

## Vote 'Yes' Tuesday

## Let's Find Out What 1-City Can Do

Farmington area residents should vote "yes" Tuesday to authorize a charter commission to study the feasibility of consolidation.

There are a number of advantages which could be gained by joining the four governmental units within the Farmington Community into a single, new city.

There are also problems which will arrive as consolidation is attempted. That's why a charter commission should be elected -- so residents can find out if the advantages outweigh the problems, and then vote on the charter.

If consolidation is defeated Tuesday, we will never know if it was possible to form a single government for our community. We will only know that our neighbors thought so little about a single city they did not want to waste time finding out if it was the right step.

WE HAVE NOT heard any questions for which there are no answers. We know of no problems for

which there are not solutions. The challenge is not to become frightened by questions and problems but to seek answers and solutions.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer feels the benefits of consolidation are weighty enough to make the concept worthy of adoption. Consolidation is a good idea and ought to be implemented if the right answers and solutions are found. We believe a charter commission can iron out the wrinkles. At

## Editorial

least we think a commission should have a chance.

Each sub-community within the Farmington Area has problems which need attention. In the last three weeks, we discussed why residents from the city, township and villages should vote "yes" Nov. 4.

Today, we talk to the residents of the Farmington Area and urge that same "yes" vote. You have

made the area one community -- you deserve a single government.

IF THE CHARTER commission writes a poor charter, or if consolidation proves not to be feasible, the Enterprise & Observer will recommend a "no" vote on the charter.

But we must have a charter. Governments provide services, collect taxes and legislate problems according to powers and restrictions written into charters. There can be no government without a charter. You cannot tell what the single government under consolidation will be like without a charter.

Area residents have asked plenty of questions during the past few weeks. They were good questions and deserve answers. They can be answered by electing a charter commission. If a commission is not elected, it was a waste of time even to ask questions.

The ballot Tuesday will read simply: Are you for consolidation? What it really asks is whether the voters want to elect a charter commission. You will not be voting to put consolidation into effect until you approve a charter.

WHAT ARE all the advantages of consolidation which are worthy enough to establish a charter commission to explore how to use them? A few follow:

Consolidation would further cement this unity in spirit of the Farmington Community; it could result in better roads, increased police and fire protection, and a single plan for the future; consolidation would provide professional administrative staff to attack area problems and by eliminating competition and bickering would encourage better development to improve the tax base; consolidation could result in more efficient taxation and would prevent the township from being robbed by further annexations.

One thing consolidation will not do is change the living environment of any of the four governmental areas. There will still be a downtown in the city with a residential ring around it; the residential character of the villages will remain. A change in the form of government does not alter geography or result in destruction of existing neighborhoods. Consolidation can help keep Farmington what it is and will not change environments of neighborhoods.

A consolidated city is better for township residents than an incorporated city. The villages cannot afford to "go it alone" and consolidation gives them a voice in moulding the future. If the city maintains the status quo, it will deteriorate and the declining tax base will result in higher taxes.

The single-city concept appears to be an answer for all governmental units. Residents of all areas should vote yes Nov. 4 to find out.

Farmington Enterprise & Observer

## Divided, We Will Decay; United, We'll Preserve

Farmington voters on Nov. 4 will have an opportunity to take the first step toward bringing the community under a single municipal government.

It is a big step, one that has rarely been accomplished in Michigan, and yet it is a step that should be taken. We urge a "yes" vote on consolidation and the election of qualified, forward-looking charter commissioners.

In urging this unprecedented step, we speak not as radical tinkers who would casually undo nearly a century and a half of government work, but as men with strong historic ties to the City of Farmington.

THE THREE of us have a combined total of over 30 years in city government as former mayors and councilmen. We have deep roots here. We have had homes here for many decades. We have businesses here. We have a strong interest in

(One of the most significant statements on consolidation was the joint statement issued by Delos Hamlin, Ken Loomis and Tracy Canoy. Their views are supported by a combined 30 years government service in the Farmington Area. The statement is reprinted below.)

preserving the city we have served so long and that has been so good to us.

Curious as it may seem, in order to preserve the Farmington we love, we think it necessary to change its form of government. That is, we must take a long step into consolidation simply to keep what we have.

The Farmington Area is a single community right now. It has a single name, a single history, a single YMCA, a single community center, a single district library, a single Elks Lodge -- the people have taken a single community attitude toward nearly everything.

