

today's hot line observerland

PLYMOUTH — After several months of negotiations, the Plymouth Township Board and the firemen have reached agreement on a new two-year contract calling for an \$800 raise across the board with a top salary of \$8,000.

PLYMOUTH — Ground was broken Friday morning for the new \$10 million high school that will be the start of a complex that eventually will house all of the high schools in the Plymouth community.

REDFORD — After nearly two months of public talks, the Planning Commission recommended the adoption of an R-4 zoning amendment which would allow high rise construction in the Township.

REDFORD — Township police are working with the FBI on the Farmer Jack's \$21,000 robbery. The FBI was brought into the case when the police blunders took over \$400 in federal food stamps as part of the loot.

LIVONIA — With bids for a new Center Hall above budget, the city plans to buy St. Paul Lutheran church, school and rectory on Farmington Rd. near Five Mile and convert it into an activities building for senior citizens. It will cost \$300,000 and be financed by a bond issue, Mayor Harvey W. Moeckle told an approving council.

LIVONIA — City Council President McNamara has asked the Legal Department to prepare a proposal for the August ballot authorizing one extra tax mill to be earmarked for police and fire salaries and use. Mayor Moeckle said he would not approve earmarking of funds because of the general need for operating funds. Councilman Rudolf H. Kleintert prefers an income tax to relieve property taxpayers, but the mayor said he would demand such an issue be placed before the voters.

What's Inside

After investing heavily in Plymouth Township, Evans Products Corp. has moved part of its work to other plants and will turn much of its land into an industrial park, Page 1B.

Several Observerland high school counselors got a pitch from West Point, which is seeking to upgrade its image and lure young men. Story and pictures on Page 1B.

The House passed its own version of an open housing bill, and it's different from the Senate version. Page 7A.

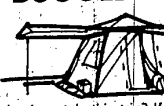
U. of D. has a federal grant to devise new methods of measuring pollution of the Rouge, Huron and Saline rivers. Story and map Page 10A.

A Schoolcraft College audience heard the Rev. Albert Cleage spell out the meaning of black separatism and nationalism. Page 9C.

Vice President Humphrey and Sen. Robert Kennedy both made a pitch for Michigan's 96 Democratic convention votes last week. Page 14D.

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BUGGED OUT?



Staying in motels this trip? If you had enough damp in your bunk and sand in your grub last year - if you're planning to appreciate nature a little more vicariously this year, why not sell that camping stuff to a hardier family. Dial GA 2-0900 and place an Observer Twin-Action Want Ad in two editions for just \$4.44.

City Adopts Budget, Drops Taxes

By FRED DELANO

A record general fund operating budget of \$680,999 was adopted for 1968-69 by the Farmington City Council Thursday night, but at the same time the municipal tax rate was reduced \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The new tax rate, effective July 1, will be \$10 per \$1,000. It marks the third time since 1960 that the figure has been reduced.

The latest rate cut came because the city's total assessed valuation went up this year from approximately \$33 million to \$39 million.

IN HITTING a new high in expenditures, the city will exceed the current year's operating costs by approximately \$10,000. The major increase comes within the department of public safety.

Except for that department, where the officers negotiated a new salary contract as discussed in a separate article, over-all pay increases granted to city employees averaged slightly more than six per cent.

At the same time, all key department heads also were granted salary improvements.

The council upped city manager John D. Dineen's salary from \$13,500 per year to \$15,000. Public Safety Director Robert F. Deadman will remain as the second highest paid official in city hall and has been granted a raise from \$10,000 to \$11,300.

Ted DeBaene, director of public works, received an increase of \$1,000 to put his salary at \$10,750. While City Treasurer Kathryn Cotter was boosted \$600 and will receive \$9,050.

PRIOR TO their unanimous adoption of the budget, members of the council expressed considerable praise for Dineen's ability "in running a tight ship."

The motion for adoption of the budget was presented by Councilman Hugo E. Peterson, while Councilman Ralph D. Yoder introduced the measure calling for the reduction in the tax rate.

Also given approval by unanimous vote was a budget of \$285,786 for sewer and water operations.

"Although this is another record budget as far as overall expenditures because of salary adjustments and continued capital improvement programs, we are able to retain our position for the eighth consecutive year of not increasing our tax rate," said Dineen.

"This has been achieved primarily through the growth of our assessed valuation and the added economic stability that has been given by the development of the newly annexed area, plus added state revenues that were badly needed to aid in staying abreast of our increased operational expenses."

In 1960 the city tax rate stood at \$12 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

It was reduced to \$11.50 in 1961 and then to \$11 last year.

