

today's
hot line

what's inside

Welcoming Our Band

Farmington is getting ready to welcome a band — its own band — as the Community Concert Band opens a new band with a new sponsor. The story of our band is told inside along with a number of pictures of volunteer members.

Page 3A

The White Knights

Some young people did commit vandalism on Devil's Night, but others spent Saturday cleaning up the litter left by the trick 'n' treaters.

Page 4A

Visiting Spooks

The story of Halloween in Farmington cannot be completely told this year without mention of the Jaycees' Haunted House and the children from Northville State Hospital visiting the spooks.

Page 5A

A Poem Lovely

The Camerons came to suburbia from the Upper Peninsula where there are lots of trees, and they began by trying to recreate some of that leafy environment. But their arborvitae grew astonishingly, as our Suburban Gardener, Betty Frankel, relates this week.

Page 4-B

Sew Ordered

A Farmington lady who really can sew a fine seam is working these days on a very special order. The story is in the Women's Section.

Page 1C

A Critique

You like the painting, but you sometimes wonder about its artist merits? Maybe a different type of art critique can help. To find out what's planned at the Bloomfield Art Association this weekend, turn to

Page 6C

The Big Scene

How will the suburbs benefit from the Wayne County budget? ... What does Irving Rubin's scheduled departure from TALUS mean to regional government? ... What leading Observerland newspaper has a set of original photos from the moon? Each week the Regional Affairs Page keeps you up to date on the big picture of suburban life.

Page 6B

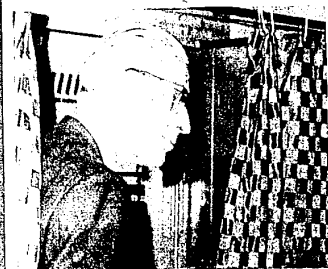
Amusements	6-7C
Classified Want Ads	Sec. D
Deaths and Funerals	5C
Editorial Viewpoints	11A
Home and Garden	4-5B
Readers' Forum	11A, 8C
Regional Affairs	6B
Sports — Prep and Pro	1-3B
World of Women	1-3C

EXTRA
APPLIANCES?

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Observer Want Ads
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Consolidation Bid Loses, City 'No' Vote Is Margin



ANOTHER BALLOT — Delos Hamlin has voted a number of times in Farmington and was among the early voters at Precinct 1 in the City of Farmington. (Evert photo)

The City of Farmington alone said "no" to consolidation, and "no" the answer must be.

City forces backing a unified government for the 36-square-mile community mustered only 44 per cent of the votes there Tuesday, while voters in Farmington Township and the villages of Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown gave the proposal solid support.

All four units had to pass the proposal before a charter commission could be elected to explore thoroughly the possibilities of a single city.

The city's negative vote was something of a personal victory for Councilman John Allen, who did nearly all the talking and writing against the proposal, visualizing a snug Birmingham-type future for

the City of Farmington if it went its own way.

WHAT WILL happen next?

The State Boundary Commission will take up an election petition from township residents to incorporate the entire township of some 45,000 persons into a new city that would surround the old City of Farmington.

If the Boundary Commission should find a flaw of any sort and declare the petition improper, however, then the Oakland County Board of Supervisors will consider a petition for an election to annex much of the south half of the township to the present City of Farmington.

Here are the Tuesday's election results, unit by unit:

● CITY — 1,013 In favor (44%); 1,013 opposed. Leading the

charter race for two city seats were Richard Tupper, 659, and Robert Sawyer, 538. The next candidate, Wesley Robertson, had 370 votes. About 48 per cent of the registered voters went to the polls.

● QUAKERTOWN — 123 in favor (55%); 101 opposed. Gerald Ellsworth edged Richard Habicht, 106 to 104, for the single charter seat. About four-fifths of the registered voters turned out.

● WOOD CREEK FARMS — 151 in favor (66%); 77 opposed. David Goldman was unopposed for the charter seat. Here, too, about four-fifths went to the polls.

● TOWNSHIP — 4,180 in favor (67%); 2,015 opposed. The five top charter candidates in the field of nine were J.T. Brennan, 2,317; Howard Bond, 1,881; Robert Pierce, 1,799; John Bailey, 1,587; and John Burke, 1,446. Only 32 per cent of the eligible voters turned out.

The charter commission, of course, will never take office because the main proposal has been defeated.

Councilman Allen expressed pleasure at the city's rejection of consolidation, but he admitted surprise that the villages favored the plan. In previous township incorporation votes, village residents had tended to oppose city status.

It was the first consolidation election held in Michigan under the new Boundary Commission Act and one of the few ever held in the state under any kind of legislation. Thus, Farmington's chance to make municipal history has faded, probably for a long time.

Russell Gilbert, chairman of Citizens for a Better Farmington, the group which surprised everyone by filing the consolidation petition last spring, said his group was "proud we have presented the residents of the Greater Farmington Area the facts surrounding the consolidation issue."

Gilbert quoted the Michigan Municipal League magazine editorial comment that "the success of local government probably rests most on the ability of the leaders to win support for disagreeable and unpopular changes."

OK, We Urge Incorporation Of Township

The votes have been counted and the question of consolidation has failed. There cannot be another attempt to combine the four governmental units of the Farmington Area for at least two years.

But Farmington Township cannot afford that two-year wait. The Enterprise & Observer believed consolidation was the BEST alternative for the community. But that alternative is now dead and we now endorse the SECOND BEST choice.