It is now time for the municipal governments to catch up to the leadership of the people. As we have united ourselves to build other institutions

for the common good, it is now time to unite our municipal governmental efforts for the work ahead.

FARMINGTON is on the frontier of the metropolitan area and, though rich in history, is still only partly developed. There is much planning for the future to be done.

That kind of planning cannot be done if we go our separate ways as a city, a township and two villages -- or even as two separate cities. Planning decisions, we know from experience, are too critical, to be made on a piecemeal basis. We should plan together -- as a single city.

This sort of community-minded planning we owe to our children and grandchildren and to the fine new people who will

be making the Farmington community their home as we grow. And we also owe this kind of total community to those who want to preserve the Farmington they have built up over the years.

From our experience in city government, we further recommend that this consolidated city be written to protect the interests of the people in the present, separated governments. This is entirely feasible.

Many citizens have paid for a high level of facilities and services. As the future level of services and facilities is expanded, we are concerned that those who have already been assessed not be penalized. The charter will have to be carefully drafted in this respect but we are confident that it can be done.

With those interests protected in the new charter, then we expect to be able to give it our warm endorsement when it comes before the people for a vote in step two of the new city process.

WHILE THE PAST and the present have been good to all of us, the unvarnished truth is that we cannot preserve the status quo by maintaining our city boundary the way it is.

A community that continues to be divided in its government can neither save what has been patiently built in the past nor prepare for the future.

"Divided, we will decay. United, we can preserve and build."

We, therefore, urge a "yes" vote on consolidation on Nov. 4.

(Evert photo)



THE EXPERTS--Irving Rozian, John Allen and Gerald Ellsworth, from left, spoke on consolidation at a meeting of the Farmington Township Road Association. Rozian is a member of the State Boundary Commission, Allen is a Farmington City Councilman and Ellsworth is a candidate for consolidation charter commission.

## Existing Unification

The people of Farmington have made the area one community. There is a unity shown in all aspects of the community's life with one exception -- government.

Consolidation would unify the community's four governments into a single government to serve the entire area. Examples of unity which now exist are:

A single District Court, library district, post office, school district, community center, Chamber of Commerce, and a single history with a single name.

Groups which draw members from the entire area are: youth guidance committee, Jaycees, YMCA, Elks, Historical Society, Exchange Club, VFW, American Legion, DAV, AAUW, BPW, Artist Club, Masons, Jobs Daughters, Order of Eastern Star, Garden Club, Farmington Musicals, Rotary, Farmington Players, Farmington Community Arts Council, and Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

The area has a community concert band which draws members and support from and entertains the single community. The community's local newspaper serves the entire area and is not restricted by governmental boundaries.

Because Farmington has a single history, the community has one Founders Festival when all residents observe the area's rich heritage.

## Musicians To Swing

FARMINGTON The music department of Farmington High School will present a concert of four groups from the instrumental music department on Sunday, Nov. 16 in the high school auditorium. The concert will feature the orchestra, the band, the wind ensemble, and the marching band, and will begin at 3 p.m.

The orchestra and band will perform masterworks from the classics as well as a number of current "hits." The marching band will feature the twirlers and its fine percussion section and perform numbers which were highlights during the 1969 marching season.

In addition to appearing at all home games, the marching band has performed this year at the Wallick Lake Central-Farmington game in Wallick Lake, and led the Miss America parade in West Bloomfield in October.

## Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

## Gutless Griper

A sad fact about Tuesday's election is that when the votes are counted the results will be determined, not by the man who voted, but by the guy who stayed home.

During my newspaper career, I have served as editor for 10 different municipalities. And there has been a common denominator -- "the gutless griper."

THE GUTLESS GRIPER is my description for the man who complains but never votes. I have absolutely no respect for that man and cannot afford to waste my time listening to his gripes.

This character will spend an hour on the telephone filling the editor's ears with gripes about bad roads, faulty sewers, open ditches, faulty building codes, too many apartments, high taxes, etc. But he refuses to vote. In line for 30 minutes to vote.

Our gutless griper is not interested in solving problems or seeking solutions. That would put him out of business. He'd rather cuss out government all day then try to change it. That's good old Americanism -- "fight city hall, petition, write letters, attend meetings and gripe -- but for heaven's sake, don't vote."

because the guy who stayed home could negate the efforts of the man who cared enough to vote.

BEFORE EVERY election, editors make an appeal for all residents to get out and vote. Forgive us but we can't help ourselves. We want all our readers to participate in democracy.

