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'Hills' Group Move Boxes in Potential Foes

The residents who last week began pushing for a vote on incorporating most of Farmington Township as a home rule city have neatly boxed in their two possible sources of opposition.

They are the City of Farmington, which is prevented from attempting any possible annexations, and the anti-incorporation forces within the township, which have been cut out of the proposed new city.

The group which performed this deft political move calls itself the "Citizens Council for Community Development."

Its president is Robert B. Pierce, a Kendallwood resident who practices law in Detroit. Pierce is little known in township political circles, and the "grass roots" movement he leads says it wants to steer clear of partisan politics.

WHAT the group wants is time to campaign for a "yes" vote on incorporation of most of the township as the city of "Farmington Hills."

The first election would mean, however, that incorporation would take place immediately. A charter commission would be elected at the same time, and it could take up to two years to write a charter and campaign for it at another election.

"Farmington Hills" wouldn't become a reality as a city until after the charter was approved.

"During this time," the Citizens Council says, "our group proposes obtaining all the facts on whether it would be best for our community to remain a township, to join or consolidate with the City of Farmington, or to incorporate and form our own city."

MEANWHILE, during this fact-finding period, the two forces which the Citizens Council seems to visualize as the potential enemies would be effectively neutralized.

Potential enemy No. 1—the City of Farmington—would be unable to attempt any annexation movements while the incorporation movement is in progress.

Although city officials last week denied any ambitions about annexing industrial territory in the township, it's doubtful that township residents believe them.

Potential enemy No. 2, as the Citizens Council implicitly views it, is the group of residents who led last June's fight against incorporation of the entire township.

The consensus is that the anti-incorporation leadership lies in the villages of Quaker-town and Wood Creek Farms and in the far northeast corner of the township.

These three areas have

A NEWS ANALYSIS

therefore been excluded from the proposal to incorporate as a city (see map). Being excluded, they are in a weak political position. They can't vote on the proposal, and they will have difficulty finding an audience if they try to speak against it.

WHAT GOALS does the Citizens Council for Community Development have in mind? Its prepared statement is several pages long, but its essential motive: boil down to three:

- To prevent loss of industrial property in the township to the city and to develop the industrial park.

- To preserve the existing township zoning plan "with controlled population density."

- In other words, to prevent small homes going on small lots.

To continue the policy of paying for water lines, sewers and street paving through special assessments to property owners rather than through general tax funds.

A TOWNSHIP area would still exist, even if the proposed incorporation took place, and it would have to be administered.

The township would be a "disjointed one." It would include the villages of Quaker-town and Wood Creek Farms and part of Sec. 1 in the northeast.

"It will present us with very serious problems," said Stevenson, president of Quaker-town. His village is involved only in zoning, administering a buildings ordinance and local streets.

Under state law, the remainder of the township would have to assume a certain number of required functions. It would have to assess property, conduct state elections (villages conduct only their own elections), collect taxes for the county and school district, and provide a representative to the County Board of Supervisors.

"THE RESIDUE of the township will be left with these functions, but we won't have the resources to perform them," said Stevenson.

In addition, Stevenson said, what would be left of the township would also be saddled with the cost of paying for a share of an interceptor sewer and would feel some obligation for police and fire protection.

Stevenson said the incorporation of Farmington Hills

would create a number of "small units of government which aren't really viable."

The Quaker-town president said he had supported the unsuccessful 1966 incorporation attempt which included the entire township. He added that he has recently supported a study committee's idea of looking toward consolidation of Farmington city and township.

Pierce, the president of the Citizens Council, said his colleagues hope the township residue would want to annex to the new city of Farmington Hills.

That decision, of course, would be up to the people in the unincorporated remainder of the township. But without a big tax base and governmental resources, the excluded area would have nowhere to go except to join Farmington Hills.

CONSOLIDATION of the city and township into a new, 36-square-mile city is an idea that has been discussed by a so-called "Pre-Study Committee."

Asked the group's reaction to news of the incorporation drive, Chairman John Richardson said he couldn't speak for the entire committee.

But as John Richardson, Citizen, I think somebody has wasted 500 bucks," he said, referring to the \$500 which the pre-incorporation group paid to the Oakland County clerk a week ago for processing their petition.

