



MARK OF
CIRCULATION INTEGRITY
Farmingington Audited Circulation
12,242
Total Audited Circulation
As of June 30, 1967

The Farmington

ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

This Week's
Press Run
76,500

Fifty Cents Per Copy

Philip H. Power, Publisher

Sunday, April 14, 1968

38 pages this issue

Zoning Board Reversal Looming

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

The tangled tale of rezoning attempts for the corner of Middle Belt and Northwestern Highway entered a new chapter this week when the Farmington Township Board voted to delay any decision for a month.

In granting the delay at the request of Developer Ivan Frankel the board indicated that it would probably uphold the current single family zoning on the 14 acre parcel.

If the township trustees turn down the planning commission's recommendation for the combined apartment and single family home development it will be the second time in the history of the commission that the board has overruled its recommendations.

Cited as a primary reason for the trustee's decision was the objection of residents of the area to traffic problems the development would create.

FOLLOWING the reading of a prepared statement by Trustee Earl Oppenheimer, Frankel asked the board for time to document the reasoning behind the road layout and the traffic pattern for the board.

He told the trustees that the decisions about the roads in the proposed development Franklin Gateways were often dictated by the Oakland County Road Commission.

L. David Slater, Jr., executive secretary of the commission, told The Enterprise & Observer after the trustee's

statement that "our role is to consider and make recommendations, but the Board actually makes the final decision."

Slater had presented a letter to the board outlining the commission's reasoning before the meeting.

A resident of Old Franklin Towne, Maynard M. Gordon of 3268 Old Franklin Drive, said that he was "delighted" with the trustee's statement.

That comment sums up the feelings of the residents of not only Old Franklin Towne, but Franklin Gateways and Franklin Forest as well. Vocal opposition to the proposal has come from the residents of all three subdivisions.

IN THE PREPARED state-

ment the trustees asserted that: "The history of rezoning in this area of the township and other facts definitely indicate that what this township board may decide on this question will not be the final decision. It has become obvious that the ultimate decision will be made by the courts."

"If we vote to rezone, the residents will litigate our action. If we do not, the proposition will challenge our decision by litigation."

"Under these circumstances, the only decision we will make as a practical matter, is which of these two parties will suffer the expense of this litigation—the plaintiff or just the citizens and residents who are opposed to this rezoning. If this were a

clear-cut decision we would naturally vote in favor of the party entitled to the decision."

"However, where the question is as close as this one, we find it impossible to compel our citizens and residents to bear this burden. We feel that in equity and justice, the proposition who stands to experience a definite monetary gain should be the one to have this burden rather than the residents of long standing in this community who are only trying to protect the investments in their homes by opposing this change."

"Therefore, although we have deep respect for our planning commission and its decisions, we feel that we should maintain the status quo when the rezoning question is as close as

this one."

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY Joseph T. Brennan told the trustees that the board has to make a decision about whether or not there are enough good reasons to make a change.

"The township cannot buck the decision of the court," Brennan continued, "as the court merely decides whether the zoning is reasonable or unreasonable."

In reply to Brennan's comments Oppenheimer stated that the tenor of the statement is that "I don't feel that based on the information that we have a clear cut case. I don't think that I have been convinced that the present zoning is unreasonable," he concluded.

today's hot line

BULLETIN

The strike of the Communications Workers Union of America against Michigan Bell started late Friday afternoon according to word received by the Observer. The CWA has been negotiating with the Bell System on a national basis for some time but notified Michigan Bell earlier in the week that it would not strike until the end of the crisis in the Detroit area. The curfew was lifted Friday morning and apparently the strike began in the afternoon.

A Subcommittee of the Michigan Legislature will conduct an investigation into Redford Township election procedure starting Tuesday morning. Announcement of the assignment of the committee was made in Lansing Friday afternoon. It was not known at presstime where the hearing would be held.

observerland

REDFORD — Redford Township Supervisor Aldrick Belaire, despite recently learning that federal aid money is in short supply, has applied for a \$1.5 million grant for purchase of the 105-acre Glenhurst Golf course for township recreational use. If the aid is received, the township plans to seek an identical amount through local millage support of a bond issue. The application is likely to stall current attempts to have Glenhurst rezoned for high rise and commercial development. The property is the last remaining large site suitable for recreation use in the township.

REDFORD — The township's human relations council, a voluntary civil rights corps of all-white citizens, did not join in marches in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. "We were afraid of local opinion," said the council leaders.

LIVONIA — Mayor Harvey W. Moeke didn't spend a cent, nor receive a penny contribution, in his campaign for reelection to a fourth term in Livonia. But his Boosters Club, which financed his campaign against Council President Peter A. Ventura, had \$99.21 left from contributions it had received after paying expenses and a primary deficit of \$278.

