

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Industry Fire Loss \$200,000

Sparks from a trash fire are believed by fire officials to have caused the blaze that burned down Midwest Cabinets, Inc. 25533 Middlebelt, on Tuesday morning.

Owner Maurice Fried, 47, of Detroit, estimated damage at \$200,000 to \$250,000. Farmington Township police reported there were no fatalities, and firemen reportedly incurred only minor injuries.

FIREMEN from station 3 were called Monday at 10 p.m. to put out a trash fire about 40 feet from the building.

Fire officials theorized that sparks from the trash fire — from sawdust and wood shavings blown by high winds onto the roof of the plant.

Arson and man-made sources were ruled out as possible causes.

The blaze was reported to station No. 3 at 6 a.m. Tuesday by a citizen caller, police said.

Owner Fried was also in the building about the same time, police said, but no one else was there.

Two trucks from station 3 answered the call and summoned aid from stations 1 and 4, which sent two trucks apiece.

Despite their efforts, the building was a total loss.

Traffic on Nine Mile Road between Middlebelt and Shawnee was closed for several hours during the fire.

THE PLANT employed about 40 persons, police said.

Fried, owner of the building, was owner of three companies housed there—Modern Design, Inc., Midwest Cabinets, Inc. and Midwest Kitchen, Inc.

With two partners—Ronald Seavers of Oak Park and Ray Sahon of Livonia—Fried also owned a fourth company, Midwest Kitchen Do It Yourself, Inc.

The loss was only partially covered by insurance, according to police.

All that was left of the plant were parts of the cement block walls and twisted metal beams.

Farmington must first decide whether it's one "community" or several.

If it's several, then the city and township (or cities) should understand the costs of going separate ways.

If it's one community, then it must decide which route to use to achieve one government—annexation or consolidation into a big, new city.

TWO STAFF members of the Citizens Research Council outlined these alternatives and laced them with examples of how they had worked in other areas when they spoke Thursday evening to the Future Farmington Area Study Committee.

Their approach was heavily weighted on the costs of local government—and tended to make a case for consolidation.

Background of the discussion, said Mike Mayer, first of the speakers, is that Farmington city and township can expect a heavy population growth—from 13,500 in 1950 to 33,600 in 1960 and an estimated 50,000 by 1970 and 77,000 by 1980.

Using fire department expenditures, Mayer painted a grim picture of the "balkanization" of the city.

So far, no one has filed for any of the Clarencville posts. Candidates need at least 50 petition signatures to file for the Clarencville posts.

AT SCHOOLCRAFT College Wednesday night, there was picketing.

With an implication of more forceful action if the Schoolcraft College administration and Board of Trustees doesn't resolve differences over salary increases quickly, more than 60 members of the Faculty Forum picketed Wednesday's board meeting in the Administration building on the campus.



TOWNSHIP FIREMEN worked in heavy smoke Tuesday to extinguish the blaze that leveled Midwest Cabinets, Inc. on Nine Mile near Middlebelt.

## College Honors High Averages

Honors convocations will be held at both campuses of Oakland Community College at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 20.

Students with 4.00 averages (A) at Highland Lakes Campus include Lawrence Thompson, 24456 Westmoreland.

Students with 3.5 (B plus or higher) averages at Highland Lakes include: Jerry Amey, 29021 Glenhurst; Harold Green, Jr., 31655 Nine Mile Rd.; and Ronald Zamler, 32044 Old Franklin.

## Few Jumping Into School Board Races

In an atmosphere of faculty unrest, school board posts in the forthcoming June 12 elections are getting little attention so far in local school districts.

While several persons have picked up nominating petitions for the Farmington Board of Education election, no one has filed yet.

Dr. Sanford Bloomberg so far is the only announced candidate for a four-year post on the board that will be vacated by Mrs. Barbara Brown.

Nominating petitions must be filed at the board office by Saturday, May 13, at 4 p.m. These must contain at least 24 but not more than 96 signatures of qualified voters who reside in the school district.

Candidates must be qualified voters and taxpayers.

Meanwhile, the Farmington school board last week reportedly made an offer to the teachers' bargaining agency, the Farmington Education Association, that was more or less a silent protest over the failure of the College negotiating team to reach an agreement on money matters after weekly sessions since January 13.

The Faculty Forum is the official bargaining agent for the professional staff.

The faculty team has made a request for an economic package in excess of \$500,000 which includes a flat \$1,950 across the board increase for 98 full time faculty members, a request for the Board to assume additional hospital and medical insurance costs totaling \$52,000, a request that a cost of living factor be written into working contracts, and a reduction of teaching load requiring the hiring of additional personnel by Leroy C. Bennett, Livonia, is open.

## 'Balkanization' Costs: The Case For 1 City

By TIM RICHARD  
Enterprise Editor

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ized" former Royal Oak Township, which now has eight cities and a fragmented township in a 36-square-mile area.

That entire area, he said, feels it necessary to plan for a total of 14 fire stations, whereas other areas of the same size and fewer municipalities feel they need less—10 in Warren-Clawson, nine in Livonia.

THE PIECEMEAL approach of annexation to a central city, Mayer said, would achieve unified government, but:

"All too often . . . boundaries may be drawn on the basis of expediency. For example, boundaries may be drawn to include water, sewer, police where they are needed 'now' rather than planning ahead—drawing the boundaries now and planning the services as they are needed."

CONSOLIDATION—the dissolving of two or more existing local units and the formation of a new city—could overcome many of these problems, said the other CRC speaker, William Carter.

