

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's
hot line

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what's inside

Help The Center

The Farmington Community Center, in the midst of an annual fund-raising campaign, needs community support. The reasons why are outlined in an editorial on

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Gym Feat

An elementary gym team recently won a state competition. The story of the new team's success is on

Page 2A

Tools For Nigeria

A local Catholic parish is taking an active part in helping establish a school in a tiny Nigerian village. You might want to help, too, and you can find out how to do it in today's Church Section.

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Accompaniment

The Southfield Ballet Company, which has membership from many parts of Observerland, will have good musical accompaniment for its next performances - it's an ensemble of Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians.

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Anti-Semitism

Our religion columnist says there's a lot of it in today's world of emphasis on minority groups. His column is in our Church Section.

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FOCUS: Suburbia



The great outdoors is waiting for you! Follow us into the sunshine for the story of Outdoor Living. It's the topic of discussion in today's FOCUS: Suburbia.

How Charter Will Change Finances Of The Township

By DAN MCCOSH

Municipal finance is magic to the average homeowner. If he is lucky, he sees a tax bill; more often it is lumped into his mortgage payment. But the ship of state floats on a sea of revenue, and local government is no exception.

Currently, Farmington Township provides minimal services (financed through a patchwork of taxes and assessments).

The proposed charter for the City of Farmington Hills sews some of the patches together. The result will probably be a tax increase.

How much is up to the first city council, but the charter limits it to six mills the first year, going up to a maximum of 10 mills by 1980.

Although some of the council candidates are campaigning on the basis the full limit won't be needed, most know:

edgible observers of the new city's birth pangs feel the full limit will be used.

What does this do to your tax bill?

Residents of Farmington Township currently pay 50.2 mills in local property taxes. Of this bill, 38.7 goes to Farmington schools, 5.51 goes to Oakland County, 1.3 to Oakland Community College, 1.5 mills goes to the Farmington Library and 3.2 mills goes to Farmington Township.

The township currently receives nine cents of the local property tax dollar - which includes the library millage.

A house which sells for \$20,000 in Farmington Township now has a township tax bill of \$47.

The charter, by itself, does not raise this bill.

The charter puts the power to set the tax rate in the hands of the city council -

which can raise it only to the limit set by the charter.

The current township tax rate is set partly by voted millage - the two mills for police and fire protection expiring this year. The remainder, 1.2 mills, is set by the county allocation board.

Charter limits on tax rates are not the same as a tax rate - the City of Farmington, with a 20 mill limit, levies only 9.5 mills.

But the charter commission calculated the graduated tax limits for Farmington Hills to correspond closely with anticipated costs of government.

Since the charter commission used tentative budgets prepared by Township Supervisor Robert McConnell in setting the limit, it expects to see an increase in the tax

analysis

But local government does not live on property taxes alone.

Cityhood would bring changes in money received locally for road improvements, and also mean minor changes in the financing of local assessment-type projects.

The township currently receives about \$202,000 worth of services a year from Oakland County working on local roads.

As a city, about \$900,000 will be returned directly from the state gas and weight fund.

The additional money doesn't come free of strings, however. A formula set by the state determines how much of the \$900,000 can be used on "major roads" and how much on "local roads."

Many major roads will remain under the jurisdiction of Oakland County - sections of Eight Mile, 10 Mile, 12 Mile, Haggerty, Farmington

Rd., Orchard Lake and Middle Belt.

Charter supporters estimate about four times the money now available for roads will be available as a city.

But the charter does not promise a "paved road in front of every home."

Local street paving still will be done by assessing property owners. The charter limits the city contribution to locally assessed projects at 20 per cent - the same ratio now paid by the township and the county.

The new city would be able to borrow money for civic projects - but the charter restricts the city more than the township is currently.

The charter limits the borrowing power at five per cent of the state equalized valuation of the township - about \$15 million.

The township is limited to 12 per cent of the SEV.

New Horizons Pulls Together To Continue

By MARTHA MAHAN

A new dawn appears ahead for Farmington's New Horizons.