Student Milk Up A Penny

An increase of 50 per cent in the school lunchroom cost of milk is in the offing for Farmington students next semester, although in less awesome terms this means a loss of a penny per half-pint.

This information was passed on to the Board of Education Monday night in a bulletin carrying notice that the State of Michigan has reduced its school milk subsidy by an equivalent one cent per carton.

"We can absorb the increase for the remainder of the present semester in our existing budget," commented Superintendent Roderick J. Smith, "although it means spending an added \$87 per day."

"However, to absorb the added cost for an entire school year would increase our budget at least \$15,000."

Students who buy their milk at school now pay two cents per half-pint. The increase upon which the board seemed to agree, although no formal action was taken, would put the price at three cents starting in September.



NOW HEAR THIS — Mrs. Kenneth Adolph (center) tells her side of the dispute as she and a dozen neighbors from the Whitlock - Salvador section set up a roadblock in their area between the city and township of Farmington Wednesday. At the left is Mrs. William Sireli, with her son Mikel. The woman on the right is unidentified.

Township Moms Protest Opening Of Salvador

Temper flared along a section of the borderland between the city and township of Farmington this week in the controversy over entrance to Farmington Meadows subdivision. Police were called to disperse a group of residents who formed a human roadblock to prevent vehicular traffic from Salvador and Whitlock streets.

The sector lies just north of Eight Mile Rd. at the eastern edge of the municipality.

Salvador, an east-west street which has been barricaded for nearly seven years, has been opened temporarily upon orders of the city and the County Road Commission as a route into the area while Farmington Rd. is closed for widening.

RESIDENTS of the subdivision, which is in the city, want Salvador closed again after the road project is finished. Their township neighbors to the east want it opened permanently.

Whitlock, a north-south street, is being used as a detour to Salvador from Eight Mile.

It was at the Whitlock-Salvador intersection Wednesday morning that township mothers formed a barricade for an hour to stop all traffic in a protest demonstration.

HEAVY PRESENTATION of both sides is expected at Monday night's City Council meeting when the matter will be included on the agenda through a communication from the subdivision homeowners association.

Meanwhile, a meeting was set for Friday between township residents and representatives of the Road Commission.

City Manager John D. Dineen said he has informed the homeowners' association that the opening of Salvador is a temporary measure only.

City, Police Agree On 11% Wage Boost

The Farmington city administration and its public safety officers came to terms this week on an agreement which will elevate their wage scale approximately 11 per cent.

City Manager John D. Dineen announced that the new minimum salary for patrolmen has been jumped from \$7,000 to \$7,600. The maximum, attained after two and a half years service, goes from \$8,000 to \$9,100.

Sergeants, now paid \$5,611, will be increased to \$5,951 on July 1 and then to \$5,951 on Jan. 1.

ALL MEN in the department double both as policemen and firemen, and Dineen said the new wage rates put Farmington in "a competitive position with surrounding cities."

In reaching the agreement, Dineen bargained separately with two organizations. The nine patrolmen are represented by the Farmington Public Safety Officers Association and the seven other members of the department by the Sergeants Association.

All 16 also received upward adjustments in their fringe benefits.

FOREMOST among these is an increase in each man's life insurance from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Formerly, the city paid 50 per cent of the premium charges but now has agreed to stand the entire expense of the policies.

Each man's clothing allowance also has been boosted from \$100 to \$125 per year, with the cleaning allowance going to \$48 from \$36.

Dineen said that for the 1968-69 fiscal year, starting July 1 when the new pay scale becomes effective, the increases will push the public safety budget about \$4,000 higher than he had recommended.

"However, our total city budget will remain the same because we have been able to work it out within the overall framework," said the city manager.

"I feel it is an equitable settlement from the administration's point of view, and the men themselves know they are in the 'main stream' salary-wise."

Mayor's Exchange Is 1st Michigan Week Highlight

The two ranking officials of Menominee, an Upper Peninsula city on the Michigan-Wisconsin border, will be Farmington's guests Monday in one of the highlights of the city's 1968 Michigan Week observance.

Mayor John W. Reinold and Council President Joseph B. Madden, with their wives, will be feted at several special events during their brief stay and will be extended an official welcome at Monday night's City Council meeting.

Meanwhile, completing the annual exchange of mayors, Farmington's Wilbur V. Brotherton and his wife will visit Menominee at the same time, accompanied by Councilman and Mrs. John A. Allen.

FOLLOWING SATURDAY'S opening of Michigan Week, which was marked by the start of the Little League baseball season, Sunday's observance of Spiritual Foundation Day will see the hailing of Michigan's blessings in the churches of the area.

