

# the Farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## Council Candidates Begin Race For New City Seats

By DAN McCOSH

A well-attended candidates night sponsored by the Farmington Council of Homeowner's Assn. Thursday kicked off the campaign for the first council of the City of Farmington Hills.

Nineteen candidates are running for the council, which will meet only if the voters approve a charter for the proposed city May 8.

One candidate who filed, Michael Felner, 2741 Forestbrook, was disqualified for lack of qualified signatures on his petitions.

Of the 13 showed up Thursday, with about 100 people in the audience, James Moreen and David

Slader, both members of the township planning commission, sent letters of apology because that board was meeting that night.

Those who attended included: Larry Perry, Robert McConnell, William Ortmann, Joan Dudley, Vivian Jurosek, Henry Grysh, Thomas Acheneberg, Melvin Faunovich, Keith Deacon, Frederick Lichtman, William Hatton, Joanne Smith and Donald Chisholm.

Some popular stands were predictable: all the candidates mentioned road improvements and good police and fire protection. All were in favor of maintaining the master zoning plan, and all

mentioned "protesting our heritage."

Specific premises were rare. Robert McConnell, with the advantage of reviewing the current township budget in his post as supervisor, said he was in favor of adding "six or seven" new policemen to the force, as well as part-time professionals to supplement the volunteer fire department.

He was willing to commit the full millage called for in the church — six mills — for the purpose.

Joan Dudley specifically mentioned she didn't think it would be necessary to levy the full amount. She listed "expensive services" — garbage collection, skating rinks, as items which should be voted on "by the people."

Mrs. Dudley, a charter commissioner, also advocated a master road improvement plan to set priorities on road improvements.

Since "candidates nights" attract a lot of backers in the audience, the questions probed directly at some of the candidates.

William Hatton, who was critical of the charter when it was finally drafted, was asked whether he supported it now. He was the only one critical of the document.

"I am in favor of incorporation and will vote for the charter, but this doesn't

mean the charter is without fault," he said. "It's better than most, worse than some."

He felt the council should have had nine members (instead of five) and be elected from wards (instead of at large).

He also felt the council was too limited on some items — like the percentage the city is allowed to pay for local road improvements (20 per cent).

Mrs. Jurosek, Quakerstown clerk, was asked what she would do if the charter failed.

"I, personally, feel we need cityhood," she said.

She added she was an elected official of Quakerstown, and would continue to service and would run again if the charter failed.

William Ortmann, who ran as a Conservative Party candidate for Michigan Supreme Court, was asked whether he favored obtaining federal money for local projects like senior citizen housing.

"The slice of the government pie is there if you want it," he said — adding Dearborn's Mayor Orville Hubbard, who builds federal projects, "does a tremendous job." "We have an obligation to our senior citizens," he added.

### School Squabble

A parliamentary argument took up an hour of a recent school board meeting, but the combatants claimed a higher principle was at stake.

Page 2A

### New Hospital

Oakland County may move its hospital to Southfield, despite continuing plans to renovate the old Pontiac building. The reasons behind the county's position are on:

Page 8A

### Palms And Song

Both are to be found in Observerland churches Sunday as Holy Week begins. See our report on scheduled events in the Church Section.

Page 5A

### More Learning

Having completed a degree doesn't mean you quit learning, in the opinion of several AAUW members who will talk to fellow members of the organization this week. The story is on today's Observing Life pages.

Page 6A



ROTARY DONATION — Mrs. Mary Allison, past library board president, accepts a check from Rotary President Earl Lough for \$1,500 — the final contribution for a "quiet room" at the

12 Mile branch of the library. The Farmington Rotary contributed \$3,000 to the furnishing of the room in the new building. (Ever photo)

## Support Grows For Cityhood

A growing number of community groups have voiced their support of the proposed cityhood for Farmington Township. The charter commission has also organized a campaign to promote the charter prior to the election May 8.

