

# Charter Commission Changes Draft

By DAN McCOSH

**FARMINGTON**  
An assistant state attorney general's opinion indicates the Home Rule Act, which mandates all council meetings be public and all records be public, takes precedence over a more restrictive law governing open meeting.

The opinion of Mrs. Maxine Virtue—whose office will likely be reviewing the charter now being re-drafted by the Farmington Charter Commission—contradicts advice given the commission by Attorney Joseph Brennan, and may result in a change in the proposed charter.

Sections on open sessions of the council and open records in the original draft were criticized during a series of public hearings on the charter and were among the sections re-drafted in two recent sessions of the charter commission.

Others were the sections on

signatures required for a referendum, and the council's pay.

MRS. VIRTUE's opinion was based on a November Michigan Court of Appeals ruling on a case in which the Flint City Council's right to hold secret sessions.

That court held the home rule act took precedence over PA 261, passed in 1968 by the State Legislature.

PA 261 outlined certain kinds of business which could be conducted in "executive" sessions, and made it mandatory for voting, but not necessarily discussion, to be in public.

Act 261 was the basis for the Farmington charter section.

A section on records has been changed by the charter commission, eliminating a section that would have allowed the council to suppress documents "affecting the health, safety and welfare" of the community.

SIGNATURES for a referendum on an ordinance passed by the council are now up to 1 1/2 per cent of the vote for secretary of state—about 200 names.

To put the question on the ballot, about 2,000 will be required—lower than the requirement figure in the first draft.

With one more meeting on the charter, the commission also voted to raise the proposed council salaries to \$1,800 on the results of a homeowners survey.

A section making it mandatory for a referendum on any council pay increase is also likely, according to Chairman Robert McConnell.

## Neighborhood Meeting Planned

**FARMINGTON**  
Mud-plagued roads ... leaving the car at the end of the street...walking to the house—that has been a way of life for years in a section of Farmington Township in the triangle formed by the city limits near Farmington Road, Grand River and Eight Mile.

discuss the problems of paving.  
"We don't want to get into a debate situation," Supervisor Robert McConnell said. "We hope to outline what can and cannot be done in the area."  
Mrs. Seabolt's concern is indirectly an outgrowth of a recently defeated proposal to pave the streets near Kenwood, included in the area.

A counter-petition from residents stopped the proposed paving, prompted by what others have tried before, without results—getting the streets passable without expensive assessments for paving and drains.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m. in the Township Hall, a "town meeting" for residents in the area is planned to discuss the problems of paving.

McCONNELL began contacting residents in the larger area and invited them to a meeting last Tuesday to discuss the problems in the area.

area, along with a representative from the county road commission. One result of the meeting was to schedule the second

"town meeting."

Alternatives to paving are expected to be outlined at Wednesday's meeting. Mrs. Seabolt said residents are

seriously considering digging the ditches themselves.

"We will see what can be done," she said.



TALKING OVER the winners they picked as judges of the Soroptimist Club of Farmington Youth Citizenship Awards are (from left) District Judge Michael J. Hand, Journalist Shirley Berger

and Oakland County Commissioner Wilbur Brotherton. Soroptimist members joining with them are Jean Pruner and Reta Mosshamer (standing). (Evert photo)

### Honored By Soroptimists

**FARMINGTON**  
David Aboud of Harrison High School was named first place winner of the Farmington Soroptimist youth citizenship awards, bringing him \$150 and a chance at a \$1,000 regional grant.  
Susan Finkbinder of Farmington High was runner-up and will receive \$100. Third prize of \$50 went to William Schlesing of North Farmington High.

The awards are for merit and are not considered scholarships. They may be spent at the discretion of the recipient.

Winners and participants in the judging will be honored at a dessert reception Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. The public may attend.

### FSCAC Holds Open Meet

**FARMINGTON**  
The Farmington Schools Citizens Advisory Council (FSCAC), will hold an open meeting to discuss the school budget on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in the Farmington High School auditorium.

Panel members will be William Prisk, Farmington school's business manager, Mervyn Ross, chairman of the school board tenure committee, and Ruth Alban, moderator and member of FSCAC.

In the coming months, two other open sessions are planned on teacher tenure and evaluation process and a review of the family life series.

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**the farmington enterprise & observer**

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