

the Farmington enterprise & observer

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End Of Meetings In Sight For Charter Commission

By DAN McCOSH

By the end of this month, a final draft of the charter for the proposed City of Farmington Hills should emerge from the nine-man charter commission.

Chairman Robert McConnell expects a final, "wrap-up" session with four important decisions Dec. 19 with the final draft completed soon after.

He still is predicting a spring election, probably in April, following a series of public hearings on the document in January.

THE CHARTER has been wrung out of the collective thoughts of the nine-member commission elected last May. There have been many attempts at some kind of incorporation in the Farmington area in the past, but this is the first one to get to the charter-writing stage for the township.

The commission has met some 23 times, mainly once a week, except for a brief spurt of twice-weekly sessions in August and September when it seemed possible to get the charter on the November ballot.

In general, the group has worked harmoniously, which was expected, since the members had similar positions on cityhood when they were elected.

The main exception was Earl Teeple, who remained a hold-out for a strong mayor form of government in the early meetings—one of the few philosophical splits on the commission.

The "split" didn't last long, since Teeple only attended one more meeting after his dissenting vote. The minutes show he attended only four of the 23 meetings, the most recent being Aug. 22.

THE CITY charter is outlining will be a city manager form of government, with a council and weak mayor.

The exact form of the council is still undetermined—it is one of the items slated for the Dec. 19 meeting.

With most of the commission leaning towards elections at-large, some are still holding out for some form of ward system, with at least some of the seats elected from districts.

The council salary is also expected to be decided at the final meeting.

The city manager would be answerable to the council, and all department heads would be answerable to him.

THE CHARTER is a little different from other cities, according to Attorney John T. Brennan, since it defines five departments which the council can establish.

Many charters do not limit the number of departments, according to Brennan.

The five departments are: public safety, public works, special services, finance and planning.

Of the five, only three are expected to be in operation if and when the doors to "city hall" are opened.

Special services — which would cover things like recreation, youth agencies, etc., — as well as the planning department are not likely to be established immediately.

The "chain of command" is in marked contrast to the current structure at town hall.

As a city, for example, it would be council, to manager, to police chief.

Currently, the director of public safety reports directly to the township board, a practice the board initiated two years ago.

McConnell is currently preparing a mathematical analysis of the revenue needs in the area—and expects to be able to get figures that will directly compare the township and the proposed city's abilities to meet those needs.

McConnell also has been backing a so-called "escalating" millage limit that would automatically go up as the population of the area increased.

The fight, if there is a fight, will be between political expediency and those who want to look "down the road" to the future needs of the area.

It is no accident that the major, most divisive issues have been left for last.

The charter is a complex document, covering many contingencies of city government.

Most of these are written in other charters, and the actual writing sometimes involves research and copying the best of former documents.

In saving the most important issues for last, Chairman McConnell also saved the arguments for last.

NF Only Winner

Basketball season opened for the three Farmington high schools with North Farmington the lone winner. Harrison and Farmington High suffered setbacks while North made a comeback. For the complete story plus box scores, slip to today's sport section.

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Abandoned

An abandoned house in the neighborhood for six years may disappear soon, but getting it moved has taken a long time for a group of Farmington Township residents.

Page 3A

Signs, Signs

A suggestion for a new approach to signs in Farmington is the subject of a column in today's Enterprise and Observer. Should giant spectacles come back?

Page 6A

Who Owns Martha?

The most interesting political story comes after the election, when the victorious congressman files his list of campaign contributors. Rep. Martha Griffiths filed right on time, and we checked the report.

Page 10A

New Park

A new 1,000-acre metropolitan park is being planned for Oakland County, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority reveals its ideas for this nature sanctuary.

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If you like
"things"...



the kind of things that most young people like... things like cameras and wheels and sound... then you'll enjoy making it a habit of reading the Observer. You'll find the things you like... at the price you want to pay!

