

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Vol. 83, No. 26

16 pages, 2 sections

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## 1971 Is Midwife For New Decade

By EMORY DANIELS

cityhood question is approved.

1971 ALSO should be the year some real progress is made in low-cost rental apartments for senior citizens.

The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regional office in Detroit should approve the planning funds before June. Next summer might see the Farmington Township Board of Trustees appoint a permanent housing commission to formulate the specific details for the project.

AN IMPORTANT decision to be made in 1971 will be whether or not Farmington Township wants to accept the regional Sears enclosed mall proposed for 13 Mile and Haggerty Rds.

The initial decision will be made early in the year by the township's planning commission and final decision should be made by the board of trustees before April 1.

The proposal appears to be a natural bonanza to spur growth development in the northwest area of the township. It would seem the township would be over anxious to take advantage of an offer which would draw shoppers from all four directions to the center.

The initial concern of some township planners over the project appears to be lessening with adjustments being made by the developers.

The site planners have adjusted the density down to 7.8 multiple units per acre which is below the maximum of 10 per acre allowed in R.C. 2.

Studies have been made which indicate the large commercial center, if completed, would add only about 5% to the township's total revenues at present tax rates.

Although the planning commission could reject the request, it is expected the planners will recommend approval to the board of trustees. Trustees are expected to look favorably upon the

project which includes land set aside for a fire station and hospital.

Public hearings on this request, the first being Jan. 22, should draw heavy crowds and a lot of controversy might develop before a final decision is made. The best bet is approval will be given.

THE SCHOOL board will have a very difficult go of it in the early part of 1971, if not all year.

Barring any intervention from the state, the school district will have a very tough time keeping its operating budget in the black.

The 1970-71 operating budget includes provisions for the termination of employment for 18 elementary instructors. Decisions on how this will be done and whom this will be laid off are yet to be made.

When the board makes those decisions, opposition is expected from the Farmington Education Association (FEA) which is the sole bar-

gaining agent for Farmington teachers.

The FEA has serious questions about the district's legal rights to terminate employment in the middle of a contract year and over the district's right to lay off tenure teachers.

Those decisions will probably be made this week or next as the faculty returns for the second semester. The new year might begin in January or February with unfair labor practice charges leveled by the FEA against the school board.

Unless more financial aid is received from the state, it will be a long, hot summer when the labor teams begin gathering to negotiate the 1971-72 master agreement for teachers.

The negotiating era for teachers, started in the mid-sixties, may hit its peak in 1971 with ground rules changing across the state. Either this or 1971 will be the year that real educational reform is accomplished.

More serious discussion

### analysis

Community College in Farmington Township. The campus' amphitheatre might well be "discovered" by the Farmington community. That discovery could lead to other cooperative ventures between college and town with both benefiting.

The college is considering construction of a Community facility as part of its overall development and this could further increase a two-way exchange.

RECREATIONAL programs may have a shift in impetus as the fast-growing population is becoming younger and younger.

Growing affluence has already created a need for more sophisticated forms of recreation, not only for teens but for young adults, the middle-aged and senior citizens.

Our affluent, more leisurely life-style is taking persons out of the backyards to far away places for recreation. The ball bat and jumping rope have already been replaced by mechanized "toys" such as mini-bikes and snowmobiles.

The City of Farmington is apt to raise its tax rate by one mill because of rising salary costs and additional DPW expenses. The city's SEV factor might also increase by about 5-8%.

The school district can certainly be expected to ask for millage renewal and might be forced to ask for additional millage, possibly a two-mill increase.

The financial picture may not be this bleak for the homeowner but relief will depend upon: labor negotiations during the first half of 1971; the prices homes will be sold for; and the impact the cost of living has on consumers such as policemen, firemen, teachers, inspectors and maintenance men during the next six months.

More serious discussion

More serious discussion

More serious discussion

may be heard in 1971 about the construction of a civic arena or recreation center. The high costs, however, may result in more facilities being shared by governmental units within the Farmington area, between Farmington and neighboring communities, or between county and state government and local municipalities.

THE EFFORT to locate a general medical hospital in Farmington Township might result in failure in 1971.

The Greater Detroit Hospital Council (GDHC), which has the final say on locations of hospitals, can be expected to deny Farmington's request in favor of a site, further west in Novi, Walled Lake or Milford area.

Prompting the GDHC's desire to go west will be expansion now in progress at both Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Township and St. Mary in Livonia.

Farmington will have convincing arguments on why the hospital should be located here but they are not seen as convincing enough to win over the GDHC.

More serious discussion

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CITY WINNER — The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Scottie Hubbard of 32200 Marblehead in the City of Farmington was the first place winner in the residential category of the Christmas



CANTERBURY COMMONS — The home of Mr. and Mrs. Lea Flessa of 30033 Valleyside, Farmington Township, was first place winner in the Kimberly Christmas decoration contest sponsored by Thompson-Brown Co., the subdivision's developer. (Ralph Evert photo)

TAXES WILL rise in 1971 at all levels. A greater demand for housing

MORE USE will be made during 1971 of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland

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ATTITUDE makes one newspaper's church pages different from another . . .



### Farmington Calendar

- SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL CLUB**  
Friday, Jan. 8, at noon, the Senior Citizens Social Club of Farmington will meet at the First United Methodist Church social room. The birthday Potluck dinner will be followed by election of officers.
- BASKETBALL FREE THROW**  
Saturday, Jan. 9, starting at 9 a.m., the Farmington Elks will sponsor a Basketball Free Throw contest for boys 14 years of age and under that are residents of Farmington city and township. The contest will be held in Power Junior High. Boys will compete in three age divisions: 10 years and under; 11 and 12; 12 and 14. Winners in each division will be awarded trophies and become eligible for the Elks State Tournament.
- CHRISTMAS CARD CATALOGS**  
As in the past years, the Bon Ton Shop in Farmington is making available all their Christmas card catalogs to those who can use them at hospitals and children's homes. They are free and may be picked up at Bon Ton Galerie at 33409 Grand River, just west of Farmington Rd.
- COMMUNITY CENTER CLASSES**  
Jan. 11-12—Registration for the winter classes being offered by the Farmington Community Center will be taken between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Information on classes can be obtained by calling the Center at 474-8973 or 474-2990.
- PIONEER GOLDEN AGE CLUB**  
Jan. 13—At noon the Pioneer Golden Age Club will meet in St. Alexander Catholic Church social hall on Shiloh Ave. for its first business meeting of the new year. Bring a sandwich, coffee and tea are furnished. For transportation call 476-4865.
- EXPECTANT PARENTS CLASS**  
Jan. 13—The second in a series of eight classes for expectant parents will be offered by the Oakland County Health Department. The free classes are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the South Oakland Health Center at 27725 Greenfield at 11 1/2 Mile Rd. in Southfield.

A wish for a very Happy Year

Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

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