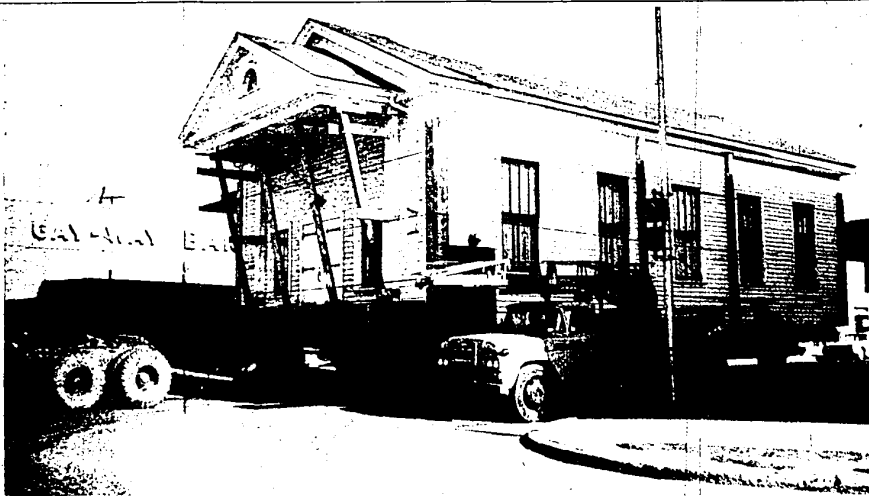
The Pre-Study Committee, organized by the Board of Commerce, League of Women Voters and Jaycees, was scheduled to meet late Thursday and issue a statement afterwards.

FARMINGTON CITY'S Mayor or Wilbur Brotherton and Councilman Ralph Yoder were angry at a township resident's charge last week that certain township officials had tried to seek his support for an annexation of industrial property in the township.

The township resident, Robert Conley of 2480 Highway, said the city officials had tried to seek his support for an annexation.

Brotherton and Yoder denied they had sought Conley's support. They denied that they were starting an annexation drive. They denied that any other councilman, member of the administration or representative of the city is involved in any current annexation movement.

At Monday's council meeting, Yoder hinted Conley's letter "so ridiculous it's pitiful."



Historic Church Moves To New Home

Farmington's historic Universalist (Unitarian) Church, which has stood for 114 years in the old village, was moved on Wednesday, Jan. 18, three miles to a wooded site on Halstead Road.

Built of virgin timber less

than 20 years after the first settler arrived in Farmington, the Greek revival structure allegedly "played an active role in the underground railroad" and heard the impassioned pleas of escaped slave Sojourner Truth "to let my people go."

The building provided a birthplace for Farmington's Episcopal congregation and has provided a temporary home for many other congregations in its long history.

Dr. Frank Adams, former president of the Universalist

Church of America, served as its pastor for 25 years, sometimes commuting from as far as Chicago to hold the small congregation together. Its present pastor, the Rev. Robert M. Eddy, maintains that the church has always been on

the frontier of social and religious thinking and that he intends to be faithful to that tradition.

Since 1960, the congregation has been a part of the Unitarian-Universalist Association of North America.

Work Starts On New Gancia-Cote Building

Gancia-Cote & Co., Inc., a Detroit industrial firm, has begun construction on a 17,000 square foot plant in Farmington Township's industrial park.

President Paul Gancia said the plant will cost an estimated \$270,000 to \$300,000 and have another \$100,000 worth of equipment when it's completed in March or April.

The four-acre site is at 24601 Halstead Road, west of Halstead Road and north of I-96.

The firm makes paint finishing equipment for the auto industry and industrial ventilation equipment.

Current employment is 70-plus, but Gancia said personnel will be added when the Farmington plant is opened.

Gancia-Cote will move entirely out of its Detroit plant at 2400 Twentieth.

Its new plant will also include office space. Construction of a one-to-two story plant will be of block, and brick with metal siding.

Contractor is Edward M. Cantor Co., and architect is Architecta & Planners, Inc. Meanwhile, Teletrans Corp. is expected to announce next week that it will build an 18,000 square foot plant in the township.

Fred Scott, owner of Steelcrete, a company dealing in swimming pool repair, maintenance and chemicals, was elected president of the Farmington Board of Commerce at a breakfast meeting of the Board Thursday morning.

Elected vice president was Dr. John Richardson, DVM. Scott replaces William Bowman, executive vice president of Thompson-Brown. Richardson replaces Ed Balden, manager of Farmington's Downtown Shopping Center.

Re-elected recording secretary was Stella Syre, former owner of the Custom Bridal Salon. John Chapman, of National Bank of Detroit, was re-elected treasurer.

Seven members were elected to the Board at a dinner meeting Tuesday.

Chosen for three-year terms were Omar Sanderson, of Sanderson Real Estate, and Dave Smith, manager of Demery's Farmington store.

