

today's hot line

what's inside

New Powers

A member of the State Boundary Commission says that agriculture should have broader powers than it now has over annexations and consolidations. The changes, if approved by the Legislature, could be significant to the townships of Farmington, Plymouth and Redford. Check the Regional Affairs page.

Page 6C

Park Funds

There's some park and water conservation money on the way to the 19th Congressional District for projects in Livonia, Farmington and Oakland County. Here's what the area is getting for its money.

Page 9A

Seeking Work

There's a sheltered workshop for the retarded at the Plymouth State Home that's looking to businessmen in Farmington and Livonia, among other places, for work the young patients can do. Maybe you have an idea.

Page 7A

Costly Meats

If meat prices are running up your food budget, Elly, our resident chef and recipe collector, has some ideas on how to make delicious dishes from the cheaper cuts of meat. (If you have your own ideas, pass them on to her.)

Page 5C

Broad Approach

The Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments tries to take the broad approach to regional problems, and it will meet next weekend for a "changing of the guard" as well as a hard look at the toughest problem facing the area. Dennis Pajot has the agenda story on the Regional Affairs Page.

Page 6C

Amusements	6-7B
Classified Want Ads	Sec. D
Cooking, by Elly	5C
Deaths and Funerals	11A
Editorial Viewpoints	10A
Home and Garden	5B
Readers' Forum	11A
Regional Affairs	6C
Sports-Prep and Pro	1-4B
Skiing	4B
World of Women	1-3C

Township Establishes Senior Citizen Housing Commission

Farmington Township Trustees Monday night approved an ordinance establishing a housing commission to investigate feasibility of the eventual construction of senior citizen housing.

FIRST TASK for the commission will be to conduct necessary preliminary studies to apply for federal planning funds.

Once planning funds are made available, then the commission with the aid of planning consultants will draft a plan to establish low-rental housing for senior citizens residing in the township.

Monday night, Township Supervisor Curtis Hall appointed five members of the township board to

serve as temporary members of the housing commission.

The five are: Tom Nolan, also a planning commissioner; Mrs. Margaret Schaffer, also a beautification committee member; Floyd Cairns, township clerk; Fred Lichtman; and Earl Oppertbauer.

THE FIVE WILL serve staggered terms of one, two, three, four and five years. Before the next meeting on Feb. 9, Hall will draw names to decide what terms will be given individual trustees.

Hall explained that the trustees will serve "at the pleasure of the board." Although they will be assigned specific terms, the members will resign after planning funds are received.

Nolan added that the trustees are serving as temporary members of the housing commission only to "get the ball rolling." Members will serve only until planning monies are funded by the federal government, Nolan said, and then a permanent commission can be formed.

Mrs. Schaffer endorsed the action because "no official action will be taken until the federal application is prepared and funds made available and this would seem to be the suitable time to change the commission's membership."

NOLAN POINTED OUT during the meeting that the suggestion for senior citizen housing was made first by Stella Strye.

Mrs. Strye, a township resident in the Clarenceville School District and active member of the beautification committee, made the suggestion in a letter to Hall nine months ago.

If the program is realized, it will implement what is known as the turnkey operation. Under turnkey, a developer builds the housing and once it is completed turns the key over to the municipal government.

The township government will then serve as landlord and set the amount of rent charged the tenants. Rent is determined by computing maintenance expenses and adding a small amount to be paid each month on the principal.

THE RENTAL FEE is nominal. Similar projects completed in neighboring Livonia rent for from \$35-\$40 a month.

Building costs have gone up since those apartments were built and present "ballpark" estimates are the rental charge will be around \$60 a month.

The Housing Commission, when it completes the project plan, will apply for federal funds to finance construction.

There will be no out-of-the-pocket expenses for the township since the entire cost will be financed by a federal loan with the rentals paying back the loan.



GOVERNMENT ART - Mrs. Walter Dolan, left, and Mrs. R.J. Fong hang a painting in the Farmington Township Hall. The Farmington Artists Club and the township beautification committee are sponsors of the continuous exhibit.

(Evert photo)

Artists' Exhibit Ongoing

The Farmington Artists Club and the Farmington Township Beautification Committee have arranged for the continuous exhibit of paintings in the Farmington Township Hall.

Mrs. Walter Dolan, a member of both the artists' club, and the beautification committee, arranged for about 20 paintings to be placed in the new Township Hall on 11 Mile near Orchard Lake. Oils, watercolors and acrylics of subjects ranging from landscapes to abstracts are displayed.

Mrs. Russel J. Fong, president of the Farmington Artists' Club, who helped select and hang the paintings, says the works will be changed about every three months. The paintings by members of the 92-member club are for sale.

Feucht Named Director

William Feucht, vocal music director at Farmington High School for 15 years, is taking over as the new director of the Kendallarks women's chorus.

The Kendallarks, now in their 12th year, have been directed in recent years by George Assemany, Farmington musician and head of the Farmington Community Arts Council.

The group's new accompanist is Stafford Preston of Farmington.

FEUCHT, who holds degrees from Ottawa University in Kansas and the University of Michigan, has directed community choruses in Farmington and done church choral work, both as director and soloist.

The Kendallarks originated as an interested group in the Kendallwood subdivision of Farmington Township. Later membership was opened to all women interested in singing projects.

Special acts by small groups of members also have been added to give variety to the many concerts performed by the Kendallarks before churches and school groups, clubs and lodges, hospitals and retirement homes and as part of larger musical variety shows such as the Farmington Founders Follies.

