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The Observer OF FARMINGTON

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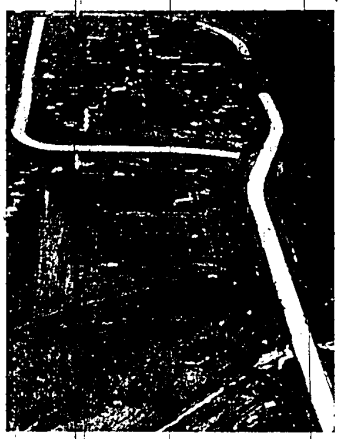
THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Paul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Westland and Townships of Plymouth, Redford and Farmington

VOL. 3 — NO. 16 52 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1966 33415 Grand River, Farmington Philip H. Power, Publisher

Township Seeks Injunction On Sewer and Water



THE CONCRETE ROADS in Farmington Township's Industrial Park jump out in this aerial photograph. The roads are currently under construction to service the industrial area.

Monument Group Sets Meeting

A community wide citizens committee will meet Nov. 22 in the Farmington City Hall to discuss the possibilities of moving the existing veteran's monument from the Masonic Temple property to a city park.

The session will begin at 8 p.m.

Representatives from the City of Farmington and the Township will be present as well as members of civic, service and fraternal organizations to discuss the various avenues.

The proposal for moving the monument was first proposed last spring along with the possibility of redesigning the structure to allow for the listing of Farmington's service men killed during World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

At the present time the listing stops with the First World War.

Last week the City Council named Ralph Yoder to represent the City. The Township had named a committee of Thomas Nolan, Earl Opperthauser and Floyd Cairns to explore the matter with the veteran's groups.

The following organizations have been invited to attend the session next Tuesday: Exchange Club; Greater Farmington Board of Commerce; the Jaycees and Jaycettes; Masons; Elks; Knights of Columbus; Lions; Rotarians; the Farmington Historical Society; the Garden Club; the Soroptimists; Optimists; the Business & Professional Women; the World War I Vets; the Blue Star Mothers; the American Legion and its Auxiliary; the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary.

ONE OF THE SEVEN tiny white coffins is carried from the Galilean Baptist Church Monday following the service for the seven Polmateer children who died when fire razed their Farmington Township home early Thursday morning. (See related story on page 3).

Halt Water, Sewer Work in Woodcroft

Farmington Township will seek an injunction in the Oakland County Circuit Court restraining the City of Farmington from providing water and sewer facilities to the residents of the Woodcroft Subdivision until a satisfactory agreement is worked out on the tap in fees for the area.

All the members of the Township Board attending Monday night's session—Hall, Cairns, Avery, Nolan and Opperthauser—voted to instruct Farmington Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan to file the case in the Circuit Court at the earliest possible opportunity.

Brennan said that he would be in the Circuit Court on Wednesday morning to seek the injunction.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday morning between the City officials and the Oakland County Department of Public Works on the payment for sewer and water facilities in the 487-acre parcel annexed by the City Nov. 8.

The issue at hand is the City's contention that the portion of the Township-wide indebtness that it should be required to pay should be determined on the basis of the assessed valuation in the area in relation to the overall assessed valuation of the entire Township.

Township officials claim, however, that under the contract with the Oakland County DPW water and sewer systems for the area be provided by the Tarabusi Sewer Arm and the Industrial Water facility.

The Township collects a $350 tap in fee plus $150 for the interceptor on the sewer facility and $75 tap in for water plus $20 per year for the capital debt charge.

Basis for the disagreement is the fact that a few years ago the residents of the Township at large approved a one mill levy in order to provide the facilities to its industrial park.

Since that time 6/10 of a mill has been the highest levy and the Township officials claim that if everyone in the area pays its just share then the levy will never

(Continued on Page 4A)

City Goes Big For Annexation

While the vote in Farmington Township on the annexation question was close on one proposal and resounding in its defeat on the other the residents of the City of Farmington were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposals.

On the proposal to annex 1,828 acres of the Township including the Star Cutter Plant, the Independence Green Development and the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park the residents of the City cast 2,417 yes votes to 526 no ballots. The Township residents in the affected area said no 95 times while only 18 agreed to the proposal.

In the Woodcroft Subdivision residents of the Township agreed to the annexation, while 67 were opposed. In the City the vote on this proposal was 2,399 affirmative ballots to 495 against.

Nearly 75 percent of the Township voters cast their ballots while 77.41 percent of those registered in the City voted.

