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# The Observer

## OF FARMINGTON

**This Week's Press Run**

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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Paul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City, Westland and Townships of Plymouth, Redford, Farmington

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27

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1966

33425 Grand River, Farmington

Philip H. Power, Publisher

# Teachers Charge Contract Impasse

Farmington's teachers and the administration were getting along fine according to all reports.

Of course, periodically at lunch one would overhear a group of teachers discussing the process of negotiations, but about

officially everything was going according to schedule and the community had nothing to worry about.

Everything was going fine until Monday afternoon when a general membership meeting of the Farmington Education Association was held to report on the progress of the bargaining sessions.



FARMINGTON'S TEACHERS were out in force at the Board of Education meeting Monday night to back the professional negotiating committee of the Farmington Education Association.

About 200 of Farmington's some 600 teachers turned up at North Farmington High School to hear what their representatives had to say.

They heard that after four months of bargaining two items had been agreed upon. The FEA has been recognized as the bargaining agent—after an election by the teachers—and payroll deductions for the Association had been worked out.

The teachers, in short order, approved by overwhelming margins a series of five resolutions and directed the FEA executive board and negotiating team to present them to the Board of Education at that group's regular meeting Monday night.

At the same time the teachers also decided to appear at the meeting to give support to their representatives. Between 100 and 150 teachers were present at the Board of Education offices on Shilawsee when the meeting began at 8 p.m.

They presented their resolutions to the Board. The five points are:

- "The FEA membership directs the executive board to appear at the Farmington Board of Education meeting tonight to request that a specified number of hours a week and specific time be given to the negotiating team, and further directs that if the contract is not completed and ratified by June 10 that the negotiations be suspended until Sept. 1 and that the teachers will not report for work in September without a master contract."
- "The FEA membership further directs the executive board to state that an MEA representative or a lawyer will sit in on negotiation meetings until a contract is settled."
- "The FEA goes on public record as opposing the issuance of any kind of contract or agreement which would require teachers until negotiations are completed. Further, we will not honor by signing or returning, any notice or contract until we ratify a master agreement."
- "The FEA negotiating team has been instructed not to return any salary proposal to this group until they have a commitment for a maximum salary at the masters degree level of more than \$10,000 and proportionate commitments of salary on the other steps of the salary scale in 10 years."
- "The FEA overwhelmingly goes on public record that they as public educators support the philosophy of the best possible education for each child. We will not accept a second best."

Supervisor of Schools G. V. Harrison was not present when the teachers presented their salary proposal to the Board. President Leland Clifford told the teachers that their statement would be referred to Harrison who had been the Board's representative in the negotiations.

When Harrison arrived the teachers requested the opportunity to make the presentation again in his presence. Clifford denied the request stating that the Board had heard the teachers and with the crowded agenda no more time could be allowed.

The Board had almost no discussion of the statement during its regular session, but did call a study session on the matter immediately following the regular session.

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## How School Proposal Will Affect Tax Bill

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles prepared by the Farmington Jaycees explaining the proposal for pools and auditoriums to the voters of the Farmington School District June 13.)

By JOHN BAILEY

If the house you own in the Farmington School District has a market value of \$20,000, the proposal for operation of pools and auditoriums on the June 13 school ballot will cost you about \$2 more a year in taxes. You couldn't buy a pool membership in a private swimming club for this — nor transport your family to neighboring public facilities and come out ahead on the gas at this figure.

Construction costs would be met by the sale of bonds. The debt service tax on the bond issue would be extended over a period of approximately 10 years and the debt service rate would not be increased.

Pools and auditoriums, which will be available to the entire community at three locations if the issue is approved, will cost a total of \$3,000,000 to construct. Each pool would be regulation size—75 feet by 45 feet—and would include the necessary locker and shower facilities. Construction costs for a pool at each of the existing high schools still in the planning stages would be \$600,000. The three pools would total \$1,800,000.

Construction costs for three 800-seat auditoriums in the same school buildings would be \$1,200,000. Both pools and auditoriums would cost \$3,000,000 and the cost of building them would be financed by the selling of bonds. The taxpayer is to decide whether or not this bond issue will be authorized.

The voter must bear in mind two important facts about this bond issue:

- Construction costs could be financed without raising the present debt rate of financing the bonds over a longer period of time so that all of the people using the facilities have a share in paying for them.
- The completed facilities would provide the day-long teaching posts of at least six high school classrooms, in addition to filling recreational needs in the total community.

