

## Township Tables Area Study Fund Bid

The Farmington Township Board of Trustees voted at Monday night's meeting to table any consideration of allocating funds to a proposed Michigan State University study of the feasibility of city-township consolidation.

Trustee Thomas Nolan, reiterating the view he had expressed at last week's big-governmental Future Farmington Area Study Committee Meeting, noted that any such study by MSU, which would be expected to be completed late this summer, would cloud the minds of voters.

A special township incorporation issue is to be on the ballot Oct. 23. Nolan suggested that the town-

ship withhold funds for the study until after the October voting.

Due to the township's refusal to allocate its share of the \$3,500 necessary for the MSU study, the plan may now be considered all but dead. The Future Farmington Area Study Committee had perched its expense breakdown on a population basis. In any such setup, approximately two-thirds of the funds would come from the township.

General expression of opinion at the Monday meeting seemed to unilaterally oppose any possible plans of consolidation. Supervisor Curt Hall com-

mented that he knew of only one Michigan municipality (Dearborn) that is an outgrowth of successful city-township merger.

Trustee James Skillman concurred with Trustee Earl Opperthaus's contention that a City of Farmington attempt at consolidation would simply be an excuse for the city to "get another crack at our tax base."

Skillman accused the city of operating in bad faith in last year's annexation of the township's industrial area. He was referring to the long-range effect of that annexation as being the lowering of the

city's tax rate in conjunction with the widening of the tax base.

Also supporting postponement of consideration on the consolidation study issue, Hall saw no reason "why the feasibility of annexation after incorporation (of the township) is any less than that" of pre-incorporation.

Hall remarked that "it's desirable for Farmington Township to consolidate with Farmington City," it would be just as desirable to consolidate Farmington with Farmington Hills. Hall was referring to a possible name for any incorporated government that might come out of the township's October election.



NORTH FARMINGTON High School students raised \$1,247 toward scholarships at their fourth annual workday, Saturday, sponsored by the Student Council. Among the 350-400 students who turned out to wash 227 automobiles and do other jobs around the community were juniors Lynn French and Doug Torble. Kenneth Kaestner, student activities director, supervised the event.

### Residents Seek To Hold Funds

Farmington Township has been ordered to appear in the Oakland County Circuit Court May 15 to show cause why \$12,225 in Township funds should not be transferred from the bond and interest fund of water supply System A back to a Revenue Account for water in Section 36.

The hearing will be held before Judge Philip Pratt. If the funds are transferred by the Court, it will rescind an action taken by the Township Board in January, transferring the funds.

Background of the Section 36 Revenue Account goes back to the time when the section was serviced

by Pressure System A. Water was provided to the residents in Section 36 at that time and an accumulation of funds was built up. With the interest, the net charge to residents when forced to tie into the line was \$15 per home. Normal tap in charge to Township residents for Detroit's water is \$75.

Township Supervisor Curt Hall stated that it was a case of the people "not recognizing the fact that they have to share in the cost of the system they are using."

"This has gone through our bonding attorneys and I'm not worried about the court hearing," Hall commented.

Thomas J. Dillon, attorney for the residents, was out of town and not expected back "for a couple of days" so could not be reached for comment.

Listed as plaintiffs in the case are: Donald Layland, 21313 Whittington; Edward Goetz, 23609 Grand River; William G. Lawarson, 21035 St. Francis; Ellen Goers, 21416 Roosevelt; Maurice Waack, 29218 Scotten; and Howard Boone, 21306 Whittington.



FIRE GUTTED THE home of Marino Zapico, 21229 Giltcrest, Farmington Township, Zapico's attention when a passerby awakes, early Sunday morning. The flames started in the attached garage, and spread to the kitchen. Police could give no damage estimate for the fire that came to the

### City Planners Give OK To Nature Trail Study

The City of Farmington's Planning Commission agreed Monday night to allow its subcommittee to continue exploring the idea of nature trails in the City Park.

In a consensus, the Commission agreed to permit the subcommittee to continue its work in exploring the idea and to report back how much work would be needed to develop the trails, how the work would be done, and the police functions necessary to make the region a safe spot.

Discussion at the Planners meeting arose after Councilman Howard Thayer blasted the idea at last week's Council session, terming nature trails a "menace" to public safety.

When asked why the item appeared on the agenda, City Manager John Dinan replied that there was a "misunderstanding as to the scope" of man Howard Thayer blasted

### Bassette Resigns Bd. Post

Township Trustee Arthur S. Bassette tendered his resignation from the township board Monday in a letter stating his personal "regret" that he is forced to make such a move.

Bassette, 57, of 29701 13 Mile Rd., who has served on the board since 1959 and was most recently re-elected to a four-year term this past November, declined to give exact reasons for his resignation.

He confined his comments to declaring that he had become "too busy in my personal affairs." Bassette is Engineer-in-Charge of the Testing of the Fisher Body Division of General Motors.

A graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Bassette has a wife, Frances, and two children, Alice and Bill.

### Report Theft At Brookdale

A television set valued at \$76, \$35 in currency and a jar of quarters and silver were the booty in a Friday evening burglary at the Brookdale Apt. of Paul A. Kelly.

