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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Townships of Canton, Plymouth, Redford, Salem, Nankin, Farmington
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Sewer and Water Costs Spark Annexation Debate

By ALLEN ROSENFELD
(Ed. Note: What follows is an attempt to shed light on some complicated election issues. We must admit the attempt is inadequate. However, one hard fact emerges from it: It is the concession by the Township that there would be at least a temporary monetary savings to the residents of Woodcroft in annexation to the City. Given this fact; if we were residents of the affected area, we would vote for annexation—on the grounds that "a bird in the hand" etc.)

system. Township Supervisor Curt Hall says such a plan would not be legally permissible. The comparative breakdown which Dinan gave to the Woodcroft residents — 43 of whom showed up at a public hearing Thursday night — was that City sewers would cost \$555 as compared to \$1,925 for the Township. And City water would cost \$350 as compared to \$1,013.45 for the Township. The City Council has confirmed that it will deliver on these figures.

But Curt Hall maintains that it is impossible for them to do so. He will meet with the affected parties at the Longacre School Thursday night, and he promises to bring legal documents to prove it is impossible. He says "The Township's sewer charges are about 50 per cent less than City's." He goes on to explain that "for the average family our sewer charge would be \$1 per quarter. The City's would be \$1.63 per quarter."

relationship between parents and their youngster. Due to the nature of the subject matter, it has become necessary to limit the number of attendees to 100. Registration is not required; however, a \$2 course fee is necessary to cover the expense incurred. The series will also be offered at East Jr. High and Dunckel Jr. High during this school year. Call the Farmington Area YMCA at 474-3232 for more information.

entire Township equalized, assessed valuation. "In this particular case, the 594 acres of area affected has less than \$1,000,000.00 equalized assessed valuation compared to over \$90,000,000.00 assessed valuation for the entire Township. Therefore, the City would be responsible for approximately one per cent of the total Township debt, which averages \$265,000.00 per year for the next 23 years. Thus, the City would have to pay one per cent or \$2,650.00 per year until the bonds are paid in full. We anticipate that tap fees west of Drake Road, being into the Tarabusi Sewer will more than cover service costs caused by separation debt service costs from the Township.

On the cost of water the City claims its rate is cheaper by \$25 per year (30,000 gal. per quarter). Hall says the costs are approximately the same. "That State Law provides as follows: 'That upon annexation to a portion of a Township to a City the overall debt is pro-rated based upon the equalized assessed valuation of the area affected in relationship to the

ship, on the other hand, has increased 370 per cent since 1960. Hall concedes the accuracy of these statistics but says they are misleading. He explains that a \$30,000 home in the City whose equalization factor is 1,132,182 would be assessed at approximately \$13,213. The same home in the Township would have a factor of 2,658,224, and would be assessed at approximately \$7,157. He says that if you multiply the City assessed valuation of \$13,213 by the tax rate of \$11.50 you get a total of \$151.94. The same house in the Township would multiply out to \$62.48.

Further, he argues that the Township tax rate has increased so greatly because it has had to meet the needs of vast expansion. If the City expands, he predicts, its tax rate will rise. According to Hall, "the City has attempted to rationalize their weak position as regards to the tax rate by including the county, school, and community college taxes in their analysis. Basic rates for taxes for county, school, and community colleges are the same for City and Township. "Only in local taxes is there

The question of whether the Subdivision of Woodcroft and some adjacent undeveloped acreage will be annexed by the City of Farmington or remain part of the Township will be decided by the voters of the City and of the affected area of the Township in an election on Tuesday, Nov. 2. The issues at the quality and economy of services to be provided, and both sides claim superiority in both counts.

"This is so because they have revenue bonds issued for construction of their sewer system. Therefore, they charge more than the cost of maintenance. They are charging revenue to service their lines. His argument against the

Another series of Sex Education for Junior High School youth is being offered by the Farmington Area YMCA. The series this fall will be offered at the Farmington Junior High School on Thursday, Nov. 11, and Thursday, Nov. 18. The program is under the leadership of Dr. Edwin Blumberg, a practicing physician in the Farmington area, and Rev. Richard Markham, Pastor of the First Methodist Church in Farmington. Dr. Blumberg and Rev. Markham have provided the leadership for the program since its inception in 1963.

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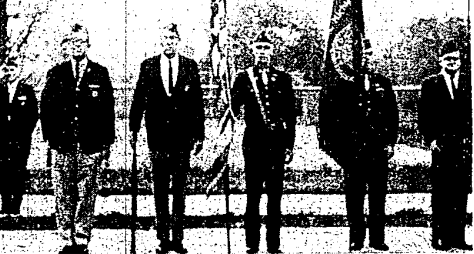
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STARS OF THE Homecoming Ceremony at 12th Grade; Diane Butler, 12th Grade Queen; Farmington vic- Nancy Gardner, 12th Grade; and Chris Ansell, 11th Grade. From the left: Thurston Derby Bramlage, 11th Grade; Carolyn Kilkka,

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THE AMERICAN LEGION Groves-Walker Charles Larson, George Griffin, Harold Quinn, Post was out Saturday morning to honor Donald Watson, 12th Grade, in the United Nations Day in Farmington. The Color background are Commander C. W. Courie, and Guard, from the left: Color Guard Commander - Farmington City Manager John Dinan.

Parents Criticize Crossing at Meeting of School Board

By MARGE DI PIAZZA
"Busy-but-peaceful" characterized the Farmington School Board meeting Monday night. On hand were a few parents who are concerned about safety of the children of Middlebelt School. A motion was passed for the Board's Safety committee and administration to study the traffic hazard presented at the school and offer recommendations at the November 8 meeting.

