

# Civic Groups Push Center

**By FRED DeLANO**  
A tentative plan to convert a portion of the Farmington Rd., "Longacres" estate of the Farmington family into a Greater Farmington community center received the enthusiastic endorsement of approximately 200 organizational representatives Wednesday night.

The Goodenough family home, and five acres of the surrounding land at 24705 Farmington Rd., have been offered as a gift to the community if a non-profit, non-governmental entity is established to maintain and operate the facility.

Attorney Daniel Goodenough, speaking for the family heirs who have made the offer, specified that it would be the function of a board of trustees to hire a full-time director and caretaker as well as plan the financing of the project.

It is estimated by David Mills, who served as chairman of the Wednesday gathering, that it would take an annual budget of at least \$25,000 to operate such a Community House program effectively.

Another general meeting of interested persons has been scheduled tentatively for April 24 at a site yet to be named, at which time it is hoped to make a decision on the feasibility of the undertaking.

Six volunteer committees are to report on various phases of the project at that time. In the interim, these committees are to explore such topics as financing, physical plans for house and grounds, a basic program of activities, organizational structure of a non-profit group to have charge of the enterprise, nomination of prospective trustees and officers, and the recruiting of volunteers to assist in overall planning.



**ASSESSMENT BLUES** -- This was the scene in Farmington Township hall Tuesday when the Board of Review convened to hear protests of 1968 property assessments. In contrast to the township's "standing room only" turnout, the city's Board of Review heard only a handful of cases. Shown in the second photo is city board member Harrison Johnson (left) with Arthur Rutenbar, of 22850 Maple, in one of the audiences granted by the board. Both boards will continue hearings Monday, March 11.

## Review Boards Are Study In Contrast

The Board of Review story in the Farmington area this week was one of contrasts. At Township Hall Tuesday, they hung out the "standing room only" sign early in the day as property owners converged to question their 1968 property assessments. An accompanying photo shows part of the crowd which was on hand, waiting to be heard.



Before the day was over, 46 cases had been heard by the board, with a number of other land owners being assigned specific appointments for later dates.

The City Hall situation was quite the reverse. The Municipal Board of Review received only 13 petitions to reconsider assessments, and two of those were by mail with 11 property owners appearing in person.

Both boards will meet again Monday, March 11. The township group knows ahead of time it will have a busy day. The city trio may have time to spare.

## today's hot line

### State

As Detroit's Mayor Cavanagh decried rumor-mongering about predicted riots, his city set up a Rumor Control Center in its Community Relations office to receive and investigate the public's calls. (For a related story on rumors and guns in the suburbs, please turn to Page 9A.)

## observerland

**REDFORD** -- Township officials and citizens will testify in Lansing Wednesday, March 13, on State Rep. John Bennett's D-34th District (Redford) bill to divert four per cent of state gas and weight taxes to townships for local street improvements.

**REDFORD** -- Pfc. Douglas Burdick, 16510 Brady, became the township's second casualty of the Vietnam war Feb. 27. He had been in the war-torn country scarcely a month.

**REDFORD** -- Rescue efforts to help save several high-ranking officers downed in Viet Cong territory earned Warrant Officer Randy Malby, 19702 Denby, the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**LIVONIA** -- A parents' group, angered over the transfer of their children to another school next fall, the fifth such transfer in the last three years for some of the students, this week pushed a 7,482-signature petition drive to recall five members of the seven-member Board of Education. In the meantime, Mrs. Hilda Varbedian, president of the Livonia Council of PTAs, announced Friday the council's vote of confidence for the board and school district's administrators headed by Supt. Benton Yates.

**LIVONIA** -- The mayor and Council met in weekend discussion of the Police Department's request for \$30,000 for riot-control equipment. The Auxiliary Police want \$6,000. The combined forces total less than 300. If the idea is approved, the Council will have to find the money in the face of a threatened deficit in the \$6,000,000 budget long before Dec. 1.

**PLYMOUTH** -- The City Commission comes face to face with one of its most difficult problems in years Monday night when it must decide whether to levy a two mill tax increase to finance a street program.

**PLYMOUTH** -- Robert Boatman, of the State Highway Department, informs Plymouth-area businessmen that planning to take advantage of the two new expressways—1-275 and M-14—must begin now. The freeways could be a blessing or a curse, he told them.

## What's Inside

Clarenceville High School has a breath-taking new auditorium, named after former Supt. (now State Rep.) Louis Schmidt. Picture story on Page 8A.

The University of Michigan's new president is a professional conflict-settler who is also concerned with the orderly growth of one of the nation's most prestigious institutions. Interview on Page 1B.

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## Work Starts On Township's Second New Industry Of '68

**By SUE SHAGNESSY**  
Farmington Township officials were on hand Thursday to participate in the second ground breaking of 1968 for a new industrial plant.

The new 7,200 square foot facility will allow the firm to expand its activities in instrument service and modifications and in assembly of special instrument test systems.

The building has been set on a site overlooking the main entrance to the Thompson Brown developed Farmington Freeway Industrial Park. The plant has been designed to allow for future expansion by way of an additional 10,000 square foot facility on an adjacent site.

## AF Recruiter Visits City

Tech. Sgt. Donald J. Calvin, Air Force recruiting representative for the Farmington area, will be at the Farmington Selective Service office, 22504 Orchard Lake Rd., each Thursday afternoon to assist and answer questions for residents of the Farmington Area.

**CARTER, McCormic & Peirce**, operating as a sales engineering firm, sells electronic test systems, electronic instrumentation and electronic components to original equipment manufacturers of both industrial and military products as well as to production test facilities including all major automotive companies and research laboratories.

**THE BUILDING'S** upper level will provide space for a reception lobby, three executive offices and conference room for principals of the firm, and offices for sales, accounting and secretarial personnel.



**UP GOES THE DIRT** -- As the first step in building a new \$200,000 plant in Farmington Township's booming Industrial Park the dignitaries broke ground Thursday. The firm moving into the park is Carter, McCormic & Peirce, Inc., engineering representatives. From left are, William W. Bowman, chairman of the township industrial development commission; Alfred L. Carter; Henry B. McCormic, Jr.; James L. Peirce; and Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall.

## Council OKs \$666 For Lights

The first portion of a three-phase program to improve street lighting on Grand River from Orchard Lake Rd. to Farmington Rd. was given the go-ahead this week by the Farmington City Council.

"Illumination is not adequate," City Manager John D. Dinan told the council as he recommended immediate activation of the first phase which will call for conversion to mercury vapor lamps at 23 sites.

The council approved an allocation of \$666 to be included in the 1968-69 budget for this purpose.

The type of lamp to be installed "will double the illumination," said Dinan. Included will be 19 lights between Liberty and Grove Sts., plus four east of Grove in front of the new Federal department store.

Second and third phases are to be weighed in future budget years. Dinan said second priority should be given the improvement of lighting between Orchard Lake Rd. and Lakeway. The third phase would be along that portion of Grand River between School St. and Lakeway.

"The advantage of doing this street lighting program in phases is not only the economics involved, but it gives the city an opportunity to weigh the merits of the increased lighting before proceeding with the whole program."