A community campaign to keep open the work activity center for mentally and physically handicapped is almost halfway to its objective of raising \$12,000 by June 1.

Contributions and pledges totaling \$3,700 have given the fund raising campaign an early boost, according to Mrs. Edgar Mosshamer, co-chairman with Mrs. Robert Wagner of the Farmington New Horizons Century Club.

Most are in amounts of \$100, Mrs. Mosshamer said, and have come this far from 34 families, a church and two businesses.

"The largest single contribution so far is a check in the amount of \$2,000 from the Farmington Soroptimists, long time supporters of New Horizons," Mrs. Mosshamer said.

The card party will be the evening of May 4 at Our Lady of Sorrows Hall, 23615 Powers Road. Donations are \$3.

The New Horizons Century Club was formed last month when New Horizons of Oakland County informed parents of 25 clients at the Farmington center at 35100 Drive, Farmington 48024.

Grand River that it was to be demolished to make way for a new development. The county headquarters said it was financially unable to secure other suitable quarters in Farmington.

"The parents of our 25 Farmington clients rose to the challenge," said Glen D. Smith, New Horizons executive director.

"They formed the Century Club to assure our first year's rent of a new facility in Farmington and collected more than \$1,000 on the spot," Smith said. The parents also opened a restricted account at Metropolitan Bank in Farmington so they could refund all contributions in the event New Horizons did not retain a work activity center in Farmington.

"This is the kind of enthusiastic community support that has permitted New Horizons to get maximum mileage from our limited resources in qualifying handicapped Oakland County citizens to become self supporting, contributing members of our society," Smith concluded.

Contributions or pledges should be made to "Farmington New Horizons Century Club" and mailed to Mrs. Mosshamer at 34022 Moore Drive, Farmington 48024.



TWO FARMINGTON STUDENTS at Eastern Michigan University, Maria Kilpelainen (left) and Callen Clancy, appear regularly with EMU's string ensemble. Miss Kilpelainen, a sophomore, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vilho Kilpelainen, 23087 Purdie. Miss Clancy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James D. Clancy, live at 23843 Colchester. She is a sophomore.

Still Want Changes

Dems Support Charter

The Farmington Democratic Club "wholeheartedly" recommends approval of the proposed charter for a City of Farmington Hills but would like to see it amended

to provide council representation by districts.

A district plan would insure equitable geographical representation, a club statement said.

The Democrats also recommended that incoming councilmen, city manager and department heads voluntarily disclose their financial assets.

"Cityhood for the area which is now Farmington Township is a 'must' to protect our borders, preserve our tax base and prevent fragmentation and annexation grabs of various parts of our community," the statement said.

It called a township form of government "ill equipped to meet even the most basic needs of a community with a population of more than 50,000."

The Democrats termed the proposed charter "basically a good document which will permit the community to follow a path of gradual growth while preserving many of the better qualities of township life."

"The proposed charter establishes a direct line between the citizens and gov-

ernment officials and sets up an orderly system of responsibilities to replace the present multi-headed setup under the township," the Democrats' statement continued.

"The proposed cityhood will bring home rule in such critical areas as roads, traffic control and well being of the citizens," it added.

The club said the proposed charter "stabilizes the tax rate in a rational manner while providing for the community's transitional needs."

Finally, the proposed charter "provides adequate methods for citizens to review, modify or change the actions of their government," the statement concluded.

The club also recommended that, if the charter is adopted, the council hold all meetings, including discussions and votes, open to the public with the exception of statutory exceptions concerning real property acquisitions and personnel.

Homeowners Name 10 For Council

The Council of Homeowners Assn. of Farmington Township named 10 of the 20 candidates running for the proposed seven-member council of the City of Farmington Hills as "best qualified."

Joan D. Dudley and L. David Stader.

The list was announced following interviews with the candidates and a "candidates night," according to Robert Byron, chairman of the group.

The homeowners group named D. Keith Deacon, Joanne E. Smith, James Mooren, Earl C. Oppertbauer, William Hatton, Robert McConnell, Vivian M. Jurosek, Frederick Lichtman,