

today's hot line

Volume 84 Number 60 • Six News Sections

what's inside

Festival Time

To most drivers, Orchard Ridge is a collection of buildings and gaslights on I-696 in Farmington. But this weekend, the local campus of Oakland Community College will open its doors to the public in what is appropriately being called the "Gaslite Festival."

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President's Ball

A full page of pictures on the Farmington Chamber of Commerce's annual president's ball is in today's Enterprise and Observer.

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Fatal Crash

A carload of teenagers met with tragedy in Farmington Township this weekend in the worst traffic accident this year.

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Placing Parks

A park in western Wayne County got a boost from the county board last week. But at the same time, commissioners took a more-than-healthy poke at the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's priorities for buying rural parkland. Our story untangles the mess.

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Dead Heat

Livonia Churchill and Stevenson battled to a championship tie in the third annual Observerland Relays. Five records were shattered in the 14 school meet. For the complete story along with pictures, flip to today's sport section.

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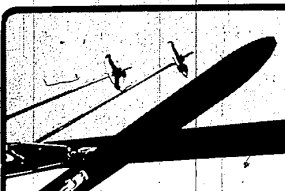
A Preview

A Livonia church has figured out a way to celebrate Mother's Day and encourage members to get started with summer sewing at the same time. You can get a preview of two of the results today.

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AS GOOD AS CASH



Nothing is as good as cash! Oh yes it is when it's an item in demand which can be converted into cash. Maybe you've had all the snow covered slopes on skis you want. You'll find cash buyers for your skis in a hurry when you offer them for sale in an OBSERVER WANT AD.

522-0900

HOURS: MON. thru FRI. 8-530 SAT. 9-12

'Hills' Charter Wins; McConnell Leads Ticket

By DAN McCOSH

Farmington Township becomes the "City of Farmington Hills" July 1.

Voters Tuesday passed a charter for the new city by 491 votes with approximately 25 per cent of those eligible going to the polls. The vote was 3,494 yes to 2,113 no, a favorable vote of nearly 54 per cent.

Township Supervisor Robert McConnell topped the field with 3,817 votes. Second was his running mate, township trustee Frederick Lichtman, with 2,981. Joan Dudley, a charter commission member, was third with 2,901.

McConnell, Lichtman and Mrs. Dudley win four-year seats on the new council. The terms expire at the end of 1977. Winning two-year council terms were:

Township Trustee Earl Opperhauser, 2,177; L. Keith Deacon, a member of Future Farmington Assn. and a McConnell running mate, 2,063; Township Trustee Margaret Schaeffer, 2,060; and attorney William Ortmann, a former Wood Creek Farms village councilman, 2051.

Ortmann edged out Joanne Smith, former Farmington Democratic chairman and the fourth McConnell running mate, by 39 votes.

Township Trustee L. David Stader, the only trustee who failed to make the new city council, received 1,985 votes and finished ninth.

Quakertown Village Clerk Vivian Jurosek finished 10th with 1,658. Others were William Eaton, 1,528; James Moreton, 1,290; Donald Chisholm, 1,190; Robert Baers, 938; Larry Perry, 701; Thomas Achtenberg, 685;

Henry Grysh, 479; Melvin Paunovich, 436; and Wylie Pruner, 288.

McConnell, who has worked six years for incorporation of the new city, said he expects to meet soon with the new council to begin working out the first budget. The fiscal year will begin July 1.

McConnell also expects to begin reorganization of township hall immediately as well as the search for a professional city manager, who will be the city's chief administrator.

The new charter won in only nine of the 21 precincts. But it carried heavily in those nine.

Voters in Wood Creek Farms village and the two "south end" precincts, Nos. 1 and 2, rejected it by 2-1 margins. It also lost in the village of Quakertown by a narrow 35 votes.

Subdivisions on the east and north sides of the township appeared to favor the charter more heavily.

Richard Frankel, appointed by the charter commission to lead the campaign for passage, hired a helicopter for the day before and the day of the election to carry a "Vote Yes on the Charter" banner.