Pool and auditorium facilities would improve the quality of the educational program. Farmington Schools offers its students. Not only would classes in swimming and water safety be possible, but the quality of the

(Continued on Page 23A)

## 7 Injured in Accident Saturday

A trip to the Little League Baseball game at the Bond School in Farmington ended sadly and abruptly last Saturday when an accident at the intersection of 13 Mile and Farmington Rd. sent a mother, five of her six children, a neighbor's child, and another man to the hospital.

Injured when a truck ran the stop sign at the intersection were: Mrs. Joan Ann Babcock, 33, of 2900 Ravenscroft, Farmington; her children, Steve, 3, Karin, 7, David, 11, Nancy, 6, and Mark, 3. Tom Scott, 10, of 20151 Ravenscroft and Gary Conditine, 22, of Detroit, a passenger in the truck.

The driver of the truck, Gerald W. Coley, 23, of 9025 Morris, Livonia, was slightly injured. He told police that he just did not see the stop sign at the intersection. "I did run the stop sign and hit the car," he said in a signed statement to the police.

Mrs. Babcock told police that she thought the truck would stop for the stop sign when she entered the intersection.

## Incorporation Draws Big Crowd at LWV Debate

Incorporation drew a good crowd last week. The League of Women Voters sponsored a debate on the pros and cons of incorporation and the Farmington Township citizens showed their interest in the subject by filling the multi purpose room at East Junior High.

It was evident from the audience reaction that incorporation is an emotional issue. Applause, reactions and even some shouting from the audience characterized the evening.

Speaking in favor of incorporation were Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall and Farmington Township Trustee Earl C. Oppenheimer. Those opposing incorporation were represented by Dr. Robert Gardon, a resident of the Village of Wood Creek Farms, and David Mills, a resident of the Village of Quakertown.

Hall told the audience that the question of the incorporation of the Township has been discussed informally over the years and that it was consensus that the day was coming and only time and conditions would determine when.

The annexation attempt by the City of Farmington which was defeated by only 25 votes, Hall explained, provided the impetus to circulate and file the petitions calling for an election on the question.

"I don't think that when 420 signatures are collected," he observed, "that it can fairly be said that the move was conducted in secret."

"The primary purpose for incorporation is to protect our boundaries," Hall said, "and thus protect our balanced tax base. It is also by this that we will be able to protect our zoning which is based on a comprehensive master plan for the 24 square miles. Incorporation will also protect our master plan for water and sewer facilities which are based on a projected population of 125,000." Hall added.

Taxes are not germane to the issue," he continued, "taxes are determined by the level of service desired. The only thing that will affect your tax bill," he said, "is to approve additional mileage at the polls."

Gardon, who drew the first applause of the evening, stated that neither he nor Mills had any vested interest and that while he personally was not opposed to city status he was opposed to incorporation at this time and to methods in which the question was brought to the public. "I am opposed to the pseudo objectivity in which the issue is being presented to the public," he said.

"The study committee appointed by the Township Board before the Court enjoined the Township officials from promoting incorporation," Gardon commented, "was supposed to look at both the pros and cons of the issue. In reality it was a foregone conclusion. The major objective of this group was to educate the public on the process for incorporation."

"The net savings amount to 15 percent of taxes if an area

(Continued on Page 23A)

## Thief Takes Jewelry from Home

Farmington Township police are seeking a white male between the ages of 24 and 30 following the theft of about \$40,000 and \$65,000 of jewelry on May 20 from the home of Markus Rohbart at 31550 Franklin Fairway.

According to the police a clean shaven man with reddish blond hair who was about six feet tall and weighed approximately 160 pounds knocked at the door of the Rohbart home at 10:21 a.m. and told Mrs. Rohbart that he had come to check the air conditioning.

When Mrs. Mona Rohbart told him that he must have the wrong address, the man pulled a revolver out of his pocket and forced his way into the house stating "Give me all your jewelry" attempted to pull the rings off her finger.

Mrs. Rohbart gave the man the rings from her finger and he then forced her to show him where the rest of the jewelry was kept. Mrs. Rohbart took him to a bedroom and gave him her jewelry box. A reddish brown box with gold trim.

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(Continued on Page 23A)

**\$500 Taken**

The Standard gasoline station at Farmington Road and Nine Mile in the City of Farmington is about \$500 poorer following a theft of the cash register last Saturday night.

Roy Ar, owner of the station, told the police that an estimated \$500 was taken from the cash register and the cigarette machine was also rifled.

## State Has Restrictions on Charter

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth and last in a series on the Farmington Township into a home rule city. Voters will go to the polls June 8 to express their wishes on the question and to elect a nine member charter commission to serve should the overall vote be in the affirmative.

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

On June 8 residents of Farmington Township will be asked to vote yes or no on the proposition that the area should incorporate into a home rule city.

