

The Farmington

ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

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today's
hot line

what's inside

An Unusual Teacher

This week the Enterprise & Observer has a good story to tell about an unusual teacher. Reporter Elizabeth Wissman tells stories out of school by interviewing an elementary teacher who received high praise from parents of one of her pupils.

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Year-Round School?

The administrative staff of Farmington Public Schools is studying the possibility of implementing a year-around school program. The pros and cons of year-round school are discussed by school officials and reported by staffer Howard Kohn.

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A Good Date

The State Boundary Commission did the right thing in picking Nov. 4 for the Farmington city-township-villages consolidation, in our editorial opinion. And the group that asked for a prompt election gets some praise—and a request to do more.

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How They Voted

For all their big Lansing bureaus and fancy electronic equipment, the daily papers and the television lads never tell you how your home town representative and senator voted on the bills that affect your future and your pocketbook. We do. Today we cover the parks bill, dog racing and abortion.

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Best Preps

Your town has a lad on the All-Observers-land baseball team. Sports Editor George Maskin tapped the area's coaches for the picks.

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upcoming

WHAT TO DO in summer? You don't have to drive more than an hour to enjoy a lot of vacation activities here in southeastern Michigan. Our Sunday Amusements Page will concentrate on what's going on close to home. Consult it every weekend.



Mr. Employer

Summer vacation is here and many of the local area teenagers are available for full or part time employment.

Check today's Classified Want Ad section for the "Summer Situations Wanted Ads" and find the summer helper you need!

City Desires Slice Of State \$100 Million Recreation Pie

The City of Farmington is preparing to apply for a slice from the \$100 million recreation pie created when voters approved the state recreation bond issue last fall.

The city will apply for funds as soon as the Legislature approves the allocation formula for the funds. It is expected the Legislature will approve the 60-40 split within two weeks.

THE 60-40 SPLIT would divide the \$100 million with \$60 million going to large metropolitan areas and \$40 million for statewide use.

City Manager John Dinan has been told the Legislature will probably approve the allocation by June 26. As soon as the allocation is approved, Dinan says, the city will pick up the application forms and process the application.

The city is planning a \$125,000 park development program to be financed on a 65-35 basis through the state recreation bond issue.

Under the arrangement, the state would provide \$93,750 and the city would contribute \$31,250. The local share has already been budgeted and

plans can be finalized as soon as, and if, the state agrees to provide the \$93,750.

The city's program calls for construction of a new 10-acre neighborhood park on Drake south of Grand River and refinements to the City Park at Shawwassee and Powers Rds.

DINAN DETAILED the tentative timetable as follows: legislative approval of fund allocation in about 10 days; city application shortly thereafter; approval or disapproval of city request sometime this fall; and, availability of funds from state about Jan. 1, 1970.

Dinan says the city has done its homework and is ready to apply as soon as the state supplies the application forms.

The city's share will come from an \$11,000 surplus from the 1968-69 budget and an allocation of \$20,250 in the 1969-70 budget.

The Drake Rd. Park will include: one lighted large ball diamond; two small diamonds; parking lot; tennis courts; storage buildings; and picnic equipment; total cost—\$39,000.

City Park improvements include: weather and storage building; improvement of toilet facilities; indoor pistol target range; playground equipment; lighting improvements; tennis courts and ball diamonds; parking lot construction; total cost—\$60,000.

AT A JOINT meeting of the city and township planning commissions, it was discussed that the state funds would be an opportunity for the township to acquire land for future park use as described in the township master plan.

Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said the township has no immediate plans to apply for the matching funds but that it might come up for discussion after the master plan is submitted by the commission to the board for approval.



THE RESULTS — May's special cleanup campaign conducted by Farmington Sanitation resulted in hundreds of tons of trash being

hauled to a Wixom dump by Taulig Sanitation Co. One of the piles is shown above. (Evert photo)

Opinions Solicited & Given

Leaders React To November 4 Date

By EMORY DANIELS

Farmington area governmental officials are not alarmed over the prospects of a fall consolidation election but generally express the view that a spring vote would have been better. Government officials were contacted by the Enterprise & Observer for their views after the State Boundary Commission set the election for Nov. 4.

THE JOINT Committees of the four governments had gone on record as favoring a spring election to allow time for further study. But the commission on June 11, ruled in favor of the petitioners, Citizens for a Better Farmington, who wanted the fall election.

