

Election '72

Growth Concerns Floyd Cairns

By DAN MCCOSH

FARMINGTON Township Clerk Floyd Cairns looks toward future growth in Farmington Township mainly as a question of providing critical services — roads, sewers and water. Although he supports cityhood, he doesn't think local government should overextend itself.

"Most people I talk to want it that way," he said recently in an interview with the Farmington Enterprise and Observer.

Cairns is the incumbent in a race with Joyce Hungerford for the clerk seat. Farmington Township Clerk for 16 years, he is a life-long township resident, past president of the Exchange Club, and past master of the Masonic Lodge. Although his job is titled "clerk," Cairns has been responsible for the design, assessment districts and supervision of many of the public works projects in the township.

"It isn't a secretarial job," he says dryly.

A CURRENT project is the "10 Mile arm," which is the last main trunk sewer to be installed in the township.

He has followed a practice of getting "front money" from developers to get such projects started.

This means a developer, who would ordinarily be billed for tap-ins after a water or sewer project is completed, advances money before bonds are sold, and is given credit against advanced taps.

"Just because we are working through the developers, it doesn't mean we are all for the developers," Cairns said.

"It gives a break to the township, getting the money to get going on these projects."

Since water and sewer are critical to the development of raw land, some have been

critical of building mains and sewers "for the land speculators."

"We've got to do it for development," Cairns says. "People are paying taxes on that land. They certainly can't farm it."

"We've got to get the balance completed. If we hold back long enough, they are going to build with septic tanks, and we already know what a mess that is."

THE TOWNSHIP has been spending about \$100,000 per year which is matched \$500 by Oakland County for building and paving new roads.

Cairns says cityhood would

mean the area would get about \$730,000 from the gas and weight tax directly for roads, one reason he supports cityhood.

He says the township has not been funding new paving projects fast enough to keep pace with the growth.

One way he has attempted to get more money, with some degree of success, has been to solicit funds directly from developers who will benefit from paving projects.

IN THE FUTURE, he thinks the township should "stick with the master plan for zoning" and plan for growth by completing the public works projects.

Eventually, storm sewers will also be needed, he says, and are already a growing problem in the south end.

When a storm-sewer plan is completed, he feels it could be financed on an area-wide assessment.

He is conservative, however, on expansion of services.

"Even garbage collection, I've talked to people and they don't want it, I don't know exactly why—they say they are happy."

"I think a lot of people are opposed to cityhood because of services—that's why we are writing the charter with only a few departments."



FLOYD CAIRNS

HE ALSO sees some change coming in tax base—with more less dependence on residential.

"People around here used to say they wanted a bedroom community—but that can't survive on the taxes."

"They fought the industrial park, but most people think it's fine now."



FLUORIDE TREATMENT -- Karen Paul, a fifth grade student in Lake-shire School, Farmington, receives a fluoride treatment which is available to Farmington students in the kindergarten, second and fifth grade. The cost is \$7 for cleaning and four topical fluoride treatments.

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