

The Farmington Enterprise

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EIGHTEEN PAGES



THE FARMINGTON YMCA has a new group to help guide the activities of young people, FAST (Farmington After School Teens). FAST has meetings in the First Methodist Church, Warner Street and Grand River Avenue, after school on weekdays and has already staged several informal social functions. Pictured above are (L. to R., seated) FAST Chairman Denny Klepinger, Mary Wilhelm, Bob Hermann, Judi Stormont, Debbie Moshman, Dan Cardwell and Denna Crane. Adult supervisors, Rose Berberian of the Farmington YMCA and Rev. David Stone of the First Methodist Church, are pictured with the group. See story on Page 2 in section "B".

City Plans to Buy 40 Acres in River Valley

A plan for the acquisition of approximately 40 acres of privately owned land to be developed in the future for open space park and nature trail use by the City of Farmington citizens received the blessings of city councilmen at their regular meeting Monday night.

All but a small portion of the property proposed for purchase for use in this manner is low

land property unsuitable for residential development along the Rouge River Branch that runs through the city.

This substantial land acquisition by the city for open space and park site use will be contingent upon whether or not the city can obtain matching funds in the form of a Federal government grant from the Housing and Home Finance

Agency to make the proposed acquisitions.

THE COUNCIL Monday night officially authorized the city manager to proceed in making application to the Federal H.H.F.A. for 50 per cent of the funds to carry out this substantial land acquisition program.

The program has been under study by a special park committee of the City Planning Commission for some time now and was officially recommended for approval by the Council by action of the planners at their last regular meeting.

THE TOTAL cost estimate set for the acquisition of the approximately 40 acres is \$200,000. Half of this amount, or \$100,000, would be expected to be received in the form of a Federal

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SITE IN LIVONIA

Area Incinerator Favored By City

The City Council Monday night voted favorably on a proposal now being considered by the City of Livonia for the establishment of a large incinerator Authority to serve not only Livonia itself but other communities around it that might be interested.

Livonia officials are considering the construction of a 300 to 500 ton modern, odor free incinerator plant with the size to be dependent somewhat on how many other communities around Livonia might be interested in either becoming a part of the authority or contracting for services from an authority if one were established.

A SPECIAL governmental committee in Livonia is already working on plans for such an authority and want to know by Feb. 15 whether the City of Farmington would be interested or not. City Manager John Dinan stated.

The Council instructed the city manager to contact Livonia

officials and obtain all the pertinent information he could receive regarding the proposal and report back to them.

Councilmen were in total agreement that the problem of disposal of refuse becomes more and more serious with each passing year and that

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To Get More Parking Off Grand River

Plans are now being developed to provide off-street parking for business establishments on the north side of Grand River Avenue between Hawthorn and Violet streets at the eastern city limits.

Parking on Grand River in this area continues to present a bottleneck to the free flow of traffic on Grand River in this area, and particularly during the rush traffic hours of the late afternoon and early evening.

The City Planning Commission at its last regular meeting asked the city manager to develop an off-street parking development plan for their consideration and the consideration of affected business establishments in that area.

Still \$365,740

In Tax Bills Outstanding

City Treasurer Kathryn Cotter reported Monday that her department had collected a total of \$771,637.53 in school and county taxes as of that date against a total billing of \$1,137,378.16.

This means that there is still \$365,740.63 in bills outstanding. Mrs. Cotter was quick to point out that while the amount of outstanding seems quite high, it should be noted that a substantial portion of this total was in big bills still outstanding from one or two of the large mortgage companies and a few big firms that have exceptionally large personal property tax bills to pay.

Those who still have their winter tax bills to pay are reminded that the deadline for paying them without penalty is Monday, Feb. 28. The deadline for paying personal property tax bills without penalty is Tuesday, Feb. 15.

In the case of real property taxes, a four per cent penalty is added onto bills not paid by Feb. 28 but they can still be paid at the end of March. After the end of March, however, it is necessary to go directly to the Oakland County treasurer's office.

Population up 9,267 Since 1960 Census

Between April 1, 1960 and July 1, 1965, Farmington Township experienced a population increase of 9,267, and the City of Farmington an increase in population of 2,419, according to figures released last week by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.

The township's population as of the official 1960 census was 23,328 and the city's population 6,881 as of July 1, 1960. Farmington Township's population had climbed to 32,100 and the City of Farmington's to 9,300.

