other municipalities. He has lived in the township since 1956 and has his law offices in the City of Farmington on Grand River.

HE WAS elected to the charter commission for the last two unsuccessful incorporation attempts and is a candidate for the consolidation charter commission.

Who Dares Impede Progress? Asks Smith

Charles E. Smith, a city candidate for the charter commission, takes exception to positions taken by John Allen who is leading the consolidation option in the city.

"In John Allen's articles, he states that there was no consolidation movement or precedents to evaluate small community mergers."

"If this is true, then it will be a difficult task for the candidates who aspire to be elected to the charter commission to develop the necessary guidelines to successfully produce a charter that will serve all of the needs of the four communities."

"TO DEVELOP this consolidation successfully so that it

In 1966, Brennan acted as chairman of a study committee reviewing the entire subject of governmental organization for Farmington Township.

WHILE URGING a "yes" vote, Brennan reviewed the history of four separate studies that have been made of Farmington's future governmental organization.

The first, Brennan said, was made by a group of professionals who were to study the city at the time it was proposed to incorporate the north part of the township into the City of Farmington Woods, the southeast portion into the City of Clarencenville and the southwest as the Village of Woodcroft.

He thought so sometime later when an attempt was made to incorporate the bulk of the township.

"I favor the consolidation proposal, and I am a candidate for the Farmington Charter Commission because this pro-

posal will bring about a home rule charter for Farmington Township."

He believes that Farmington Township should incorporate as a home rule city," says Brennan. "I thought so in 1966 when an attempt was made to incorporate the entire town- ship, including its villages, into one city."

He thought so sometime later when an attempt was made to incorporate the bulk of the township.

"I favor the consolidation proposal, and I am a candidate for the Farmington Charter Commission because this pro-

The second study was made in 1966 by Brennan's committee. The remaining two are the MSU study and the Donald Oakes study, both recently completed.

WHAT THESE studies have

in common," Brennan emphasizes, "They all recognize the ultimate necessity of Farmington Township incorporating as a home rule city."

Brennan said space does not permit expounding upon the many reasons why these conclusions were reached. "Sur- ficially, it is to say that there are no adequate alternatives to a home rule city charter if our boundaries are to be changed."

He believes that the best use of our community is to take the best and most efficient uses of its assets and realize its full potential."

BRENNAN SAID in his judgment, "it makes little difference whether the township becomes a city of 20-square miles or part of a city of 30-square miles as long as it ultimately adopts a home rule charter."

Using the benefits of a modern, planned consolidated commun-

"I AM a political novice who can only offer common sense," Smith adds. "I am willing to dedicate myself to the task of forming a charter with the ability I possess which will serve the people of the community."

"I am particularly interested in one phase of the consolidation which is the recreational needs of the community."

"The City of Farmington is allowed to stand as it is, we the citizens are condemning it to isolationism and prohibiting the citizens from rea-

1-City 'Yes' Vote Is Best For Township Residents

Farmington Township residents should vote "yes" Nov. 4 on the question of consolidation to allow a charter to be written.

The residents should vote yes because consolidation will give residents what they want and need—a city government. The Farmington Enterprise & Observer believes it is only a matter of time before the township becomes a city. And we think township residents are right in desiring a city.

A "yes" vote Nov. 4 will not only lead to a city for township residents, but a better city than could be obtained through separate incorporation.

Should consolidation fail, and the township incorporates separately, that city would not have a built-in downtown area that the consolidation city would have.

A SEPARATE CITY would also have to compete with the City of Farmington for the industrial and business developers. Zoning clashes could

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continue to exist at the borders between the two municipalities. Petty bickering between the two municipalities would continue to break down the existing community spirit.

Two separate cities will result in a continuation of the present condition whereby the Farmington area has two separate master plans, two separate planning consultants, separate police and fire departments, even separate destitutes.

Consolidation cannot answer all the problems facing the township or the Farmington area. But consolidation appears to be the best tool to meet the future needs of Farmington Area as it mushroomed toward 1980.

Consolidation could result in better roads, better police protection, better planning and more efficient use of the area's tax base. By avoiding duplication, consolidation of course economy could be achieved.

Consolidation could result in better roads,

A "yes" vote Nov. 4 will also protect the township's boundaries from being annexed by the City of Farmington, Livonia, Southfield or Novi.

WHAT WILL consolidation cost? City Manager John Dinan estimates a tax levy of 8.6 mills for the first year's operation if the consolidated city assumed the same services that now exist. Add to this 0.8 mills for capitalization expense.

Opponents of consolidation admit Dinan's estimate is fair. But nobody, at this point, is really attempting to predict what consolidation actually will cost.

It is fair to assume that taxes for the single city could be lower than what taxes will be for both cities if consolidation fails and the township incorporates.

CONSOLIDATION may not, in the end, be the answer. If it's not, then the Farmington Enterprise & Observer will recommend a "no" vote on the charter.

But this newspaper cannot recommend a negative vote on Nov. 4. The Farmington Area has problems which must be faced. The township has problems, the city has problems, and the villages have problems.

When you have a problem, you seek a solution. It's foolish to do otherwise. Consolidation appears to be the best tool to solve our problem.

VOTE "YES" Nov. 4. Give the charter commission a chance. Let's write a charter for a single city and vote on the charter. The alternatives are unclear.

THE ONLY THING clear today is that a "yes" vote Nov. 4 will give the area two years to focus on its problems and write a charter.

The township resident who votes "no" must accept the possibility the township might lose its individual base.

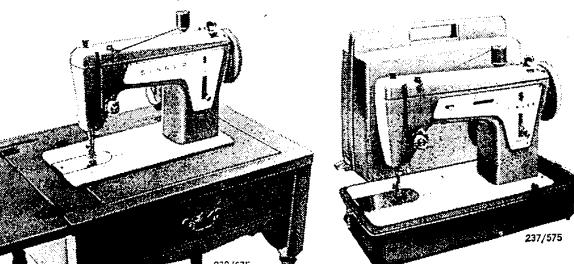
This newspaper cannot promise what will happen tomorrow; we can only promise that a "yes" vote means security and the chance to find a solution to the area's problems.

—The Farmington Enterprise & Observer

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PROPER USE — Theresa Burzynski of Floral Ave. in Farmington Township testifies that rubber tires make good swings. That's a proper use for rubber tires — lying in a junk pile is not. Rubber tires not used as swings are among the items picked up during Farmington's annual October cleanup drive. As of Monday, the township had collected about 30 truck-loads, or 90 tons, of large junk items including old appliances, furniture and tires. Workers have completed cleanup efforts in the southern half of the township and today move north of 12 Mile Rd. Residents north of 12 Mile may set out their large items on the regular garbage pickup days. (Photos by Fran Evert)