Frankel credited hard by-door campaigning over the weekend for the turnout, despite rainy weather. He said, "I appreciate the hundreds of people who have worked hard for the charter. I hope now those who opposed the charter will work with us to build the kind of city we can all be proud of."

The township has voted on incorporation several times in the last two decades, but this was the first time it had ever gone so far as to vote on a charter.

City Takes Look At Private Mail

By MAURIE WALKER

A new postal service may be operating in Farmington if a suitable ordinance can be formulated by the city.

Farmington has received a request from the independent Postal Service for permission to deliver third class mail to private residents and businesses in the community.

Under the present ordinance, third class mail falls into the classification of handbills.

The city code prohibits depositing handbills at any inhabited private residence unless they are given directly to the owner.

City Manager Robert F.

Deadman said he believed an amendment to the ordinance is "reasonable and provides a method by which private enterprise may compete with the federal postal service if it should so choose."

"Further," Deadman said, "an amendment will restrict those who may wish to deliver fliers and advertisement from littering the community."

Ken Potts, representing Independent Postal Service,

said his firm carries everything but first class and air mail. He said they have been operating in numerous communities in the area including

Redford, Livonia, Plymouth and Southfield.

The mail would be delivered in plastic bags which would be attached to front doors. There is no cost to residents for this service, Potts said.

"Should anyone wish to cancel delivery, they can notify us at any time. Our address and telephone number is on each bag," Potts told the city council.

The council tabled action on the request so City Attorney Robert Kelly might design an ordinance to let this company operate in Farmington.



PLANNING DINNER for the annual Farmington Area Advisory Council supper Monday, May 14, at Mercy Center, Middle Belt and 11 Mile Road, are: Les Zoliewski, (left) Robert Kerr and Dr. Mervyn B. Ross. The dinner is the annual fund-raiser for "Rop Line," prepared by students from the Southwest Oakland Vocational Educational Center in Walled Lake. Tickets are available from FAAC board members. (Evert photo)

Members Build Their Own

VFW Solves Housing Shortage

By W.W. EDGAR

"We're just a bunch of stubborn fellows who knew what they wanted and set out to get it—even if it will take a little more time."

With this terse explanation Harry Wallace, incoming commander of the Farmington Post #4033 VFW, revealed the driving force of the members that will give the post an addition to its present headquarters on Orchard Lake Road and enable it to boast some of the best facilities for a veterans hall in the suburbs.

"And we hope to save the post about \$30,000," he added.

"This interesting 'do-it-yourself' story had its beginnings in the old post hall one cold night last February.

Bids had been taken for an addition to the hall. When they were opened the members got a shock when the top bid was \$100,000 and the low one \$50,000.

Wallace recalled the moment of surprise when the officers all in unison said, "We haven't got that kind of money."

"We had made up our minds that we wanted the addition," he said, "and one of the fellows set the plan in action when he countered, 'We can build it ourselves for half that money.'"

So was born the "do-it-yourself building campaign."

In the group was an electrician. Another was a bricklayer by trade. And still another was a journeyman carpenter.

To balance this talent, Junior Vice Commander Robert Thompson was an architect. He immediately was given the task of setting up the building plans with Commander Eldredge Simonsen, the outgoing commander, in charge.

"We had made up our minds we wanted a bigger and better hall," Wallace continued, "and now it looks as though we are going to reach our goal and

have the addition completed by August."

Wallace revealed that the post obtained a loan of \$30,000 and it was going to be tight squeeze to stay within that limit.

"But when it is finished," he concluded, "the post not only will have more commodious quarters, but we will have a fine hall we can rent out for dances. We also can sponsor bigger and better events of our own and we shouldn't have any trouble paying off the loan."

The post membership now numbers 130 and most of them have had a hand in making the addition possible. There have been times over the weekend when 25 to 30 members were on the job at the same time.

These fellows are living examples of the old poem written years ago by the late Edgar A. Guest, that runs: "Just start in to sing when you tackle the thing that couldn't be done—and you'll do it."



ROBERT THOMPSON, architect, proves he can wield a hammer, too.



HARRY WALLACE puts up some new siding on the VFW addition.