PUTS the combined population of the city and township as of July 1, 1965 at 41,400. When Quakertown Village and Wood Creek Farms Village population figures are added to this, the total population of the community as of July 1, 1965 comes to 42,840. Quakertown's population is set at 620 and Wood Creek Village's at 820.

As of April 1, 1960 the City of Farmington had 1,780 occupied dwelling units compared to 2,450 reported as of July 1, 1965 for an increase of 670. The township was shown as having 6,690 occupied dwelling units as of April 1, 1960 compared to 8,400 as of July 1, 1965 for an increase of 1,710.

AS OF July 1, 1965 Wood Creek Farms had 180 homes and Quakertown Village 160.

Adding the city and township and two villages together, the total number of occupied family dwelling units as of July 1, 1965 stood at 11,160.

City to Lift Elec. Wiring Requirement

The City Council has decided to follow Farmington Township officials' lead in removing from its building ordinance a provision that requires all electrical wiring in commercial buildings to be strung through conduit.

Action on this matter was taken at the Council meeting Monday night after a report was made by City Manager John Dinan based on an investigation conducted by him.

THE CITY manager disclosed in his report that he had contacted the Michigan Inspection Bureau on this matter and had been informed that no reduction in insurance premium rates was allowed on this type of installation in lieu of using heavy duty wiring. This, it was felt, implies that there is no safety advantage to having the wiring in conduit.

The manager also revealed in his report that out of 113 communities which are members of the Electrical Reciprocal Council in Wayne, Macomb and Washtenaw counties only 13 require electrical wiring to be strung through conduit in all cases in commercial buildings. This figure amounts to only about 10 per cent of the communities.

The requirement has been on the city books for about five years now.

Twp. Third in County in New Home Starts

Farmington Township ranked third in all of Oakland County for the year of 1965 in new single family residential home development, according to figures released last week by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.

Farmington Township was surpassed in new home construction starts in the county only by Southfield with 1,468 new homes were started and in Bloomfield Township where 968 permits were issued for new homes.

Only 39 permits were issued in the City of Farmington. The new homes in 1965 and 1964 in Quakertown Village and four in Wood Creek Farms Village. Leading in new home building starts for the entire five-county Detroit Metropolitan Area in '65 was Warren which issued 2,611 new home permits. Sterling Heights in Macomb ranked third behind Southfield in number of permits issued with 1,286. Livonia in Wayne County ranked fourth with 1,249 single family home permits issued.

Judge Adams Rules On Township Suits

Rulings were handed down by Oakland County Circuit Judge Clark Adams on Friday and Monday in connection with the two lawsuits that were started earlier on the incorporation of Farmington Township as a Home Rule City.

On Friday, February 4, a hearing was held on the suit brought by Conrad Brasch, 2127 Waldron Street, against Oakland County, County Clerk John D. Murphy and the Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

The plaintiff and his attorney, Wendell Brown, sought to stop further action on going ahead with the setting of a date for the holding of an election on the incorporation of Farmington Township as a Home Rule City. The Court will simply hold that the plaintiffs have asked an injunction restraining an act which has not as yet been done, which

this Court nor they have any right to presume will be done improperly.

"IN OTHER WORDS, the injunction as issued is unlikely and may be, that is, I am speaking now of the temporary injunction, may be dissolved," this Court believes that it has no authority to issue an injunction restraining an act which has not as yet been accomplished and which this Court has no right to assume will be done improperly."

A hearing will be held by the Boundaries Committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors on the petition to incorporate Farmington Township as a Home Rule City on Thursday, February 17, at 10 a.m. in the Supervisors Auditorium.

at 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac.

At the hearing Judge Adams also stated, "While it is really not germane to this issue, I would point out to Counsel that all of this procedure that has been had to this point is purposed or intended to offer the opportunity to the people of the community to vote on this issue, and I would suggest, and as I say, it has no relationship to the matter today before the Court, that the ultimate form in which matters of this kind should be decided is that of the people as they vote, and this Court should not be an agency to deny the people their opportunity to pass upon this matter."

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THEODORE DeBAENE (seated, right) officially took over duties Monday in the newly established position of Director of Public Services for the City of Farmington. With him (standing, left) is Floyd Salovey, longtime superintendent of the city's Department of Public Works.

Public Works, Water Head Hired By City

Taking over duties Monday morning, Feb. 7, for the City of Farmington in the newly established position of Director of Public Services was Theodore E. DeBaene.

DeBaene will be administrative head of both the public works and water and sewer departments with the heads of each of these separate departments answering directly to him.