The man who doesn't vote Tuesday gives up his right to complain. But unfortunately, we cannot inspect a resident's voting record when he comes in to gripe.

If you have ever talked to me about a problem in Farmington, I expect you to vote Tuesday. If not, you have betrayed my confidence and cheated yourself.

Some residents will use the excuse: "I didn't vote because I was still undecided." In this election, the undecided voter should vote "yes."

THERE ARE a number of residents who are undecided about the value of consolidation itself, but realize they will have a second vote and can defeat the charter then. Consolidation cannot become effective without a charter. If a charter is defeated, consolidation is defeated -- at the second vote.

The undecided voter should vote "yes" Nov. 4 and buy time to inspect a charter and explore the question further. Or if he wants, vote "no" -- that, at least, would be better than staying home.

IF we are attaching hereto the report developed by Ted DeBane, director of public services, relative to needed equipment if the DPW were required to service new consolidated land in Farmington Area, DeBane utilized the City of Southfield as a guideline in his forecast of required equipment for the DPW to adequately provide services for the consolidated area the same as provided for the City of Farmington. He estimates this cost to be \$272,000 and also projects the ultimate DPW building to be approximately 90,000 square feet of floor area at a cost of \$1.2 million, so we would need capitalization of approximately \$1.5 million for the DPW.

"If we provide park development for the consolidated area at the same level as is presently being provided by the City of Farmington, 35 acres having less than three square miles with population of 12,000, it would require an initial land

## Pollution Experts To Meet At Oakland U

A major topic of public concern today, air pollution control, will be examined Nov. 5 and 6 at the fourth annual Oakland University conference for industrial and governmental pollution control personnel.

The two-day conference will feature speakers and panel members in sessions on an ecological approach to air pollution control, state and federal air pollution legislation progress, monitoring and evaluating the atmosphere, the control of particulate and gaseous pollutants from power generating facilities, small industrial incinerators, solvent vapor incinerators and cement industry progress in pollution control.

Speakers and panelists for the state-wide conference include: Morton Sterling, director, Detroit-Wayne County Air Pollution Control Agency; G.N. Tiberto and James H. Frasier, General Motors Plant Engineering; Ralph A. MacMillan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and Samuel H. Thomas, Owens-Corning Fibers, Inc. Also on the program are Bernard H. Bloomfield, Michigan Department of Public Health; Robert L. Harris, National Air Pollution Control Association; and Walter Dowd of Huron Cement.

Panelists from the utility companies include: Donald H. Brandt, Consumers Power Company, and Wayne L. Winger of Detroit Edison.

proximately 35 employees. We believe that the police facilities could be allocated between the facilities without the necessity of constructing new buildings. It would be necessary for the township to triple the number of police vehicles they presently have in order to give comparable service to that of the city for area and population served. New police vehicles required -- 20. Cost: \$40,000. "ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS: We believe that the administrative facilities of the township and the city can be integrated so that there would be no immediate need for additional administrative facilities in the immediate future if the areas were consolidated.

"IN CONCLUSION, it would cost approximately \$4 million to capitalize facilities to place the new consolidated city at the same level of facilities as the city. Assuming that these funds be paid over a 20 year period at an average assessed valuation of \$500 million, it would cost approximately \$400,000 per year at an average cost of 4 mills over the 20-year life of these bond issues."

analysis  
What \$4 Million Will Cost You

By EMORY DANIELS

Four million dollars is a lot of money, but it buys a lot of things. Because a city has bonding capacity, it can be borrowed with a relatively low cost for individual taxpayers.

The report above should be analyzed on the following basis: What additional services would be purchased for \$4 million and what will be the cost to the individual taxpayer?

SERVICES: The \$4 million will purchase a DPW building and equipment to service the entire area; it would provide 300 acres of additional parks and recreation facilities; it would pay for three new fire stations and six additional fire trucks; and it would pay for 20 new police cars. (It is projected the consolidated city would have a 100-man police force.)

COST: Based on an averaged assessed valuation of \$500 million, the bonds could be paid over 30 years with a millage levy of .8 mills, or 80 cents for each \$1,000 assessed valuation.

This means a homeowner with a \$40,000 home assessed at \$20,000 would pay \$16 a year (\$1.33 a month) for the above services for 20 years. Or the homeowner with a \$20,000 home assessed at \$10,000 would pay \$8 a year (67 cents a month).

And keep in mind the study assumes the new city will provide the identical services as the present city. The assumption may be realized but first must be ratified by the charter commission.