With the annexation of the 487 acres of the Woodcroft Subdivision the City increased its land area by 50 percent. However, the defeat of the annexation question in the potentially lucrative industrial parcel was bitter.

Other members of the City's administration chose to look on the bright side of the matter, however, and were delighted that the Woodcroft annexation had been successful. Last spring a City proposal to annex that area was narrowly defeated by the residents of the subdivision.

The City Planning Commission was meeting Monday night to examine the land use potential for the area. City Manager John Dinan told **The Observer** that the corner of Grand River and

(Continued on Page 4A)

North End Parents Ask for Sidewalks

Once again the problem of the safety of children walking to school came up at the Farmington School Board meeting and again no one seems quite sure where the responsibility lies.

A group of parents from the Eagle PTA appealed to the School Board Monday evening for help in constructing a sidewalk on the north side of 14 Mile Rd. for the use of children walking from the Kimberly North, Briarcliff and Franklin Knolls subdivisions to Eagle Elementary.

At present, a spokesman said, these children are walking on poor and narrow paths.

Each of the three subdivisions has offered funds for the construction job which could run as high as $4,000. The School Board Monday evening offered to exert their influence on Bloomfield and Farmington Townships for aid but said they could not use their public funds beyond school property.

Part of the problem stems from the Farmington School District overlapping into two townships. This complicates the problem by having to work with two separate governmental units.

Speed in accomplishing construction of the sidewalk was stressed because in winter weather once 14 Mile Rd. is plowed, the parents say there is almost no path at all and often the children find it necessary to walk in the street.

The parents also expressed concern that if put off the situation will become worse. They said that once 14 Mile is blacktopped (plans call for such an improvement in the future), there will be an even greater safety hazard. Cars will be traveling at a greater speed and the children will be even more tempted to walk on a dry street rather than the muddy paths that now exist.

Grievance Dismissed By Board

Four representatives of Local 1456, representing custodial help for the Farmington School District, heard their grievance rejected by the Farmington School Board Monday evening.

The grievance, filed Sept. 15 by Kenneth Vader (and others), charges that regular custodial help is being denied scheduled overtime for building permit work.

In a letter to the Local, the Board said that they "feel that the handling of assignment of building permit work did not violate the terms of the contract and therefore we are not granting overtime pay as requested by the grievance."

They also said that they intend "to continue the present practice of handling building permit work with our regular operational staff members."

The administration said that the grievance was rejected on two points which were arrived at with the assistance of legal counsel. They are:

● The Board has the right to determine hours of employment and duties and assignment of its employees.

● Since no employee was assigned to work more than eight hours in one day or forty hours in one week, no scheduled overtime was involved.

Local 1456 representatives said they had not comment on the Board ruling at the time the letter was read.

Schools Buy Site

The purchase of an 8.36 acre school site in Section 12 for a total of $66,623.08 was approved by the Farmington School Board at its regular Monday evening meeting.

The plot is located in the Village of Woodcreek Farms and approximately in the center of the section.

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FARMINGTON

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Opperthauser Is Township Representative to the FARC

Farmington Township Trustee Earl Opperthauser has been named to represent the Township during the reorganization of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission.

Opperthauser stated that he would like to see citizen representatives of the Township on the committee rather than Board members when it is re-organized and stated that he could think of three residents that he would give serious consideration for the posts.

The Trustee also stated that he would like to see a "one man one vote concept" on the new commission and observed that the representation should be based on the percentage of financial support given to the FARC by the various governmental units. The Board agreed to this proposal.

This would mean that the Township would probably have more representatives on the commission than any other entity with the Farmington School District having the next largest representation. The City of Farmington and the Clarenceville Board of Education would have the other representatives on the commission.

In other appointments the Board:

Named Robert Clark to a three year term on the Pension Board and Richard Walls to a two year term. These two are the citizen committeemen on the Board.

Detective William Kelly was appointed to a two year term to represent the Township employees, while Robert Romar, the Township assessor, was appointed for one year.

Township Treasurer Elise Avery, who serves as the secretary-treasurer of the Board, was named to represent the Township Board for a term concurrent with the term in office in which she was just elected.

Township Passes Law On Animals

Farmington Township used to be an area of farms where people kept livestock.

No one would really quarrel with that statement. The history of the Farmington community tells of many farms in the area. However, that day seems gone with the fast increasing urbanization of the area.

It seemed gone until Monday night when the Township Board was forced to adopt an ordinance providing for a fine of up to $100 or a jail sentence of not more than 60 days in the County Jail for any owner or custodian failing to keep "any cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry or other domestic animals, except dogs and cats," on the premises.

