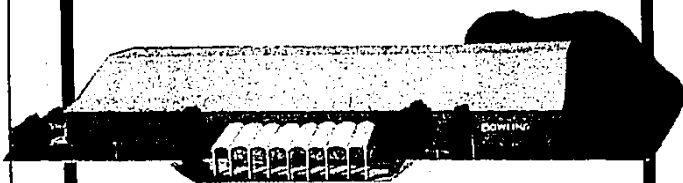




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PROFILES OF OUR CITIES

Farmington is a city that cannot be separated from its history.

First settled in 1824 by Arthur Power, one of whose descendants is Philip Power, publisher of Observer Newspapers, many of its streets are dotted by quaint and charming old homes, many bearing historical plaques, and tall, leafy trees.

Farmington's oldest residence, the Carpenter house on Shiawassee Street, was built in 1824.

The crossroads for three ancient Indian trails once traveled by Potawatomi and Chippewa Indians, Farmington still bears a living Indian landmark, a huge maple tree on Gill Road, just north of Freedom, believed by biologists to be more than 350 years old. Indians used it as a guide in reaching certain destinations.

THE NAMES OF such streets as Freedom and Independence Roads are constant reminders to Farmington residents of the town's once active involvement in the Underground Railroad movement.

There are many homes on Shiawassee that bear evidences of hiding places once used as shelters for runaway slaves on their way north to Canada, according to Paul Schreiber, chairman of the Farmington Historical Commission.

Little on the subject was ever written down because such evidence was incriminating; people who harbored runaway slaves in their barns or cellars were acting illegally under the Fugitive Slave Law.

So the mysteries of Farmington's Underground Railroad movement are largely unraveled and await future detective work by some of its interested citizens.

A TOWN WITH a proud past, Farmington now enjoys a reputation for being an especially fine residential community.

Its biggest growth spurt came in the 1960s with the development of many handsome housing developments that have been able, quite compatibly, to take their place along side picturesque landmarks that still give it a unique historical flavor among the communities of Observerland.

FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Farmington school superintendent is currently Marianus VanAmode, serving while the seven-man school board decides on a permanent appointment for the post. The office is at 32500 Shiawassee.

The school board meets in the same building on alternate Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. with some irregularly-scheduled public study sessions.

Board president is Kenneth Perrin, who serves with Aldo Vagnozzi, Elizabeth Brennan, Dr. Mervyn Ross, Ronald Emmitt, Richard Corliss and Kathryn Sterling.

To get on the agenda, contact the superintendent's office. To speak on a subject on the agenda, merely raise your hand to be recognized.

CITY OF FARMINGTON

The city council meets alternate Mondays in the City Hall, which is tucked in behind the stores on Farmington Rd., south of Grand River.

City Manager Robert Deadman, who keeps an office in City Hall, also prepares the agenda for the council, and he is the one to contact for a spot on the program.

Comments from the audience are also scheduled after regular business.

Ralph Yoder is mayor, which means he conducts the council sessions. John Richardson, Fred Seibert, John Allen and Richard Tupper share council seats.

FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP

Township Hall is located at Orchard Lake and 11th Mile.

Supervisor Robert McConnell, Clerk Floyd Cairns and Treasurer Thomas Nolan share administrative responsibilities there.

The township board meets every other Monday at 8 p.m. in the courtroom at the township hall.

Frederick Lichtman, Mrs. Margaret Schaeffer, David Stader and Earl Oppertthausen share seats with the three administrative officials when the board is in session, with McConnell acting as chairman.

Agenda items may be added through Cairns' office before the meeting. To speak on a subject on the agenda, you must ask the clerk before the meeting; otherwise you must wait until the end of regular business.

Careful strategy throughout its vigorous period of growth and development has given Livonia reputation as a "master planned city."

Originally a tiny rural hamlet named after an ancient province in Baltic Russia, Livonia's population now exceeds the 100,000 mark.

Mostly a residential city with middle-income to higher priced homes, Livonia boasts some of the largest and newest industrial plants to be found anywhere in the Observer area.

In fact, industrial development, concentrated between Plymouth and Schoolcraft Roads, has exploded from 22 plants in 1950 to more than 140. The Schoolcraft Freeway with a projected opening in 1975, will undoubtedly bring in even more development.

A RECENT survey has shown that the city has the nation's most affluent population for a community of 100,000 or more; the median income in Livonia is more than \$15,000, which means that there are as many households above that level as below it.

This fact, along with the many advantages in recreation and community services within the city, undoubtedly help to set Livonia's mood and tone.

Attend the Memorial Day parade which annually winds its way down Farmington Road to the City Hall to absorb the local color and the feeling of contentment that pervades the city.

There you'll see scores of comfortably dressed, casual suburbanites alongside the curb; moms and dads, shielding their eyes from the sun and freckled-faced youngsters waving to the people they know in the parade.

"Hi, Mrs. Peters!"