Richard Frankel was named chairman of the charter promotion committee by his fellow commissioners Tuesday, after the commission formally adopted the charter.

The charter has been approved by the governor's office with one minor change, in a section on traffic ordinances.

Frankel immediately asked for volunteers to help his committee in promoting cityhood. Anyone interested can contact the supervisor's office at the Township Hall, Orin Road and 11 Mile.

The Council of Homeowners and the League of Women Voters have formally endorsed the charter and cityhood. The Farmington Chamber of Commerce Thursday adopted a resolution urging a "yes" vote on cityhood.

"We have studied the charter and feel it is exceptionally good for the homeowners," said Robert J. Byron, chairman of the Council of Homeowners Assn.

"We have always encouraged incorporation — we must protect our boundaries," he said.

The League of Women Voters said the charter "meets the essential criteria for a city charter."

"We strongly urge citizen support of the charter," they added.

## The Winery: Its Future Is Fuzzy

By STEVE BARNABY

For sale: one slightly used winery.

A bon vivant's paradise awaits anyone who happens to have about \$500,000. The Chamberlain Co. of America is reportedly selling the LaSalle Winery and Champagne building on Grand River in Farmington for that price, apparently killing earlier

hopes the building would become a "mini-mall." Several fires recently have contributed to the rapid deterioration of the property.

Purchasing the building four years ago after the original owner, Morris Twoney, died, Chamberlain attempted to keep the operation going but found competition with the California barrel tax too much.

At present, the property is

zoned for general commercial use, which includes retail merchants and office buildings.

Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager, says the city has no intention of purchasing the property and knows of no other prospective buyers at this time. Meanwhile, the old winery stands in disarray.

"A big problem is the recurring malicious destruction

that takes place in the building from time to time," says Deadman.

Because of the problem, city officials recently met with representatives from Chamberlain, who agreed to provide security until the facility is sold.

The building first became a winery after being purchased by Twoney in 1933. Before that, it had been the

Detroit United Railways terminal.

Twoney had been in the wine business in Canada until the repeal of prohibition.

One of the more colorful characters in the winery's history was Fritz Coerringer, chief winemaker and chemist, whose family had been in the wine business since 1411 in Muellheim in Baden, Germany.

Doerflinger joined the company in 1967 and in the first year sales rose by 15 per cent.

The winery used three kinds of grapes, all grown in Michigan. The most common was the blue Concord which produces chianti, Burgundy, port and sweet red wine. Other grapes used were Niagara and Delaware.

Amusements.....	12A, 12B
Bowling.....	9A
Churches in Action.....	4, 5A
Classified Want Ads.....	1-12B
Deaths and Funerals.....	5A
Focus: Suburbia.....	6A
Observing Life.....	9-11A
Sports-Prep and Pro.....	10A
Turf Tips, Quips.....	10A

### FOCUS: Suburbia

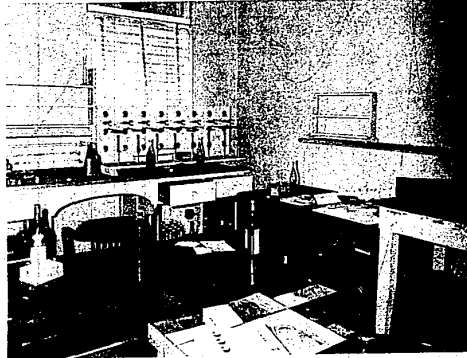
Garden Talk



How should your garden grow? We have informative reading waiting for you in today's FOCUS: Suburbia



REPEATED INCIDENTS of malicious destruction have occurred in the LaSalle Winery and Champagne Co., since it went out of business two years ago. Future plans for the facility have not been determined. (Ever photo)



OLD BOTTLES of wine and champagne sit idle in the old LaSalle Winery on Grand River in Farmington. All wine from the winery was made from Michigan grapes. (Ever photo)