Goodfellow Drive Held This Friday

As you're driving to work Friday and see that cold and lonesome figure standing in the street selling Goodfellow papers, please stop and buy a copy.

With your donations the Goodfellows are able to help the underprivileged in Farmington to have a merry Christmas.

The sale of Goodfellow papers is an annual holiday tradition in the Farmington area and throughout Metropolitan Detroit.

PROCEEDS from this sale are used to help finance the projects undertaken by the Goodfellows—food baskets, toys, dolls and dresses for local needy families.

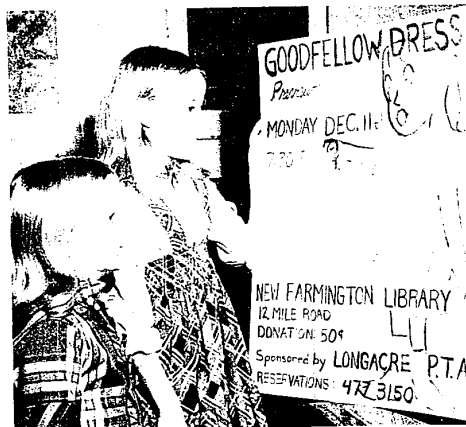
The Farmington Goodfellows is an

organization of concerned community leaders from a number of clubs in the area.

Workers are drawn from policemen, firemen, governmental leaders, professional men and women, postal workers, civic clubs and businessmen.

Chairman for this year's sale is James Stevens, an Exchange Club member. He also heads the housing committee.

Others participating in the sale are: Shirley Richardson, in charge of dresses and dolls; Lester Moss, chairman of the "Toys for Tots" which are supplied by the US Marine Corps and the Elks Club; William Prisk and Burt Herzog, canned foods; and Bruce Habermehl, chairman of paper sale.



DRESS FASHION SHOW -- The Longacre PTA is scheduling a fashion show Monday, Dec. 11, to show off the dresses fashioned for the needy as part of the Goodfellow dress drive. (Evert photo).

Observer Earns 'Blue Ribbon'

The Farmington Enterprise and Observer has been designated a "national blue ribbon newspaper" for 1973 by the National Editorial Foundation, Washington, D.C.

In announcing the designation, Foundation President George Wortley III of Fayetteville, N.Y., noted that the Farmington Enterprise and Observer was one of only 144 newspapers to achieve this designation in a nationwide program open to all newspapers.

"This award indicates an alert and progressive community-minded newspaper operation; comments Wortley.

Twenty-five criteria, measuring this newspaper service to Farmington and Farmington Township against a national standard, were used in the judging.

Participating in the judging was a panel of publishers whose newspapers had previously been accorded the Foundation's blue ribbon rating.

The foundation, established in 1957 by the National Newspapers Assn., is dedicated to the improvement of journalism education.

Philip H. Power, publisher of Observer Newspapers Inc., said he was particularly pleased with the designation as an indication of the Enterprise & Observer's continuing commitment to community service.

3 Arraigned On Narcotics Charges

A raid on a Farmington township house resulted in the arraignment of three men on drug charges.

Judge Michael Hand, of the 48th District Court, set bond at \$1,500 for Robert Huss, 21, 33653 Harlow, and Michael Bell, 20, of 21325 Flanders after the two stood mute to charges of possession and sale of marijuana.

A third youth, Mark Sprague, 19, was arraigned on a misdemeanor charge of

"This blue ribbon should be pinned on the Farmington staff of Editor Dan McCosh, Steve Barnaby and Martha Mahan, who worked in 1972 with the ideal of community service constantly in their minds," Power added.

"The blue ribbon newspaper designation is a reassurance that Farmington has received the type of coverage deserving of a progressive community."

frequenting a place where narcotics are used.

Township and State police raided the Flanders address and confiscated approximately seven and a half pounds of marijuana, pills and suspected cocaine, according to Township Police Director Ronald Holko.

A 15-year-old girl also was arrested during the raid and was turned over to juvenile authorities.