THE KENDALLARKS, ranging in age from young mothers to young grandmothers, release Tuesday evenings in the North Farmington Baptist Church, 13 Mile west of Orchard Lake Road.

Any women in Observerland who can sight-read music and are interested in membership may call Mrs. Bea Scaglione, president, at 626-5028.

Shooting Again At High School

Farmington students are shooting again. Film, that is. Their second annual film contest will soon get under way at Farmington High School under the direction of sponsor John Barrett.

Films are made on 8mm stock. They must be in good taste and adhere strictly to deadline.

Last year's contest resulted in the award of \$40 in prizes.

Special Panel To Combat Drugs

Farmington Township has decided to take the lead in establishing a Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate means of combating drug abuse problems menacing the Farmington community.

Suggestion to create the Blue Ribbon Committee was made at Monday night's township board meeting by Trustee Earl Oppertbauer.

AFTER DISCUSSING the suggestion, the board appointed Oppertbauer as its representative to contact City of Farmington and Farmington School District officials to coordinate establishment of the committee.

Supervisor Curtis Hall expressed his hope that township, city and school representatives will meet and agree on a course of action as soon as possible.

IMPROPER USE of drugs of all descriptions, including marijuana, LSD and hard narcotics, has been increasing among Farmington teenagers, Oppertbauer said.

"Although some people may be content to sweep this evidence under the rug of uncertainty," Oppertbauer told trustees, "I am not. I am sure, from my association with each of you, that you are not either."

"Unfortunately, in dealing with this subject, we must concern ourselves today with the problems of tomorrow, aided only by the experience of yesterday."

"Experiencewise, mass drug abuse is relatively new but we must face up to it with open eyes to see the problem, open minds to seek the proper course of action, and open hearts to pursue that course of action with all the necessary determination and understanding of the problem to effect the much needed solution."

Until this is done," Oppertbauer continued, "all the youth in our community will continue to be exposed to this perilous problem which was largely unknown to the older generations."

OPPERTBAUER COMMENTED a lot of activity in the past year on federal and state levels has concerned itself with the drug problem, but these programs were primarily aimed at the addict.

"If we wait until people become addicted we are locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen," he added.

"Do we not need to attack the cause for a proper and lasting cure, and not just treat the symptoms?"

"We have also witnessed some efforts at the local level, the benefits of which are very difficult to appraise without an in-depth evaluation."

OPPERTBAUER RECOGNIZED the educational

approach being taken by Farmington Schools to the drug problem and the work of township police in presenting special programs on drug abuse to youth.

"I cannot offer a solution to this problem. I don't believe there is an easy or single solution," he admitted.

However, I for one feel that it is time we put forth our best efforts to seek a solution."

IN SUGGESTING a Blue Ribbon Committee, Oppertbauer said he saw as its purpose "to seek, through the study of our local problem and the application of their own ingenuity, ways and means by which we can educate and motivate our youth and others who are or may become afflicted to avoid the drug and narcotic peril."

Oppertbauer suggested that the committee be formed from clergymen, educators, doctors, psychologists, sociologists, lawyers, police, government leaders and concerned parents.

He asked that the governmental units "solicit the aid of such persons who are willing to devote themselves to this effort so that no capable and dedicated person will be overlooked."

JOSEPH T. BRENNAN, township attorney, also suggested that students also be included on the committee.

Problems of drug abuse are closely related with the generation gap, said Brennan, and youth should be enlisted to work with the committee on the problem.

"This thing will dry up if student leaders will actively oppose drug use and if any recommendations which come from the committee are made with the cooperation of the younger generation. It'll carry more weight that way," said Brennan.

Oppertbauer agreed there was a relationship between drug abuse and the generation gap but added the real problem was that organized crime is capitalizing on the drug market.

Wood Creek Names Clerk

Mrs. Frances Manos has been appointed acting clerk of Wood Creek Farms and will fill that position until at least the conclusion of village elections in March.

Mrs. Manos of 29043 Millbrook was appointed by the village council at its last meeting to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Eileen Abbott who has retired as clerk. Mrs. Manos will assume the position officially on Feb. 1.

Petitions for offices to be elected in the March elections must be turned in by 4 p.m. Jan. 31. Up for election are two council positions, assessor, treasurer and clerk. Both clerk's office hours Saturday are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registrations to vote in the village elections will close at 8 p.m. Feb. 6. Both clerk's offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on that date.

Villagers desiring information may call Mrs. Manos at 626-7219.

Power Outage Blackens Area

Moisture seeping into power lines and transformers caused a loss of power for up to two hours in the Farmington Area Sunday night.

Walter Doley of Detroit Edison said the light, floating precipitation which penetrated power lines, and the subsequent wetting caused a loss of power throughout the northwest metropolitan area. Areas from one to three blocks were out for up to two hours, he said.

FIRST LOSSES of power were reported about 3 p.m. and continued until 10 p.m.

In the City of Farmington, the loss of power shutoff traffic signals at six intersections and caused two small fires, according to Robert Deadman, director of public safety.

Deadman said 11 additional public safety officers and auxiliaries were called to help the five officers regularly on duty. Full power was restored to the Farmington area about 7 p.m., after an outage of about two hours.

No accidents were reported during the period, Deadman said.

THE TWO SMALL fires were corrected by disconnecting electrical systems, Deadman said.

The public safety director reported some power lines were down near Grand River west of the city. A spokesman for Edison said water entering the lines then freezing caused the lines to break.

He's in Business On Your Street

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