

Dan McCosh writes



# Incorporation Top News Of 1973

It doesn't take long to decide the incorporation of Farmington Hills was the top news story of 1973.

A major turning point was reached when the new city

was inaugurated July 2 in a ceremony at City Hall.

The incorporation marked the end of months of political fighting and fence straddling.

Now, just months after the historic occasion, the change at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake is dramatic.

Only the assessor's office seems unchanged since the beginning of the year. "The only thing certain is death and..."

George Majors sits in the office which was occupied by the old township supervisors. Floyd Cairns became an in-

term city manager and is now clerk again.

A new department of public service head, Ralph Magid, sits in the back of the old building department, most of which has moved upstairs.

The police department has expanded, and plans for a new courtroom are under way.

All this stemming from the momentous occasion last spring when the annexations, consolidations, etc. that cropped up every year in Farmington politics ended with incorporation.

The school system provided the second most prominent

source of news in the Farmington community.

Beginning with the unexpected firing of Dr. Roderick Smith as superintendent, the loss at the polls for incumbent board president Kenneth Perrin, through a strike in the fall and a fuel shortage in the winter, as well as a major fire, the schools have been rocked as they have been only rarely in the past.

Surprisingly, despite the turmoil surrounding the school system, the students have been remarkably unaffected.

A lot of the credit should go to Marinus Van Ameyde,

who stepped into the difficult position of following Dr. Smith as head of the schools.

"I try to keep all of this from affecting the staff," he once told this reporter, and that sums up one of his larger achievements.

But possibly, the big news is the small news.

Much of the community activity that makes Farmington "tick" shows up in the little things.

Like the reorganized Good-fellow effort that went over better in Farmington than almost any other area.

Or how about the neighbors who spent their weekends digging ditches in the front of their houses, just to improve the community?

Not too long ago, I sat in a city council meeting and was dumbfounded at a presentation of the activities of Wood-creek Elementary School, where the students had planted and landscaped for several years to improve the appearance of the place.

Their activities, as impressive as they were, earned them second place in a local contest. When second is that good, what is it like to be first?

That is the kind of year it was in Farmington.

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## Mayor Yoder Reviews Past Year

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paving project will be completed in the spring of 1974.

The city water department continues with phase two of its meter replacement program, providing outside meter readers to replace the old inside meters.

To date approximately 500 of the new meters have been installed, and it is anticipated

and it enabled the city to win a state award from the Keep Michigan Beautiful Committee.

The downtown shopping center dramatically improved the appearance of the Grand River frontage, by installing trees, shrubs and lights.

These have made the center perhaps one of the most attractive in the Farmington area.

The department of public safety has added a new position of fire inspector and training officer. His job will be to implement a new auxiliary fire program to augment the regular public safety officers in their fire fighting responsibilities.

The officer will also begin a crime prevention program disseminating information to the general public so we may all be aware of crime problems and what we can do as individuals to aid in the reduction of crime within the community.

The city council approved an application for a federal grant in conjunction with the city of Livonia and Farmington Hills, to form a specialized police unit which will have the responsibility of reducing the crimes of burglary, armed robbery, larceny and car theft within the three communities.

The city also began a new program providing transportation for local community use to local ice skating rinks.

The city's recreation program began a touch football league for those energetic men of our community who enjoy sports.

Plans are being formulated for expansion next year.

The new district library will have a building in Farmington by 1974, to improve the library services available to those living in the south end of the community.

As we look ahead, we can certainly see major problems to be solved in 1974, with the energy crisis upon us and the

shortages of materials needed to adequately provide city services.

We believe solutions to these problems will be found, and 1974 should be fruitful.

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