

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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Dr. Ross Leads School Board

Dr. Mervyn Ross was elected president of the Farmington Board of Education at its reorganizational meeting Tuesday night. Ross was nominated by new board member Gary Lichtman and received four votes in the balloting. Other board offices were filled, by unanimous ballot. Ronald Emmitt was named vice president; Mrs. Emma Makinen, a new member of the board, was named secretary and William Corliss was named treasurer.

what's inside

New City Hall

The names have been shuffled in the new Farmington Hills city hall; but there are more new jobs than new faces. What cityhood means to the people who make up the new administration is analyzed on

Page 4A

Founders Beginning

The beginnings of the Farmington Founders' Festival are told in a story based on the memory of one of the original organizers. How it began may surprise you.

Page 5A

Placing Parks

The Observerland suburbs have a stake in where the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority decides to develop regional parks. Wayne County officials, in particular, are challenging HCMA's priorities and, indeed, its entire concept of parks.

Page 10B

Amusements	12, 13B
Classified Want Ads	Sec. D
Community Calendar	5C
Cooking, by Elly	6, 4C
Court Jester	4B
Deaths and Funerals	15B
Editorial Viewpoints	14B
Home and Garden	5, 7B
Observing Life	1-4C
Observing Sports	2B
Readers' Forum	15B
Sports	1-4B
The Stroller	9B
Turf Tips, Oulps	4B
Woman on the Go	2C

Boat SALE



There's one going on every week in the Classified Section of your hometown newspaper.

Now's the time to get a good buy on the boat you've been wanting for the family! Check the listings in today's paper.

And if you want to be a part of the big sale, place your ad today by calling

522-0900

HOURS: MON. THRU FRI. 9-5:30 - SAT. 9-12

McConnell Is First Mayor; Council Proposes Tax Hike

Robert McConnell was elected the first mayor of the City of Farmington Hills at the historic first council session Monday.

Frederick Lichtman was named mayor pro-tem, and the council rapidly set a date of July 23 for a hearing on the first city budget, incorporating a tentative increase of 0.8 mills.

City Clerk Floyd Cairns was named acting city manager, and the council accepted the offer of Edward Miller Associates to conduct a search for the new city manager for \$1 plus expenses.

McConnell's appointment as mayor culminated years of work towards incorporation of the new city.

President of the Future Farmington Association, he was drafted to run as township supervisor on a pro-incorporation platform.

Chairman of the charter commission, he spearheaded the most recent, successful drive to cityhood.

Earl Oppert, who made the nomination, praised McConnell in a lengthy speech, saying, "You

would have to look a long time to find someone who has worked as hard for cityhood."

Lichtman, who has made support of cityhood a constant theme in his local political career, ran closely behind McConnell in the election for council on the same slate.

The council opted for a one-year term for the mayor, whose main authority is to make appointments to boards and commissions with the consent of the council.

The charter calls for a "weak mayor" whose principal responsibility is chairing the council sessions.

The council also gave tentative approval to a \$3.2 million budget for the new city.

The council also tentatively approved levying the full six-mill limit called for in the city charter.

Councilman William Ortman abstained on the vote on the millage limitation, explaining he "wasn't satisfied" the full six mills were necessary.

The council actions on the

Continued on Page 3A



SWEARING IN of the first Farmington Hills Council was done by Judge Frederick Ziern, of the Oakland County circuit court. (Evert photo)

Rain-Soaked Ceremony Celebrates Cityhood

"Don't ever think the fighting is over," Michigan Supreme Court Justice Thomas E. Brennan told the people gathered to inaugurate the new City of Farmington Hills Monday.

Brennan's inaugural address, before a crowd of about 400 in the city courtroom, referred to Benjamin Franklin's remark on the formation of a new country. "It is a Republic, as long as you can keep it."

A city is really three things, Brennan said - geographical, legal and political.

"In these days when confidence in our government has been so badly shaken, politicians are the lowest in the public eye they have ever been."

"But the political city simply means it is a city of people, a community of human families."

Brennan and Irving Rozan, a member of the State Boundary Commission, both emphasized the new power and control over their own

destinies residents gained when they voted for incorporation.

The ceremonies began in the pouring rain as nearly everybody who has ever been connected with Farmington-area politics ducked in from their cars to a reception in the "city" hall, which until Sunday, was the township hall.

The master of ceremonies was Observer Newspapers Inc. Publisher Philip H. Power, whose first order of business was introducing officials of the City of Farmington.

Tongue planted firmly in cheek, Farmington Councilman John Richardson recalled premises made about road repairs "when we become a city" by township officials, and presented Robert McConnell with the first shovel owned and operated by the City of Farmington Hills.

He followed up by giving McConnell some cards he claimed to find in his desk, printed "Annexation - for

the good of all, vote yes," adding the new city might "want to bite off a hunk of West Bloomfield some day."

Congratulatory notes from U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, U.S. Sen. Phillip Hart and the White House were received by the new city.

A highlight of the ceremony came when Judge Michael Hand presented three former township officials with certificates of appreciation for their service.

Township Clerk Floyd Cairns, who received a standing ovation, Treasurer Thomas Nolan and outgoing trustee L. David Slader were honored for their contributions to the growing area.

The new council was sworn in by Frederick Ziern, presiding judge of the Oakland County circuit court.

D. Keith Deacon, Mrs. Jean Dudley, Frederick Lichtman, Robert A. McConnell, Earl Oppert, William

Continued on Page 3A



A SHOVEL was presented to Robert McConnell (right) to begin the city DFW by Farmington City Councilman John Richardson. (Evert photo)



MR. AND MRS. TOM CBUZIAK were guests at the inauguration. (Evert photo)



TWO MAYORS--Ralph Yoder, of the City of Farmington, congratulates Mayor Robert McConnell, the first mayor of the City of Farmington Hills. (Evert photo)



THOMAS BRENNAN



PHILIP POWER

Fire Chief Is Replaced

William Gearhart has been assigned as the interim fire chief of Wheeler St. fire station, one of four volunteer fire houses serving Farmington Hills.

In one of his last acts as township supervisor, Robert McConnell requested the reassignment of Robert Brown from the post, citing several infractions of department rules.