Township Attorney Terry Brennan told the Township Board that the matter arose

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Three Held In Car Theft

Farmington Township Police who have arrested three men and charged them with auto larceny, are seeking a fourth.

Those arrested are: Tom Schwartz of 10 Avalon, Highland Park; Jeffery N. Collinko, 31181 Westhill, Farmington; and David E. Oldford, 22489 Middlebelt, Farmington.

All three are free on $100 personal bonds. A trial has been scheduled for Dec. 1 as the subjects waived examination.

The car was taken from in front of the home of Howard R. Rourke at 32230 Red Clover, Farmington on Nov. 11. It was recovered at the Southfield Firing Range.

Board Seems Close To Appointment

It looks as though the vacancy on the Farmington Township Board will be filled at that body's next meeting Nov. 28.

Trustee Earl Opperthauser told the Board Monday night the committee of Trustee Tom Nolan, Clerk Floyd Cairns and he had narrowed the choice of names down to three.

"These names," Opperthauser continued, have been given to the Board members in confidence. The three of us have discussed the possibility of making the names public and have decided not to do so at any time because of the possible embarrassment to those individuals not chosen."

This statement was a direct reference to the Democrats statement during the recent Township campaign that the names should be made public in order to provide a "community wide discussion" on filling the vacancy.

Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall suggested that the members "give full consideration" to the three names submitted and perhaps a decision could be made at the next Board meeting Nov. 28.

Duke Comes To Board Meeting

Sometimes there is a big crowd at the Farmington Township Board meetings, but very often the audience is composed of a few familiar faces.

At Monday night's meeting one face—that of Democrat chairman and the recently defeated candidate for Supervisor Aldo Vagnozzi—was missing. In his place, however, was a big figure.

Thomas A. Duke, the controversial builder who resigned from the Township Board last spring citing the "press of personal business," was in the audience.

Vagnozzi charged during the campaign that the Township Board was holding off appointing anyone to the vacancy created by Duke's resignation until after the election so that Duke could be re-appointed.

Duke, however, told **The Observer** that he had no reason for attending the session other than he "didn't have anything else to do and came over to see what was going on."

He was quiet also.

Police Nab 2

Farmington Township Chief of Police Irving Yakes has announced the arrest of two Detroit men Nov. 13.

The two, Rudolph Tucker, 22, of 20010 Monica, Detroit, and James Ledbetter, 24, 2753 Hazelwood, Detroit, have been charged with accosting a 15-year-old girl in the Township.

Bond has been set on the pair at $2,500 each. A preliminary examination in the case will be conducted Nov. 25 in the Justice Court.

S/Sgt. Leslie E. Wright

★ ★ ★

Vietnam Claims Soldier

The area has suffered its first casualty in Vietnam.

He is S/Sgt. Leslie E. Wright who was killed by mortar, small arms fire and grenades as his helicopter was landing Tuesday, Nov. 8. S/Sgt. Wright was stationed with the H.H. Company, First Battalion, 28th Regiment, First Infantry Division.

A native of Livonia, the Wright family resided on Greenland and Doris Streets for many years. A brother, John W., currently resides in Farmington.

He had left the country Oct. 2 for Vietnam, arriving there Oct. 5.

A military funeral will be conducted at Fort Benning, Ga. Nov. 16 or 17. The burial will be at the army base.

A 19-year serviceman, S/Sgt. Wright had been stationed at Fort Benning for the past five years. He was a member of the Army Rifle Team and had traveled to the

(Continued on Page 4A)

County GOP Sets Convention

The Republican Party of Oakland County will hold the second session of the County Convention at 8 p.m., Monday, Nov. 21, at the Southfield High School 10 Mile and Lahser Road, Southfield.

The Repulican delegates from the County's 385 precincts and the Republican Nominees for Country and State Legislative offices will elect the County Executive office, which is the decision making body of the Party.

The executive committee elected by the convention will take office immediately and will be responsible for the electing of the county chairman, vice chairman and other officers who will take office in January.

Tinson Named By Board

Leslie Tinson, an employee of the Farmington School system since 1960, has been appointed the new supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for the District.

Tinson came to work for the Farmington Schools in 1960 with 20 years of experience in supervising general construction. He was transfered to the Maintenance Department in 1961 and was appointed Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds in 1963.

Prior to joining the school district staff he worked for W. E. Wood and W. A. Bryce Construction companies in Detroit. He organized his own company in 1945 and continued with this enterprise until 1950. From 1950 until 1960, Tinson served as foreman for Larson Clay Pipe and Novi Construction companies.

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