LIVONIA — An Olive Branch has been waved between the executive and legislative ends of Livonia City Hall in an attempt to bring closer cooperation between the mayor and the reorganized city council. It is intended to ease or end the friction that existed between Mayor Harvey W. Moeke and the Council while Peter A. Ventura was president. Ventura has been replaced as president by Councilman Edward H. McNamara.

PLYMOUTH — Teachers in the Plymouth Community School District have asked for a \$2,000 increase in salary as a starter in the bargaining for a new contract.

PLYMOUTH — Due to an error on the part of the engineers, the discussed report on the City of Plymouth's water system has been delayed again.

PLYMOUTH — Battle looms over elevating Haggerty Rd. to a Class A highway through Hines Park. It is hinted that a bridge may be built to handle the traffic and preserve the beauty.

What's Inside

- Picture story of Tiger Opening..... Page 18
- Many Die when Australian Ferry Boat..... Page 28
- Sinks in Typhoon..... Page 28
- Doings in Typhoon..... Page 28
- Doings in Typhoon..... Page 28
- Congressmen McDonald and Esch vote for..... Page 48
- broad civil rights bill..... Page 48
- Obituaries..... Page 58
- What's happening in the NOW generation..... Page 68
- Amusements and Dine Out..... Page 78
- Robert Kennedy's big plans for..... Page 48
- city rebuilding..... Page 48
- Home Improvement and Garden..... Page 14A
- Schoolcraft College students stage on..... Page 15A
- eat-a-thon..... Page 15A
- School old bill approved by State Senate..... Page 16A
- Tigers split opening series with champs..... Page 68
- Observing Sports with George Maskin..... Page 98

DISHES RATTLING...

around in an old cupboard? Call that unvarnished monster an antique and sell it with an Observer Want Ad (classification 5-10.) Dial GA 2-0900. You may get enough for it to refurbish your whole dining room!



PROUD PAPA — "Noisy" the rooster looks over 36 of his chicks recently hatched at Eagle School. Mr. Otis Fockler, who donated the incubator and 63 eggs, and his friend, kindergarten Greg Bredt, inspect the baby chicks in their brooder and take time to cuddle a couple.

Mr. Fockler's Chicks Make Easter At Eagle

To be correct and academic, "a resource person" is what the Farmington School District calls Otis Fockler. But the youngsters at Eagle School draw the line at such academics. To them, Fockler is simply their "friend."

With gentle persuasion, this kindly man has made the wonders of the world more meaningful to these young children.

FOR INSTANCE:

A few weeks ago, he brought an incubator containing 63 eggs to Miss Cheryl Smith's kindergarten room. On April 1, amid much peeping and shell chipping, 36 chicks emerged from their shells under the fascinated eyes of the little boys and girls.

By this time, the other 27 have probably hatched to be cuddled and wondered over and all just in time for

Easter. Fockler has also introduced the Eagle kindergartners to a toad, a snake, his pet rooster (nicknamed "Noisy" by a tolerant teacher) and has taken them all or a real bossed ride.

Wise in the ways of children, this unusual man lives on a six-acre farm at 15 Mile Rd. and Inkster. Now retired, he raises squabs for market and hobbyists.

Farming is a family affair with Fockler. His family homesteaded in Sanilac County back in 1912. He has to be careful of his health and finds great pleasure and therapy in his contacts with the children at Eagle.

They reciprocate his feeling. As does Miss Margaret Cottrell, school principal, who is full of praise for this misnamed "resource person."

Observer Buys Building Site

Purchase of a 38-acre site for a planned central administrative building for Observer Newspapers, Inc. was announced Saturday by Publisher Philip H. Power.

The site is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads in Livonia.

THE PARCEL was acquired from the Stark Land Company, of Detroit. "The new site meets virtually all the site selection criteria developed by our organization and by the site selection specialists who worked for us," Power said.

"In particular, it is near our two major needs: rail and expressway transportation facilities. A rail spur is near the southern boundary of the site, and the intersection of a north-south and an east-west expressway is just about three miles to the west on Schoolcraft Road.

Suburban Unit Is Called Up

One suburban Army Reserve company will be called to active duty in the mobilization ordered by President Johnson. It is the 424th Personnel Services Company (type B) which meets in the training center at 34451 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

From congressional sources, however, this newspaper learned that the company has 199 men and that they are expected to be in Fort Hood, Texas, by May 13. The men are mostly clerks, typists and bookkeepers.

The mobilized company is one of many that trains in the Livonia center.

The callup was largely ignored when President Johnson announced that it was coming because he revealed it in his March 28 speech revealing his peace talk proposals to North Vietnam and his intention of retiring.

