

# City Approves \$5 Million Capital Improvements Plan

The City of Farmington has established a six-year \$5 million capital improvement program with emphasis in 1971 on street improvements, storm drainage and downtown redevelopment.

The program was approved by the City Planning Commission and will be used by the council as a guide in preparing annual budgets, explains City Manager John Dinan.

**THE SIX-YEAR** programs are written each year with additions and deletions made or re-emphasis given.

The plan envisions \$707,000 being spent in 1971 on capital improvements, \$276,000 in 1972 and almost \$4 million between 1973-76.

Estimated revenues to finance these projects would be derived from: \$675,000 gas and weight tax refunds; \$3.4 million special assessment bonds; \$45,600 from the city's tax levy; \$825,000 from Oakland County; \$160,000 federal monies; \$166,000 state monies; and \$2.7 million building authority funds.

A total of \$550,000 is scheduled for street improvements with \$250,000 slated for 1971 fiscal year. The 1971 projects include the proposed paving of Shawnessee from Farmington Rd. to Grand River, Gill from Grand River to Freedom, and Drake from Grand River to the south city limits.

About \$200,000 is seen in 1971 to be spent on a storm sewer to provide an outlet for the west side of Farmington Rd. north of Freedom and relief for Alta Loma subdivision.

**FOR DOWNTOWN** redevelopment projects in 1971, some \$180,000 has been foreseen with \$120,000 being raised by special assessment and about \$60,000 from general obligation bonds.

The estimate on downtown redevelopment expenditures for 1971 was a "ball park guesstimate" based on a preliminary study done by Tapan Data of Grievas Associates.

The city has set aside \$20,000 in 1971 to acquire land for the civic park area which will be developed through a \$6-50 federal matching grant.

The program shows \$93,000 being spent for community park facilities with \$10,000 expended in 1971 and the balance in 1972. This would be financed through \$66,400 from the 80-20 matching fund from the state recreation bond issue with \$20,600 coming from the general fund tax collections.

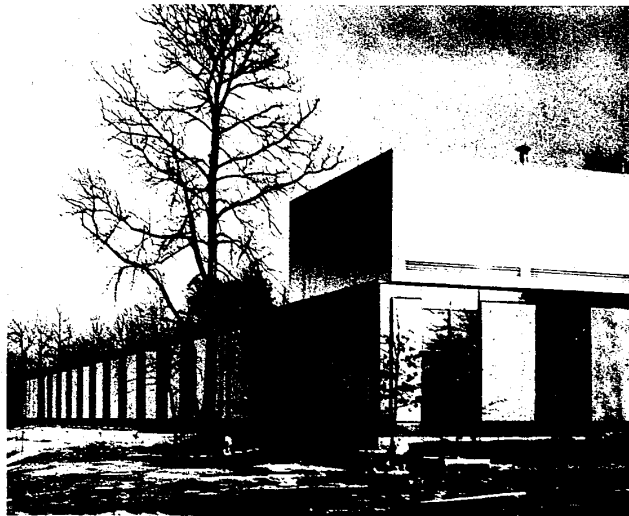
**OTHER IMMEDIATE** programs planned include:

- \$18,000 for tree planting with \$6,000 programmed for 1971; \$6,000 for street lighting, \$2,000 in 1971; \$30,000 for sidewalks with \$10,000 in 1971 with emphasis on providing sidewalks for Floral Park subdivision; and \$75,000 for local street improvements with \$25,000 programmed for 1971.

Another expenditure programmed for fiscal year 1971 is \$4,000 for a carport for the police department.

**AN ITEM** which raised debate on the planning commission level was the suggestion to program \$150,000 in

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THE MOST modern newspaper building in the state and one of the few in the country specifically designed for suburban newspapers.

Observer Newspapers' new plant is placed in a beech forest.

## New Observer Plant Nation's Most Modern

On Friday, Observer Newspapers Inc. will move to the newest and most modern newspaper plant in the nation.

The \$35 million facility, located at 36251 Schoolcraft Road at Levan Road in Livonia, will house offices for The Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

Featuring an ultra high speed offset press, computer-driven phototypesetting equipment, an open plan central office core, and a beech forest setting, the 54,000 square foot building is one of the very few facilities in the country specifically designed for suburban newspapers.

**"THE COMPLETION** of our new building means that our readers and advertisers here will be better served than ever before by The Enterprise & Observer," Publisher Philip H. Power remarked.

"We've put a lot of planning, effort and money into the plant, and this investment reflects both our great confidence in the Farmington area and our intent to use the efficiencies of the building to make possible better news and advertising coverage for Farmington," Power added.

Enterprise & Observer Editor Emory Daniels added,

"I've seen a lot of newspaper buildings, but I've never seen one as nice as this! It will make my job directing the paper much easier and more effective, and it will make it easier for news sources and other local people to reach me promptly even when I'm out, because the news desk will be covered at all times.

"News items can be mailed or brought to me at the new building or I can be reached by phone at 261-8600. The old offices of The Enterprise & Observer at 23225 Farmington Road and the old 47-6223 phone number will be closed as of Friday morning," Daniels added.

New phone numbers will be: Classified want ads, 522-

9090; Advertising and Billing, 261-8600; and Circulation, 261-3800.