Elected to serve one-year terms were Dick Habicht, owner of White House Valet; C. A. Spencer, manager Farmington Division of the Automobile Club of Michigan; Harry Wingerter, Jr., owner of the Bon Ton Shoppe; and Tom Eddy, of Tom W. Zeders Architect and Associates.

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Petitions Ask Vote On Zoning

Farmington Township residents have petitioned for a referendum election in an effort to reverse the Township Board's decision in an apartment zoning case.

Petitions bearing the names of an estimated 3,800 persons were filed Thursday morning with Township Clerk Floyd Cairns.

THE PETITIONS ask for a vote on the board's Dec. 19 decision to change 4.8 acres northeast of Northwestern Highway and Middlebelt Road from B-1 (business), O-1 (office) and RA-1 (single-family residence) to RC-2 (multiple-family).

The property is owned by a group headed by Judge Benjamin D. Burdick of Detroit.

If the petitions are valid, aside the township board's Clerk Cairns said, an election could be scheduled in three to six months.

Besides checking to see if petition signers are property owners, he added, his office must check to see if petition circulators are registered voters in the state. A number of the circulators listed addresses in Detroit, Livonia and Oak Park.

James M. Ginn, attorney for the Burdick group, had no comment on the request for a referendum.

The demand for an election followed the filing of a suit in Oakland Circuit Court by attorney Wendell Brown representing Franklin Forest and Franklin Fairways subdivisions. The suit seeks to set aside the township board's zoning decision.

DEER HAVE BEEN INVADING the Township whether because of the snow or some other mysterious prompting. Mrs. Homer Howard had been sighting their tracks near her home at 24037 W. Nine Mile Rd. but no one would believe her. Then she saw one romping near the Frito Lay plant. It kicked up its heels for awhile completely oblivious to the Nine Mile-Gill Rd. traffic then headed north toward Alta Loma.

MRS. REX HAWORTH of 17700 Farmington Rd. saw two of them right across from St. Aidan's Church right while the Sunday church traffic was dispersing. They were slender, graceful does and perhaps they even contemplated attending mass to show off their fur coats; who knows what the deer creatures had in mind?

SMOKEY STEELE HAS RETURNED to his Old Homestead homestead. Kay and the rest of the family were consumed with worry when he disappeared as he had been the family pet for six years and had never had any bad tendencies before. He was gone for over a week but came back as nonchalant as could be, and in the enigmatic way of cats said not a word about his adventures.

ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN STROLLING around on cloud nine recently must have run into Ed Balden. He's been up there ever since the arrival of his new son on January 10. Baby's starting weight was eight pounds, seven ounces, and he stretched out to a length of 21 inches.

CRANBERRIES IMPORTED from the U.S. have caught on like wildfire over in Enclaba and this year's export figure is expected to double over last year's. Do you suppose at long last they have forgiven us for that little tea episode?

NOTICED IN A FARMINGTON parking lot was a scene right out of "Please Don't Eat the Daisies." A station wagon was spilling over with kids and what must be the hugest St. Bernard in captivity. When he lolled out of the wagon window, which he did at the while they were in view, it looked as though the car would topple right over just from the weight of his massive head. Any crook who can land the dogfood contract, has it made.

by Shirley Berger

Snow Removal Costing More

Snow removal costs are running considerably ahead of last year in the City of Farmington.

As of Dec. 31, 99 days after the official beginning of winter, nearly \$4,200 of the budgeted \$10,200 had been spent for the costs of labor, materials and salt, according to City Manager John Dinan.

At the end of December, \$1,300 had been spent on snow removal.

SNOWFALL ALONE isn't the problem, Dinan points out. If there's a rain that freezes into ice, it's harder to remove. If the snow falls on the weekend, city employees must be paid time-and-a-half. If they have to get up the middle of the night, it's overtime again.

Budgeting is a tricky matter. In the winter of 1964-65, the city budgeted \$13,537; last year, \$11,172; in the current year, \$10,180. At the end of any year, there may be money left over, or there may not.

Another complication is the matter of who owns the road. City Public Service Director Theodore DeBaene reports that the city is reimbursed by the State Highway Department and Oakland County for work done on those streets.

And the state itself takes care of certain roads that run through the city — I-96, Eight Mile and even part of Farmington Road.

DeBaene ALSO notes that the \$4,200 spent so far this year covers only so-called "out-of-pocket" costs — labor, materials, some repairs, salt.

The figure doesn't include depreciation of equipment or overhead of the department. If those costs were added, he said, the total city snow removal cost as of Dec. 31 would be \$5,344.

Snow's fun to play in, but a problem to get out of.

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