Bill Brown, Woodcreek Farms president, and Joint Committee chairman, explained the committee felt a spring election would have given more time for an in-depth analysis by

Michigan State University. Brown said that was also his personal preference. "This just means we have more work to do in a shorter period of time. If we can get MSU working with us, a longer time would have allowed a more in-depth study."

OBVIOUSLY, we could have done a more comprehensive job given more time. With the compressed time, we have less opportunity for a full analysis. "There is a risk being taken that there might be more people knowing less about the issues than if a spring election were held," concluded Brown.

(The study referred to is a second analysis to be conducted by MSU and financed through federal funds. The proposed analysis would be a study of inter-governmental relations.)

FARMINGTON CITY Mayor Wilbur Broxherton says a fall

election is all right because "if we are going to have an election — and obviously we are — then the sooner we hold it, the better, because interest and awareness will still be high among residents."

There was some advantage to delaying until spring to allow more time for education, Broxherton noted, "but I seriously question if that would be entirely desirable. People might get disinterested and maybe lose track of the issue."

CITY MANAGER John Dinan says: "Since federal funds are available, we should utilize them the best we can. It probably will be difficult to complete an in-depth study during the summer months."

"Now, we will have to conduct an accelerated type of review. It can be done, of course, but just makes it a little more difficult." Dinan stressed that the sec-

ond study is simply a tool of research to further develop the first study and should be considered as part of the consolidation campaign.

The education program will continue regardless of the outcome of the fall vote, predicted Dinan. "The second study is not designed exclusively for consolidation, but has other uses," he concluded.

MONDAY NIGHT, the Farmington Township Board met with MSU representatives to discuss the scope of the proposed study. The board is expected to decide June 23 whether or not the township will participate in its share

of the local government cost. Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall commented: "I don't think it makes much difference one way or another. Both the spring and fall dates have their merits and demerits."

"If the public can't obtain the necessary information in five months, I doubt if they will ever have it," said Hall.

Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said he "had no qualms" about the Nov. 4 date. "You must realize," explained Cairns, "that the people who petitioned for the election have rights, and that's what the Boundary Commission looked at."

"MAYBE IT doesn't allow time for an extra study," he continued, "but we do have two studies now — the MSU report and Donald Oakes study — which is a lot of information already to go on."

"I think all the pros and cons will be pretty well gone over by Nov. 4."

The Joint Committee will hold its next meeting after the township decides if it will participate in the second study.

The township has shown some reluctance, feeling there may be a legal problem for the board to allocate funds to promote the advancement of another government.

Public Hearing Set For County Taxes

The Board of Supervisors has set June 17 as public hearing day on Oak County's tentative budget.

The hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. in the Oak County auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the hearing prompted an appeal for county residents to attend from George H. W. Williams, president of the Oak County Homeowners and Taxpayers Association.

"Lack of attendance will be interpreted as tacit approval of the county's spending programs. Force of numbers alone will indicate concern but if you're interested in having your say, this is your chance."

Williams asks Farmington residents if they are satisfied that tax monies are being spent on airports instead of roads; on government buildings instead of housing for the needy; on clothing for the needy; on transportation for the needy and elderly.

"What do you think about the inequities in the county's

food allowances for children: 81 cents a day allowed for children on ADC and \$1.35 a day for children in the county's Children's Village where they have the added advantage of bulk purchasing?"

"This is your opportunity to be heard by the people who spend your tax money," says Williams. "Let the supervisors know of your concern."

THE ASSOCIATION has been highly critical of supervisors for carrying surpluses in county budgets. County Auditor Robert E. Lilly replies that the surplus claim is a "myth."

Williams disagrees: "In September 1968, when the county approved spending \$3 million for two county buildings not included in the 1968 budget, they called it 'left-over capital from the present year's budget.'"

In the 1967 annual report, over \$1.2 million was spent on items called "non-budgeted appropriations."

"You can play with words all you want," says Williams, "but this still adds up to political

legerdemain. The budget makers overestimate expenses and underestimate income and then spend the accumulated surplus, 'left-over capital,' unallocated funds, or whatever you want to call it, on building and land acquisitions which were never reviewed by the tax allocation board or the people at a public hearing."

"THE ONLY MYTH in Oak County is the budget itself," charges Williams. "Of course, the county isn't stuffing surplus money into a tin can. It's stuffing it into a building fund and into non-budgeted appropriations and spending it before the end of the budget year."

"The county has accumulated and spent almost \$6 million over the budget in the last two years," Williams continues.

"Not content with this kind of surplus accumulation, they had the audacity to exceed the 15 mill property tax limitation, and now they are asking for an even higher millage than they received in either of the last two years."