THE SECOND BEST alternative is incorporation of the entire township, including both villages.

If this can be legally accomplished, we urge the State Boundary Commission to accept the incorporation petition now before it and put the question on the ballot for a vote in June 1970.

Editorial

The Enterprise & Observer believes the township must obtain city powers. Our readers in the township deserve and need a city government and now must be given the chance.

The villages must also be included in the incorporation. The cost for the villages to go it alone is too great and highly impractical. Village government is intended to be transitional and both villages have already outlived their usefulness.

We do not see how Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms could survive as villages if the township incorporates without them. Because their plights would be desperate, we cannot support their continuation as villages once the township incorporates.

And we do not see a fifth class city status for either village as a sound alternative. Cities are not formed to protect existing zoning for areas almost fully developed. Neither are cities justifiably formed to prevent roads from being opened up for through traffic. The villages have served their purpose and cannot survive independently.

The second best alternative for both villages is to incorporate with the township. There is no third alternative which makes sense and the first choice has died.

THIS NEWSPAPER cannot support any alternative which would leave the township ripe for annexation. The township invested in and developed its industrial park. The industrial park belongs to the township and no one else should have it.

If an incorporation question is not placed on the ballot, the township's boundaries will again be unprotected and annexation could result.

We urge the Boundary Commission to accept the incorporation petition now before it is written. In the best interests of all NOW involved, the Enterprise & Observer endorses the second best alternative of incorporating the entire township area.

Farmington Enterprise & Observer



FIRST IN LINE — Norman Niemiec (left) of 36241 Hardenburg went to O.E. Dunckel Jr. High at 6:30 a.m. to become the first voter to cast a ballot at Precinct 7 in Farmington Township Nov. 4. (Evert photo)

Cleaning Up Grand River

Farmington City Council Monday night authorized the first step in what will be a prolonged effort to beautify the downtown business district.

Specifically, Monday's action was aimed at improving the appearance of business places along Grand River east of Farmington Rd.

THE COUNCIL authorized City Manager John Dhan and Building Inspector Jay Harrison to send out notices ordering certain temporary signs to be removed.

Harrison was also authorized to issue revocable permits for permanent signs which encroach upon the state right-of-way along Grand River.

The action also includes authority to issue orders to clear away parking lots, commercial

vehicles, merchandise or anything else which encroaches upon the right-of-way.

The goal is to remove unsightly signs, many of which were up before the current sign ordinance was adopted. Because the sign ordinance could not be enforced retroactively, the city had to allow these temporary signs to remain.

However, after a survey of the Grand River commercial strip, the city administration discovered many of the signs were located on state right-of-way. This gave the city the "out" to get rid of the temporary signs and eventually to remove the unsightly permanent signs.

WITHIN THE next couple weeks, notices will be sent to 44 business places along Grand

River ordering them to remove their temporary signs within 30 days.

The 30 day notice will also be given for other encroachments of the right-of-way, such as a parking lot.

In addition, 33 revocable permits will be issued for signs of a permanent nature. These signs will be allowed to remain indefinitely unless the permit is revoked.

By policy, the permits will be revoked if any physical change is made in the sign or if the wording or location of the sign is changed.

City Manager John Dhan commented that because of the investment made by the owner, there may not be any legal way the city can force removal of unsightly permanent signs.

RICHARD TUPPER, chairman of the Downtown Redev-

elopment Committee, added that Birmingham uses a public relations approach and not legal steps to remove ugly signs.

Tupper's committee, a subcommittee of the planning commission, is concerned with redevelopment of the downtown business district.

The city's planning consultants, Draker Associates, have prepared a preliminary draft of central business district regulations and are now revising to more specifically define allowable uses within the district.

To date, community leaders have seen presentations on how Birmingham and Williamston are redeveloping their downtown areas.

The Birmingham Story was sponsored by the Farmington Area Board of Commerce while the City Beautification Committee sponsored telling of the Williamston Story.

Halloween Mild Compared To Devil's Night Performance

BB-gun pellets zinged in north Farmington Township subdivisions. Eggs, tomatoes, waste paper, garbage, pumpkins and beer cans scattered in various parts of the city.

But nobody reported any bad apples, according to township and city police.

"We had all kinds of nonsense and lots of vandalism," said the township's desk sergeant, after noting that 10 different persons called to report pellet gunning from a moving car.

"We had the typical mayhem but nothing significant," said the city desk man.

In Farmington, unlike Detroit, Redford Township and some other surrounding communities, the adults apparently left the "tricking" to the kids.

TOWNSHIP POLICE responded to the BB-gun complaints with "several" patrol cars but were unable to make contact with the alleged assailants.

No damage was reported, although one mother wrote the Farmington Enterprise and Observer claiming her son had been struck in the throat by a pellet.

City police were able to

catch some of the devilment makers and had them clean up their handiwork.

A mother on Mayfield in the city reported that a cruising motorist was throwing beer cans at trick-or-treaters.

A Cortland man reported being beaten by a "group of kids."

FIVE PERSONS on Robinson, Schulte Drive, Slocum Drive, Valleyview and Hillcrest, reported eggs thrown at their homes.

State police called for city and township police help to

thwart kids dropping pumpkins and stones off the walk-over bridge on Powers and Freedom Roads.

Others reported garbage and paper being strewn in yards.

One man complained his windows were waxed.

WHEN DID it all occur? Halloween night? Nope. It was on Devil's Night, the eve of Halloween.

Police said Halloween was mild today, compared to the night with a more explicit credo.