**HOUSED IN** the new plant is the most modern newspaper production system in the state. Included are:

- A Goss Metro offset press, which can produce newspapers of up to 64 pages at speeds up to 30,000 per hour. The press also has a color deck, which will make printing of color pictures and advertisements much clearer and sharper.

- A computer-driven phototypesetting department, which generates clean, sharp type at speeds undreamed of only a few years ago. The computer is also used for billing and internal accounting purposes.

- An automated mail room, where automatic counter-stackers prepare bundles, which are then automatically tied and dispatched through electric boom conveyor belts to circulation drivers, who then rush the papers to carrier boys.

- A 15,000 square foot central office core, designed without partitions and with a ducted floor for easy expansion, housing editorial, advertising, billing departments. Floors and walls are carpeted for acoustical purposes.

**CONFERENCE** rooms with projection facilities, an employe cafeteria with a full

kitchen, a glass-enclosed observation gallery above the press, and full air conditioning and humidity control are among a host of other special features.

The site features one of the few virgin beech forests in this area. Virtually all employees have a full view of the woods where wild life abounds - deer, owl, pheasants, raccoons - and Power plans to set up feeding stations for the birds and animals and to provide picnic tables for employes.

"We're very proud of our staff because of the fine work they have done," Power remarked. "We believe that by having surroundings as nice as their own homes - as opposed to the usual newspaper buildings - we'll all be able to work together to make the newspapers even better."

The building will have direct entrance and exit to the Schoolcraft (I-96) freeway, scheduled for completion in 1974. "This, coupled with the two-minute drive to the planned north-south I-275 expressway on Haggerty Road, will put us no more than 25 minutes away from any point in our circulation area," Power added.

**OBSERVER** Newspapers, Inc. publishes newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Southfield, Redford Township, Garden City and

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today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 38 40 pages, 4 sections

what's inside

### Sports For Spring?

Rumors about the elimination and drastic reductions in the spring sports program have been circulating around the Farmington Area. The school board has issued a statement to dispel these rumors and detail for parents what the goals are for spring athletics.

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### Learn Gardening

There are still some vacancies remaining in the gardening and landscaping course to be taught by Mrs. Betty Frankel in the Farmington Community Center. Background on the course and its teacher, an ONI regular garden columnist, is given inside.

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### Schoolcraft Vote

It's all but official. Schoolcraft College will ask voters to approve a one-mill property tax increase at a special election in fall. Here's the story behind the board's selection of the date.

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| Deaths and Funerals .....  | 9B         |
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| Spotlight on Women .....   | 1-5C       |
| Winter Sports .....        | 4B         |

522-0900

261-8600

261-3800



### YOUR NEW observer DIRECTORY

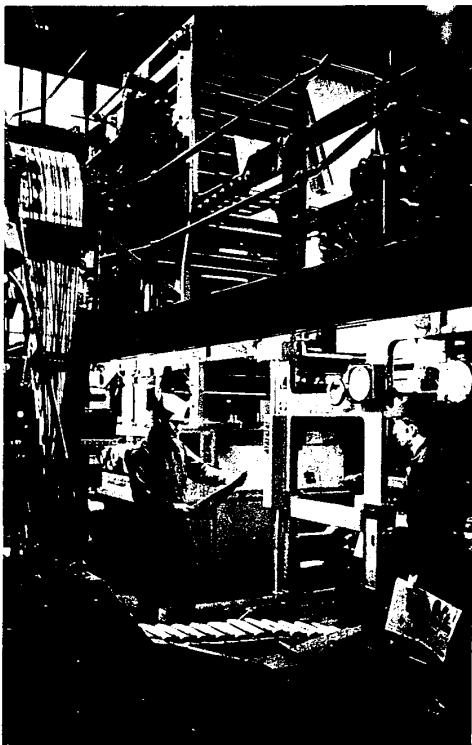
|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| CENTRAL OFFICES .....                 | 261-8600 |
| ACCOUNTING .....                      | 261-8600 |
| CIRCULATION .....                     | 261-3800 |
| RETAIL ADVERTISING .....              | 261-8600 |
| 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.<br>Monday - Friday |          |
| EDITORIAL .....                       | 261-8600 |
| 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.<br>Monday - Friday    |          |
| WANT AD DEPARTMENT .....              | 522-0900 |
| 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.<br>Monday - Friday |          |
| 9 a.m. - 12 noon Saturday             |          |
| 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia        |          |

\* effective Friday, February 19

261-8600

522-0900

261-3800



SPEED AND QUALITY are the key things about the big Goss Metro offset press in Observer Newspapers' new plant in Livonia. Capable of printing products up to 64 full newspaper pages in six sections at speeds up to 30,000 per hour, the press is the most modern in the metropolitan Detroit area. Its color deck and special registration equipment make it ideal for either newspaper or job printing work.

### New Phone Numbers

Starting Friday morning, new phone numbers for The Farmington Enterprise & Observer will be:

- Editorial: 261-8600
- Advertising: 261-8600
- Billing: 261-8600
- Classified Want Ads: 522-0900
- Circulation: 261-3800

Our new mailing address will be: The Farmington Enterprise & Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150.