Other early-week highlights will include special tribute to Michigan Week salute.

Heritage Day on Tuesday, May 21, and to Livelihood Day on Wednesday, May 22.

Heritage Day observance has been arranged by the Farmington Historical Society, and actually will feature week-long display of local historical items set up in the lobby of the Metropolitan Bank in the Downtown Shopping Center.

A SPECIAL attraction of Livelihood Day, Wednesday, will be a civic luncheon in the United Church of Christ at which time the Exchange Club will host representatives of other leadership organizations.

The guest speaker on this occasion will be Pat Greathouse, vice-president and organizational director of the U.A.W. In his role with the union which he has held for 10 years, Greathouse has been instrumental in the organization of new members throughout the United States and Canada.

Through the cooperation of the Farmington Agapees, the noon feast will be in evidence, in front of most business houses through the entire week as a will include special tribute to Michigan Week salute.

Vandals Damage 17 Cars

At least two, and perhaps more, unknown vandals went on a rampage at the Green Ford dealership, 3071 Grand River Farmington, early this week, using two new cars as battering rams to damage 15 others.

Township police said the culprit apparently gained entry to the storage compound through a hole in the fence.

They were able to start the ignition of two vehicles and evidence indicates that these two were driven deliberately into one new Ford after another, essentially damaging fenders, hoods and grills.

Police estimate total damage at approximately \$2,000 and said their investigation is continuing. To date no arrests have been made.

New Farmington Committee To Seek Negro Teachers

Determination of its most immediate goals was made by the New Farmington Committee Wednesday night, with exertion of pressure on the Board of Education to add Negroes to its teaching staff among those given top priority.

John Campbell, a Detroit Country Day School teacher who heads the group's school affairs committee, told the 72 persons who attended the session in the Orchard Ridge campus that the committee should be prepared "to press for the hiring" of Negro instructors here.

"It is the first thing we will try and do," said Campbell.

ESTABLISHMENT of an legislative and political action committee was approved without a dissenting vote. It will be charged both with reporting on legislative proposals and recommending political candidates for group support.

In reporting on projects contemplated by the community education sub-committee which heads, Maynard Gordon declared:

"We must reach into vigilante subdivisions which have set up armed guards and discouraging principles within them. This is the area we must penetrate. Without this all else we believe in could go for naught."

Passage recently of fair housing resolutions by the city council and township board was hailed by Rev. Hugh Stewart, chairman of the housing sub-committee.

"Until the legislature resolves what the state law on housing is to be, it is hard to determine the next approach which we should take," he told the group. "Namely, we should consider whether to seek an open housing ordinance or simply work through realtors to achieve our purpose."

BY UNANIMOUS vote the organization elected temporary officers to serve until October when new officials will be selected to serve for one-year terms.

Those elected included E.C. McElvire, general chairman; Patricia Smith, deputy general chairman; Gertrude Willens, recording secretary; LuAnne Ashbrand, corresponding secretary; and Stuart Orman, treasurer.

Poppy Sale Has Origins In World War I

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row."

In Flanders Fields

The poem, "In Flanders Fields," written by John McCrae, which appeared in the Dec. 8, 1915, issue of the London "Punch" was the inspiration of Poppy Day, observed by veterans organizations every year around Memorial Day.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion will be selling them again this year in Farmington on May 22 and 23. All proceeds from the sale are used to assist needy area veterans and their families.

ALTHOUGH EVERY reference source credits McCrae's poem with inspiring Poppy Day, there are two instances of its first observance.

One reference states that the Poppy Day originated with the return of the 32nd Division to Milwaukee in 1919.

On that day, poppies decorated the doughnut and coffee booths lining the parade route. Spectators took the poppies to wear and left money in their place at the booths.

The other reference credits organization of the poppy sale to Moina Michael. She is said to have conceived the idea on Armistice Day 1918 as she sat at her desk in the YMCA headquarters in New York City reading the lines:

"If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields."

Miss Michael also instituted the annual memorial to soldiers and sailors who died at sea during World War I by setting adrift a seven-foot anchor of poppies.

IMITATION POPPIES had been sold in this country for war relief during World War I. A French woman, Madame Guerin, sold millions of the flowers in European countries which had been made by French war orphans. The remainder of her stock was bought by the VFW, who disposed of them in this country.

There are certainly no poppies growing in the mud fields of Vietnam, nor were there any in Korea, nor any in the Pacific during World War II, but buying a poppy May 22 or 23 will be one way of paying tribute to all our fighting men.