4 Rezoning Requests On Planners' Agenda

The Farmington Township Planning Commission will consider four rezoning requests Tuesday, April 16, during its session in the Township Hall.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

One of the rezoning requests has been lodged by the Planning Commission itself and involves the zoning of 38 acres from the apartment classification to either residential or special purpose.

Site of the property is the Baptist Manor property on 13 Mile Rd. between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Rds. Proposed for the land is a home for the aged.

THE PROPERTY was originally zoned to the apartment classification in 1964 by the Township Zoning Board. Under the existing zoning ordinance the apartment zoning was the only feasible classification to allow for the construction of nursing homes.

To date, however, ground has not been broken for the rest home and the planners are concerned about the vacant property with the apartment zoning.

If the land were to be sold and a site plan for apartments submitted, the commission would have no legal recourse but to allow for the construction of the apartment units. When the rezoning was originally approved the zoning board stipulated that "a building permit be taken out and acted upon within the next three years toward the installation intended; and with agreement that failure to do so will automatically be sufficient reason to then rescind back to the present residential classification."

An additional factor is the recent adoption of the new special purpose classification which the board of supervisors which would reduce the membership from 87 to 27 and which would make all 27 positions elective.

Under that plan, which has been challenged in court, the portion of the Farmington area south of 12 Mile Rd., but including Wood Creek Farms, would have one elected representative on the county board. The part of the township north of 12 Mile and north of Wood Creek Farms would be joined with West Bloomfield Township to form another distinct election

district.

Under the United States Supreme Court ruling handed down recently on application of the one-man, one-vote principle to county government, it appears that reapportionment of the county board is inevitable.

A year ago the county apartment commission established by Michigan law presented a plan for reorganization of the board of supervisors which would reduce the membership from 87 to 27 and which would make all 27 positions elective.

Under that plan, which has been challenged in court, the portion of the Farmington area south of 12 Mile Rd., but including Wood Creek Farms, would have one elected representative on the county board. The part of the township north of 12 Mile and north of Wood Creek Farms would be joined with West Bloomfield Township to form another distinct election

district. Whether either Hamlin or Hall would run for office in the newly defined Farmington district cannot be foretold, both indicating at this point that the question is premature.

FURTHERMORE, the continuing fight over redistricting coupled with new lines which may have to be drawn after the 1970 census, leave the ultimate reapportionment pattern still in great doubt.

Although Hamlin was re-elected to his chairmanship at this week's annual organizational meeting of the board without opposition, no such money was evidenced on the question of chairman pro tem. The two nominees were Supervisors Homer Case of Bloomfield Township and Harry Norton of Royal Oak.

liminary plan was approved. A 140-home development south of 3 Mile Rd. midway between Drake and Farmington Rds. is also on the agenda. A revision of the preliminary plat filed with the commission is required to allow for an 86-foot-right-of-way required by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Developed by Lether Associates, Inc., the subdivision will be called Philip Judson Gardens North.

liminary plan was approved. A 140-home development south of 3 Mile Rd. midway between Drake and Farmington Rds. is also on the agenda. A revision of the preliminary plat filed with the commission is required to allow for an 86-foot-right-of-way required by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Developed by Lether Associates, Inc., the subdivision will be called Philip Judson Gardens North.

Hamlin Re-Elected County Board Head

By FRED DeLANO

Farmington's Delos Hamlin was re-elected unanimously this week to his 13th consecutive term as chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors amid conjecture that it may be the last time he will rule over the board as it is presently constituted.

Former mayor of Farmington for a 10-year period, Hamlin is in his 26th successive year as the city's lone appointed delegate to the 87-member county board. The township is represented by Supervisor Curtis H. Hall.



DELOS HAMLIN

Whether either Hamlin or Hall would run for office in the newly defined Farmington district cannot be foretold, both indicating at this point that the question is premature.

FURTHERMORE, the continuing fight over redistricting coupled with new lines which may have to be drawn after the 1970 census, leave the ultimate reapportionment pattern still in great doubt. Although Hamlin was re-elected to his chairmanship at this week's annual organizational meeting of the board without opposition, no such money was evidenced on the question of chairman pro tem. The two nominees were Supervisors Homer Case of Bloomfield Township and Harry Norton of Royal Oak.



FEDERAL GRAND OPENING LAUNCHED — It took only a snap of the ribbon by Farmington Mayor Wilbur V. Brotherton Thursday to make the new Federal Department store an official part of the town. Surrounded by local government and business leaders at the store's grand opening, Brotherton was flanked at his immediate left and right by J. Burk Gelling, Federal president, and Al Politi, manager of the Farmington store. Master of ceremonies was radio personality Paul Winter.