B.C. Committee Heads Named

At an organizational meeting on Thursday morning, Feb. 3, newly elected Board of Commerce chairman Bill Bowman named a number of chairmen and appointments to standing committees.

The appointments were as follows: Russ Gilbert — Founders Festival; John Chapman — Budget; Dick Habicht — Christmas Decorations; John Richardson — Oldie Yule Log Game; Bob Lindbergh — Membership; Ed Balden — Office; Omar Sanderson — Welcoming Committee; Stella Strye — Retail Committee.

Also discussed at the meeting were general plans for activities for the year 1966 including the sale and distribution of specially prepared brochures on Farmington and a map and street guide in connection with the brochures. These materials are now being printed and will be available within the next few days, it was reported.

The setting of official dates for the Second Annual Farmington Founders Festival for this summer was also discussed at some length. The dates are expected to be set officially at the next regular meeting of the directors, the coming Thursday, Feb. 10.

Man Injured, Home Levelled In Twp. Fire

A man was injured and a family of four left homeless yesterday when a gas explosion destroyed a fire levelled the home of Mr. and Mrs. Heinz Goese at 21724 Albion in the Township.

Mel Westlund, 23 year old Consumers Power employee of Westland was taken to Botsford General Hospital with first and second degree burns on the face, where his condition is reported as satisfactory.

According to Township police who received the call at 11:03 a.m. Tuesday, James Wilson of Wixom was under the house and Westlund was in the utility room when the explosion occurred. Also in the house was Mrs. Goese, who escaped from the living room just after the explosion.

FOUR FIRE TRUCKS were unable to save the building which was completely leveled. Mr. Goese was at work at the Ford Wixom plant and two daughters were in school, one at William Grace and one at St. Joseph's.

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Taxes, Merging Are Incorp. Issues

"If we incorporate Farmington Township into a Home Rule City, taxes will go up" and "Why not consolidate with the City of Farmington and have one city?"

These two issues have been brought up repeatedly at the meetings of the Township's Pre-Incorporation Study Committee and were again voiced by some of the 120 plus people at the committee's meeting last Monday evening at North Farmington High School.

Aldo Vagozzi, chairman of the Farmington Democratic Club several times has suggested exploring the possibilities of consolidation with the City of Farmington, as have many citizens. At Monday's meeting, David Stader, member of the Township Planning Commission, said that overtures in this area should be made even though a sub-committee members and officials feel that the City will not be receptive to the suggestion.

CHARLES LORION, member of the study committee, suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to meet officially with City officials on the question. Terry Brennan, chairman of the study committee said

that such a sub-committee would be appointed.

Brennan added that, in his opinion, the consolidation issue is "a red herring" being used to confuse the issue by people who are opposed to incorporation.

On the question of taxes, committee members have answered repeatedly that tax limitations would be applied.

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Citizen Fund Started For Incorporation

A citizens' fund has been started for the purpose of disseminating information to the people of Farmington and the cons of the incorporation of Farmington Township into a Home Rule City.

At the February 7 meeting of the Township's Pre-Incorporation Study Committee Frank Gust of 22628 Tulane offered to start the fund after hearing that the Township is still enjoining from spending Township funds for this purpose.

The money collected will be used to prepare and mail to every home in Farmington Township a copy of the final report of the study committee. The final report will be made available after the March 21 meeting or possibly later if more meetings are added.

Douglas MacArthur, a member of the study committee, agreed to be treasurer of the fund and Terry Brennan, committee chairman, stated that an audited report will be made on the monies collected and spent.

Contributions to the fund may be made by mail to Douglas MacArthur at 22128 St. Francis Street, or to Terry Brennan at 33245 Grand River Avenue.

Dog Licensing Time at Hand

The time has arrived for the licensing of your dog. The law requires that each dog must be licensed. It will cost you \$1.00 for a male or spayed dog and \$2.00 for a female dog. BUT it can cost you \$5.00 instead of \$1.00 and \$7.50 instead of \$2.00, if you do not obtain the license prior to March 1.

The law further states that each dog must be inoculated against Rabies before a license can be issued. This inoculation is available at all veterinarian offices. Remember, the veterinarian is your dog's best friend, next to you. A certificate of inoculation will be issued by the veterinarian enabling you to purchase the license.

For your convenience, the Township of Farmington has arranged with the Oakland County Animal Welfare Department to conduct a clinic at the Township Fire Hall, 21420 West Street, on February 19 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.