There would be overall planning to implement it.

"Because of economies of scale, the new city could provide a pre-determined level of municipal services more economically than could the respective communities operating independently," Carter said.

Carter suggested a change in the state law which currently requires a single tax rate in one city. Instead, he said, the law should allow the tax rate to depend on the level of services in each area of the city—a system that has worked in Nashville, Davidson County, Tenn.

"The findings of Research Council studies would suggest that where a township-wide growth pattern is observable, or even likely, an attempt to consolidate may, in the long run, be well worth the effort," Carter said.

THE STUDY committee, headed by Dr. John Richardson and sponsored by the Board of Commerce, League of Women Voters and Jaycees, began delivering subcommittee reports on future population trends and land use patterns to a team of Michigan University consultants.

The Citizens Research Council speakers were one in a series of professional consultants heard by the study committee.

## Businessmen Hit Littering In Downtown

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

The Farmington City Council has been wrestling with the problem of litter in the downtown business section for the past month and a half.

The members are agreed that the problem is one of education, but they are unsure how to make certain that the sidewalks and store fronts are kept clean.

Proposals have been made to hire a man to specifically sweep the sidewalks.

At its April 10 session, the Council heard a proposal to do this from John Clappison. It promised to consider the idea in its budget session.

MONDAY NIGHT the Council received a letter from Thomas A. Duke, the developer, who owns two apartments—River Glen and Brookdale Club—in the City.

Duke proposed a program for maintaining the downtown section:

"A 'Keep Farmington Clean' proclamation from the City Council together with some method of having constant publicity of this effort on a monthly basis.

"Establishing a rigid and definite time of cleaning Grand River from boundary to boundary every other day except during the winter months.

"Hiring of a man (possibly retired) clothed in a white uniform to do additional sweeping of paper and debris and utilizing the fire hydrants in walking down the city's main traffic artery.

"Immediate enforcement of the littering ordinance to discourage offenders.

In his letter, Duke said he was proud to do business in the City and made the suggestions in the spirit of cooperation and in an effort "to improve a fine City a bit more."

He noted that he believed that these proposals could be handled "on a minimum expenditure and would result in a City without litter."

CITY MANAGER John Dinan told the Council that City crews are currently sweeping Grand River on the basis of 1½ times a week and that this could probably be improved to two times a week.

He added, however, that the National Pollution Regulations from the flushing down of streets because of the potential gas and oil that may run into rivers and streams and because of the sand that may clog the catch basins and sewers.

Mayor W. V. Brotherton observed that this was a fine time for such proposals as the Council was working on next year's budget and because of the proximity to May which is clean-up fix-up month.

Councilman John Allen said that the City's Beautification Committee was currently

working on a program to issue certificates of merit and added that many of Duke's suggestions went along with this.

The letter was referred to the beautification group for study and the possible incorporation into its program.

Another Catch is that any payment for a home built before June 1960 will include \$350 for connection to the sewer.

But there is a catch in paying off the benefit on time. Six percent interest is always due on the unpaid balance, making the second payment \$289, Hall told them.

A spokesman for the residents, Harry Barnes, of 25789 Springdale, questioned Hall on the possibility of the County Health Department forcing installation of the sewer.

He was told the County Health Department would have to go to the State Health Department who would have to get a court order to force installation. Cost of installation under these conditions might be higher.

MANY OF THE Woodbrook residents said they are already spending \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year to maintain septic tanks.

At present, the township can establish the sewer district without petitions unless 20 percent of the owners of record of the land area object.

If 51 per cent of owners of record of the land area petition for installation, the township must be set up, said Hall.

The key clause here is "owners of record of the land area." It is not a matter of "one lot, one vote."

Adding to the cost is the fact that the subdivision is developed with driveways, streets and lawns which would have to be cut to put the sewer in. Water and gas lines would have to be by-passed. Another cost factor is that residential lots are large and in some instances on steep slopes, said Hall.

Payment for the benefit can be spread over 10, 12 or 15 years. The first payment would be \$157.

Is Farmington Township being short-changed in Oakland County's 87-member Board of Supervisors?

That depends on whether you're hearing from Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democratic party leader, or Delos Hamlin, a Republican who was recently elected to his 12th term as chairman of the county board.

Vagnozzi labels as "short-sighted" the position of Hamlin, a representative of Farmington city, and township Supervisor Curtis Hall, in opposition to re-districting the county board.

Vagnozzi said that the present setup is "one man, one vote" basis.

VAGNOZZI said that the present setup is "one man, one vote" basis. He said the board would well go over 100 members and further short change townships with large populations.

"At the present time, based on the 1960 census, Farmington Township with 36,000 people is limited to one representative on the county board—the same as Groveland which has a population of only 1,300.

Vagnozzi favors re-districting the county board in line with the present setup where the vast majority of the members are appointed, not elected, and therefore are not responsible to the electorate."

REPLIED HAMLIN: "The structure of government is important, but the people are more important than the structure."

"It was the county that declined the sewer interceptors program that has caused Farmington Township to develop."

"Farmington Township's needs could not have been better met if it had had 10 supervisors."

"I wouldn't defend county supervisors' being appointive. I've been both," he said.



SHADES OF 'ARCHIE'—In the style of the comic strip character 'Archie,' Vincent Accioli of 32548 Chesterbrook drove an old car—in this case, a 1921

Ford owned by a friend—to take Lori Kujawa of 31690 N. Marklawn to a school dance last Saturday night.