At the same time, whether voting yes or no on the proposition, the residents should vote for the nine members of a non-partisan charter commission. If the proposition to incorporate is approved by the voters then the charter commission will meet. If voters reject the proposal the commission won't meet.

If the commission is to write a charter, what is required by the state home rule act to be included?

The following are the mandatory provisions of the home rule act, as such, they must

(Continued on Page 23)

## Brennan Speaks Out on Incorporation

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Farmington Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan spoke out this week on the issue of incorporation and the campaign being waged by the Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township, Inc. The following is his open letter to the voters of Farmington Township.)

By JOSEPH T. BRENNAN

To my friends and neighbors in Farmington Township:

Will you vote intelligently on June 8 or will your vote be on misinformation?

The so-called committee for the preservation of Farmington Township has made many charges in its opposition to the incorporation of our community. It is time to take a hard look at these charges — and at the people who are making them.

I have received some of the general mailings from the preservationists and also a 28 page booklet which they call their

"Home Callers' Fact Book."

The things stated in this literature are incredible. These people warned us in the beginning that they would not be objective but we hardly expected such a complete retreat from reality.

Let's take a case in point. OF SCHOOLS AND ZONING

A recent two page letter from the preservationists alleges that the incorporation of our Township poses a threat to the education of our children.

(Continued on Page 23A)

## Monday's Parade Will Be 'Biggest and Best' Yet

Veterans' organization of Farmington Township and the City announced that the Memorial Day activities on May 30 feature the largest parade in the history of the community and perhaps the greatest ceremony in the State of Michigan.

The parade will be held in the City of Farmington and is scheduled to commence at 10:00 a.m. with an Air Force National Guard passover of RF-4 jets from the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing based at Inster. The parade route is west on Grand River through the City to Oakwood Cemetery.

Numerous participating elements in the grand parade will be personnel (and several mobilized units and equipment) of the United States military forces, various veterans organizations, the Founders Day Beauty Queen, the Lewiston on a military float and flanked with a special military Court of Honor consisting of distinguished armed forces active-duty servicemen (including the Soldier of the Month from Fort Harrison, Ind., the Sailor of the Year, and the Airman and Marine of the Quarter).

Competing ROTC units forming an entire military brigade from Mumfords, Cody, McKean, Conley, and Redford High Schools, Scottish highlanders, scouting units, school bands, and a variety of other colorful arrangements.

The VFW's Queen Vicky Weatherford as "Junior Miss Americanism of 1966" will be on a United States Navy float with her Court of Honor with flags in keeping with the parade theme being "Respect for Your Flag."

Chairman Hub Barth announced that distinguished visitors in the parade and guest speakers at a special Memorial Day Banquet include Mrs. Mary Nole of Medford, Ore., national president of the Blue Star Mothers of America, and Major General William W. Lapsley, a commanding general of the United States Army Mobility Com-

mand and senior ranking active military officer stationed in the State of Michigan.

Other dignitaries of the Michigan State Association of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, Charles F. Woodbury, Jr.

Following the parade there will be a special Memorial Day Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Michigan Rd. in Farmington to honor distinguished guests and the Gold Star and Blue Star Mothers.

Robert L. Templein, an attorney from Birmingham and World War II combat veteran member of American Legion, was selected as Master of Ceremonies. Templein will assist in presentation of the Outstanding ROTC Unit trophy and awards to the four active-duty armed forces men who distinguished themselves by their extraordinary outstanding performance in military duty. For veterans and their families there will also be an "open house" at the American Legion Hall in Farmington.

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That's Right. We will help you find a Summer job. Call 334-2500 for details. Send in Today's Want Ad Section for Details.

## Queen To Reign at Festival

Miss Farmington Founder's Festival will be chosen in conjunction with the second annual event July 28, 29 and 30. Contestants will be chosen on the basis of personality, poise and appearance. The contest is open to single girls between the ages of 17 to 22 who reside in Farmington.

**MISS FOUNDER'S FESTIVAL ENTRY BLANK**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry blank with recent photograph to: Farmington Board of Commerce, P.O. Box 15, Farmington, Michigan



**12-YEAR-OLD Pamela Parker**, of Keego Harbor, tells Edwin R. Lanery, first vice president of the Excalibur Club of Detroit, all about the wheelchair which the club donated to the Farmington Special Education program. With Pamela is Mrs. Statilda Alatalo, therapy aid. At a luncheon to honor the Excalibur Club's support of the Farmington Special Education program the group was given a tour and demonstration of the orthopedic facilities at Eagle School. In addition to the wheelchair, the club has also donated muscular dystrophy slings to the program.

**What's Inside FARMINGTON**

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# Area Realtors Celebrate Their National Week. Section D.