

'Exciting, Challenging, Year Is Coming'

By ROBERT MCCONNELL
FARMINGTON

The year 1973 promises to be an exciting and challenging year for the Farmington Township community.

One major decision to be made by the electorate will be the future government of the new city of Farmington Hills, on May 8, 1973, the charter will be voted upon by the people.

Prior to that, during January and early February, a series of public hearings will be held by the charter commission, at which time the proposed charter will be thoroughly explained and the commission will be receptive to

ideas, suggestions and corrections from the public.

THE CHARTER provides for efficient administration and includes a new provision for a para-medical service for our citizens in the event of accidents or heart attacks.

All residents are invited to attend the public hearings, which will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18; Tuesday, Jan. 23 and Wednesday, Jan. 31, when the charter will be reviewed and explained.

On the subject of drains, which have been a monumental problem to our residents in the past, the township board is looking

forward to receiving the long awaited master drainage plan from our engineers early in January.

Coupled with drains is the subject of roads, and we look forward to the widening of Orchard Lake Rd. to five lanes in the vicinity of 149th and 12 Mile Rd. to alleviate the daily congestion of traffic during the rush hour periods.

This project, hopefully, should be carried by the state and county in the summer months of 1973.

Plans for other roads which should be improved include Nine Mile Rd. and Independence Ave. If the charter is approved by the electorate, the improved revenue from the state and gasoline tax will enable local government to do a much more effective job than has been accomplished in the past.

BIDS AND PLANS on the 10 Mile sanitary sewer arm, will, hopefully, go forward and if federal assistance is forthcoming this sanitary sewer will provide much needed relief for residents in Westland and the northwestern areas of the township.

Regardless of federal funding, the township engineers will be instructed to proceed with the engineering work.

Finally, it is anticipated that

by the end of 1973, the north-west water pressure district will be well under way, completing the city water system throughout the township.

In view of the exciting growth and development around us, I urge all of our citizens to get involved and participate in making Farmington a model community of which we can all be proud.

"Drains have been a monumental problem to our residents in the past."

-Robert McConnell



Bell Appoints New Manager

FARMINGTON

Michigan Bell has appointed a new director for the district serving Southfield and Farmington and, at the same time, split the Southfield service district into two new districts.

Robert L. Kilpatrick, local community relations manager and outgoing president of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce, is being promoted to public relations manager at company headquarters in Detroit.



ROBERT KILPATRICK

LON KAIN, a supervisor on Michigan Bell's headquarters staff, has been named as community relations manager of the new Southfield district which will be operational base for Farmington, Southfield, Lathrup Village, and part of Farmington Township.

Harold Moll, former commercial manager in downtown Detroit, will be community relations manager for the newly created Birmingham district which will serve Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Commerce, Franklin, Walled Lake, Beverly Hills, West Bloomfield, Union Lake, and the Somerset area of Troy.

The division was made

because of rapid growth in customers and in communications in the area and the resulting increase in service needs, says J.S. Richards, general commercial manager.

THE PRESENT Southfield commercial district now has some 120,000 customers with more than 250,000 telephones, says Richards.

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PLAYING SANTA—Students from Farmington and Harrison variety clubs helped load 175 Goodfellow baskets for delivery to needy families in the area (Ever photo)

Past Year Reviewed By Oakland Officials

PONTIAC

A four-year period, during which elected Oakland County government was given its first test, draws to a close as 1972 ends.

Lawrence Pernick of Southfield, chairman of the outgoing Oakland Board of Commissioners, said in a year-end review that the results of elected commissioners have been impressive.

IN THE past, Pernick says, a major flaw in county budgeting has been a failure to provide all the physical facilities needed to conduct county services.

"However, with a new mix in capital financial planning which includes a balanced budget, we have been able to correct this omission."

"In 1972, we have dedicated a new 4-H Youth Center, mental retardation facilities, and our Law Enforcement complex."