Occurring between early morning and 7 p.m., the burglary was assumed to have occurred at the latter time, when another apartment on Kelly's hall was broken into, approximately that time.

Nothing was reported missing in the second apartment.

### Motorcyclist Is Hospitalized In X-way Crash

Township Police report that a Detroit motorcyclist lost control of his vehicle Sunday and careened wildly off the I-96 business spur onto the eastbound expressway.

Gene Flynn, 22, of 14190 Bentler, Detroit, is currently in critical condition at Beaumont General Hospital. His motorcycle was entirely destroyed in the accident.

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### School Board Action

Farmington Board of Education handled a number of routine items during its Monday night meeting. A quick capsule summary:

#### Township Authorized to Take Bids

Trustees voted to authorize the township to take bids on the extension of the 13 Mile sanitary sewer arm, which will eventually serve Forest Elementary School. The authorization is subject to the drawing up of a satisfactory payback agreement between the Oakland County DPW, the township and the school district. The board also agreed to advance \$79,000 for construction of the extension in the area affected by the school.

#### Change In Bidding Date and Water Lines

Architects for the additions at the high schools will be instructed to change plans for a six inch water line at Farmington High's addition to eight inches and add two fire hydrants. Taking of bids for the additions has been put off until May 23, a two-week delay.

#### Deny Request for Noble School Property

The board turned down a request from Charles Latham to purchase 100 feet of Noble School property to relieve nuisance from children playing there with no supervision. Latham's suggestion that a permanent baseball diamond be installed will be investigated.

#### Cirriculum Study in Biology

Joseph Nicita outlined for trustees an in-service training pilot program for biology teachers to begin next fall. The \$15,326 cost of the program will be paid by the federal Office of Education.

#### Tyler Resigns

Richard Tyler's resignation as director of adult education, summer school and federal programs was accepted. He wants to return to teaching and coaching at Farmington High School. Also approved was Judith Armstrong's resignation and a leave of absence for Lois Schmidt, speech correctionist.

#### Letter Concerning Band Instruction

The board discussed at some length a letter from Mrs. P. A. Waller complaining about band instruction in Farmington schools. It was agreed that district music classes are geared to an exposure type program rather than to turning out accomplished musicians.

### Kindergartners Get Fast Start

## School is 'Old Hat' for Newcomers

The first day of school can be a trying experience for too many kindergartners. Mother drops them off at school, picks up registration forms in the office and hurries home to leave an often bewildered youngster faced with big puzzles in the big building that has nothing like the warm familiarity of home.

Of course, not all kindergartners face this problem. Some may be able to adjust easily to the new problems—particularly if their school is the William Grace Elementary. At William Grace, new students are old-timers, because they walk in for their first regular class day.

Because of a program adopted by Principal Ni-

chols Abid five years ago to make the home-to-school transition easier, the neophyte scholars that enter his school every September have the advantage of knowing about school and school life long before they begin their regular scholastic careers.

The method employed by Abid and his staff centers around a program known as Pre-Kindergarten Story-Time Days. Four and five year-olds who are expected to enter school the following fall are invited—with their mothers—to a six-week series of "classes" that familiarize the child with the school and the schedule with the child.

Mrs. Florence Sharp, speech therapist, is one of the teachers who takes part in Grace's unique program. Meeting once with each of the three pre-kindergarten sections, Mrs. Sharp leads the children in speech games that are fun for the subjects and informative for the leader.

"Usually," Mrs. Sharp points out, "some 20 percent of elementary school speech problems are in the kindergarten. As a therapist, I can pick out these problems before the students enroll by listening to them at the Story-Time sessions."

And the kids don't mind it either. Each class of about 20 enjoys Wednesday afternoon sessions as much as they might enjoy games they play at home.

Mrs. Sharp shows them how a cat acts when its angry, and the kids start flailing their arms merrily, spitting out "Piff!" as they imitate the angered feline. While the youngsters enjoy the game, Mrs. Sharp notices problems the children might have in pronouncing basic sounds.

Of course, the accent of the program is more toward orienting the children than

helping teachers. In other sessions, they play group participation games, dress up in daddy's old shirt for "Messy Painting Day," learn about books and stories in the school library and sing new songs with the school's vocal music teacher, Mrs. Margaret Basille.

### Clean Up Scheduled

May has been designated Clean-Up, Fix-Up Month in the Farmington area, and it's time to get out those paint brushes, rakes, hammers and nails that have been hibernating in the garage over the past winter.

An annual campaign sponsored by local government and businessmen, Clean-Up, Fix-Up Month gives local residents the opportunity to get together with their neighbors to make their homes and neighborhoods take on that clean look of spring.

In the township, special Clean Up, Fix Up Month trash pickups will be made in the areas between Eight Mile and 10 Mile Roads on Saturday, May 13, and the following day. In the areas north of 10 Mile Road to the township limits at 14 Mile, special collections will be made beginning Saturday, May 20.



PRE-SCHOOLERS at the William Grace Elementary School listen intently as Mrs. Florence Sharp, speech therapist at the Grace, tells them how to play speech games. The children, participating in Principal Nichols Abid's "Story Hour" program, are getting used to going to school before the big day in September. Approximately 70 pre-schoolers take part in this year's program, each meeting once a week at the school.