Inker and Middlebelt, will be decked out in a sand-like finish and sand-colored bricks. The Board acted on the exterior finish and reviewed other bids, including the heating of the structure. The old debate of oil vs. gas broke out, with Vernon Fisher leading the opposition to gas. He and Mrs. Brown and President Leland Clifford were defeated, however, in their bid for oil.

They also point out that synthetic boards have been installed since the original installation. In other action: "The Board went on record as unanimously backing the Jaycees' Community Attitude Survey. "Approved an afternoon off for Farmington High students some afternoon in November so the school can evaluate its program as required by the North Central Association of Colleges.

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Farmington Gymnastics Going Big

Monday, Nov. 1, is the last day of registration for the Farmington Recreation Department's new "Dancing in the Streets" program. Those who have participated in the program thus far are in the process of learning the basic simple calls and maneuvers which will not be taught during the remaining weeks of the program. More advanced and intricate maneuvers are scheduled for the later steps to be worked-in, with steps learned during the introductory three week period. No experience is necessary. The first week of gymnastic activities saw 37 ladies, 33 men, and 69 children participate in the separate athletic sessions. One group of ladies represented almost the entire street block of one of the city's largest divisions. The Recreation Department is hopeful that other such groups may follow their lead. There is no cost for registration on this activity. Attendance is arbitrarily up to the individual on a "come-when-you-can" basis.

Shrine Club Plans Big Social Event

The Greater Farmington Club extends an invitation to all area Shriners and Master Masons to an "All You Can Eat Supper and Ham Dinner" on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Glen Oaks Country Club, W. 13 Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake. Entertainment will be provided by the Shrine Shrine Club. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. Reservations must be made by November 1, by telephoning President Leo Harrowood, 949-2066 or Vice-President Bill Walker, 474-5060. A special business meeting will hold Election of Officers for 1966, has been called for 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at Glen Oaks Country Club. All members are urged to attend.

S. Jerome Bronson to Speak to Dems

S. Jerome Bronson, Oakland County Prosecutor, will be the featured speaker at the 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3 meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club. The meeting will be held in the community room (entrance in the rear) of the City National Bank of Farmington, Ten Mile at Orchard Lake. Bronson's talk will feature a report on his first 10 months in office and the crime situation in the Farmington area and Oakland County. Bronson was elected to a four-year term as Oakland County Prosecutor in November 1964 after a hard-fought campaign in which he promised vigorous law enforcement policies. He is the first Democrat to hold the County's office in years, has won widespread acclaim for the manner in which he has handled the job.

Money Is Needed for School Expansion

By JOY STINSON
(Editor's Note: As a public service, the Observer will publish a series of three articles providing information on three school expansion proposals to be put before the voters of the Farmington Public School District Nov. 15. The first article deals with Proposal A (Bond Proposal).

school buildings and additions to existing school buildings (including additions to the administration building and the service building), acquiring new school sites and additions to existing sites, and making other permanent improvements to school buildings and sites in the school district? This proposal simply states that a certain amount of money is needed for buildings and land in order to accommodate the growth expected in the school system. The bond is earmarked funds only for building and site needs, not operation, and according to the school administration should be sufficient to meet demand until 1970.

6,100,000 will provide funds for a new elementary school, two additional additions to a fifth junior high school, an addition to Farmington Senior High, a third senior high school, and the purchase of additional school sites which authorities project will be necessary. Recently voters have been asked to keep pace with community expansion by approving a bond issue about every two years. The Board of Education has chosen the philosophy of the voters which has been frequently that some other school districts. Building costs change and it is easier to project enrollment and needs over a shorter period of time, they believe.

In 1963, a \$5,000,000 bond proposal earmarked funds for the new Larshree elementary (20 rooms), Fairview elementary (ground was broken for the 14 room school last week), an addition to North Farmington High, addition to East Junior High, 17 rooms in addition to Gill Road and Middlebelt elementary schools, a maintenance building, a fourth junior high school to be built shortly and additional school sites. The room set for this current bond proposition has been arrived at after making carefully calculated projections on the future which are being made for two years ahead of an election. For example, buildings provided for in the 1963 bond issue were being completed during 1965 and this same bond issue will handle capacity needs through September 1967. Since 1969 the school system has been growing at a rate of about 2,000 students a year. In 1960 there were 8,723 students enrolled. September 1965 showed 13,283. The administration says that by September 1970 membership should reach 17,300 students, requiring 98 additional classrooms.

This growth will be consumed primarily by the secondary schools creating a first in the history of this school district. Previously the major portion of growth was in the elementary schools where construction costs are less expensive. (Secondary schools require more rooms, more land and additional facilities.) The new concentration of secondary growth is due to the economic level of the homes being constructed in this area. Superintendent Gerald W. Harrison speculates. He also says that the large number of children in lower grades about seven years ago are moving up. At that time there were 1,100 kindergartners while the school system graduated only 500 students. We still have approximately the same number of kindergartners children but the graduating classes have doubled.

The following statistics illustrate the gradual change in major growth from elementary to secondary schools. In September 1966 elementary enrollment projections show 8,476 children; 3,359 in junior-high and 2,558 in senior high for a total of 14,393. Similarly in elementary through senior high in 1970, projected enrollments are expected to be 9,082 in elementary, 4,495 in junior high, and 3,723 in senior high totaling 17,300.

In order to maintain present standards the administration feels a third senior high school will be needed by 1968 and a fifth junior high by 1969 or 1970. Funds from the 1965 bond issue would provide a 17,770 classroom capacity for the 17,300 projected number of students by 1970. (The difference in number is due to the fact that projections are made for September and enrollments increase throughout the year.) Next Wednesday's articles will discuss Proposal B — the Three Mill Extension for Operation, November 10. It will be Proposal C — a Four Mill increase for Operating Funds.

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