"We are currently constructing Social Services Center, and plans are ready for expansion of our health department, Children's Village Phase II, and the county hospital. During this time, we have completed our new Public Works building also."

Besides the physical improvements, Pernick continues, the board has developed and funded several new programs to meet recently recognized needs.

Some examples Pernick cites are the drug abuse control department and "partners in planning" program, both of which enable the county to coordinate

services with local governmental leaders.

"The preservation of our environment is yet another area in which Oakland County has recognized, changing priorities and begun to move in new directions."

"We have designated our Public Works Department to seek solutions to the solid waste crisis that confronts the county, and we have also appropriated funds for the County Recycling Center and funding of the weed harvester program."

IN THE legislative arena, Pernick said the board's efforts helped produce a new revenue-sharing program, increasing funding from the state for health care services and provision for a balanced transportation network.

"Indeed, the board's allocation of funds to the road commission has been a significant indication of our concern with the transportation problems of this county."

"In regard to neighboring government units, our relations have taken a slow but perceptible movement forward."

"The financial strengthening of Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), our membership in the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency, and the changing attitudes toward social services, are all proving to be meaningful steps in the improvement of service planning and delivery."

WHILE reviewing 1972, Pernick also looked towards the jobs that remain.

"First of all, we must continue to recognize we are becoming increasingly dependent on other government units, both within and without Oakland, for the capability to solve many of our problems."

"We must continue to develop closer working relationships with local government units to jointly solve such problems as solid waste disposal, law enforcement, and land use planning."

"Otherwise, we'll have to sit back and watch the federal government slowly assume more and more responsibility for the tasks presently assigned to local government. The choice is ours."

Because of Oakland's size and rapid growth, the county must work toward decentralization of county services, he adds.

"While the costs for providing these services may then become slightly higher, at least the people who are paying the bill will be able to avail themselves of these services."

THE COMMITMENT to restructuring county government by creating a home-rule charter commission must begin at an early date, says Pernick.

"We should begin soon to mobilize a blue-ribbon citizen

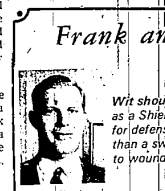
and governmental leadership committee to begin this process.

"Although there have been some improvements, such as handling of contract processes for equal employment and recognition of the need for changes in some personnel policies, there continues to be a need for more upward mobility for both women and members of minority groups."

County commissioners are fortunate Oakland is still a growing county, Pernick concludes, and therefore a flexible one which can be shaped to particular patterns.

"Patterns, once fixed, can rarely be changed. It is therefore our responsibility to constantly scrutinize these patterns to determine, as much as is humanly possible, whether they continue to represent the best way of life for the residents of Oakland, County."

MRS. JOHN RICHARDSON, chairman Goodfellow Dress/Doll Program



Frank Clappison

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Letters To The Editor

Doll Dresses Goodfellows End Season

EDITOR:

Christmas 1972 was much merrier for 175 less fortunate Farmington families thanks to the individuals and groups who participated in the Goodfellow dress and doll program.

The Goodfellow dress drive resulted in over 300 dresses. Many of these dresses were previewed by several women and children who attended the Goodfellow Dress Preview in the new Farmington Library on Dec. 11, which was sponsored by the Longacre Elementary School PTA.

The 98 "specially dressed" Goodfellow dolls once again attracted many children and adults to the Farmington district library where they were on display before being placed in Goodfellow baskets.

Our thanks also to Hinkles of Farmington, Farmington Cleaners, Pixieland and Chesley Industries for their special contributions which contributed greatly to the tremendous success of the dress program.

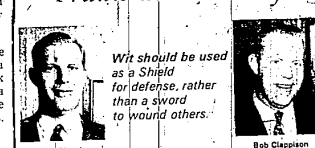
May the New Year be richly blessed for those who participated in the Goodfellow program by taking time off their busy holiday schedule to help these less fortunate families in our community.

MRS. JOHN RICHARDSON, chairman Goodfellow Dress/Doll Program

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