

# It's Possible

## City Hears How Williamston Blossomed

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

renewal with no federal funds.

Farmington, the city, could be another Williamston.

Williamston is a city six miles east of Lansing that lifted itself from tuckiness caused by blight when the expressway passed it by.

It did it with "Operation Face Lift" -- do-it-yourself urban

renewal with no federal funds.

WILLIAMSTON'S muscle and motivation were described Thursday night for interested city civic leaders and businessmen by Mrs. Harold Pletz, former president of the Williamston Chamber of Commerce.

Her visit to Farmington was arranged by the City Beautifi-

cation Committee.

Farmington as it is a way ahead of Williamston when that city started its face lift, according to Mrs. Pletz.

She cited the fact that Farmington already is working on a master plan and that there is a City Beautification Committee.

Without them, she said, any rejuvenation could go awry.

vice of the paint company.

A strong point made by Mrs. Pletz is that businesses that remodeled and refurbished did not have their taxes raised, and yet one of them even traded her business when she re-did her shop.

there. Farmington has so much going for it -- so much more than Williamston had. But a community is only as good as the business that comes from it, Farmington's image will be reflected in the number of people who come to your community."

SHE NOTED that Gaylord was once town with 20 empty stores in its downtown area before it decided to not fall apart at the seams.

Working with an Alpine theme, Gaylord today bustles with every store occupied and numerous new industries in town.

Mrs. Pletz's enthusiasm about places like Gaylord and Williamston was contagious and Farmington already has an old bank in the center of town -- all she seems to think Farmington needs is muscle and motivation.

Hello there! It's been a long time. Probably Canterbury residents had such a busy summer that the early fall was spent relaxing and getting back into the swing of things.

School time is a busy time for most mothers, as they are chattering children to and from school, scouts, catechism, and the like.

Scouting is in full swing, with the boys of Troop 46 already having had one campout and another planned for this weekend.

Cub Scout Pack 46 has had one pack meeting, and discovered their number had grown to 50 boys. A paper drive is coming up on Saturday, Nov. 1 -- so if you haven't already, start saving papers. Anyone with access to IBM cards to donate to the drive should call Allen Gale, 626-0259, as soon as possible.

The Halloween candy sale by Troop 48 is going on now. You probably have been contacted, but if not, call Lou Haight, 626-4237, to order some.

We hear that the dance at

Glen Oaks in the beginning of October was a success, with everyone attending having a marvelous time. Before that dance, a cocktail party was held by Sharna and Al DuFresne of Foxgrove. They had 22 couples in to enjoy themselves.

Indian Guides are meeting again. They attended a weekend campout recently at Camp Ohsweya near Milford.

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"WITH A MASTER PLAN," she said, "you can't work off -- it is designed by someone who has looked at all the good things in your community."

Comparing Farmington to Williamston, the visitor said, "We were a pretty good community."

The lady's slide presentation emphasized her comment.

The pictures showed rundown Victorian buildings, gone to seed; tumble-down wooden structures, paint peeling; rickety signs, swaying in the breeze.

And oh, yes, Williamston had an old building, circa Farmington's vintage bank at Grand River and Farmington Rd., rotting away at the main corner of town.

AS DETAILED by Mrs. Pletz, the selling job to rejuvenate all this involved the city government, the chamber of commerce, the local newspaper, a man from HUD, (who just happened by) a paint company, a student from Michigan State -- and everybody in Williamston.

Williamston's main street looks today like a picture in House and Garden magazine.

It all began with a business concern that bought that old bank, moldering on the main corner.

The project spread from there right out to the outskirts of town.

THE WILLIAMSTON slide pictures as it is today show streets of buildings all done in the Early American theme, each paint job color-coded to its neighbor's, thanks to the ad-

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CONVENING shop-owners to re-do their places was the hardest, according to Mrs. Pletz.

"We would go out in pairs," she said, "It's a heck of a job harder to say 'no' to two people instead of just one."

"Most important," she pointed out, "is to insist that people have architectural help. And it is necessary to have some form of control."

"But whatever you do," she added, "don't waste your time on half measures. Do it all the way and you do it right."

"In Williamston," she said, "our work involved what we already had and we went on from

## Campaign Ends With Spurt

FARMINGTON At least six more educational meetings on the issue of consolidation to members of the Senior Citizens' Drop in Center, in the Masonic Temple.

Wednesday night, the second meeting for township residents sponsored by the Joint Study Committee will be held in the O.E. Danek Junior High starting at 8.

At the township meeting, Township Trustee Fred Lichtman will speak in favor of consolidation and City Councilman John Allen against. City Councilman John Richardson will moderate.

ON OCT. 23, the Farmington Area Board of Commerce will sponsor a breakfast meeting on consolidation in the Roma Inn (formerly the Pletz Inn) starting at 7:30 a.m. Debating will be Ellsworth and Allen.

The League of Women Voters is making plans to sponsor a "Meet the Candidates" night Oct. 28 with all the charter commission candidates invited to speak. Further information will be announced later.

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Floral Park News

By E. R. PHILLIPS GR 4-6575

A new family has settled in our neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Wolfe and their 18-month-old twins, Kay and Carolyn, have moved into the home at 2730 Lilac. They are from Kalamazoo and will be employed by Sears at the Livonia Mall store.

Mrs. Mary Wolfe of 22403 Floral has just returned from Middleton, O., after a one-week visit in the home of the Charles Smith family, who are former Floral Park residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henry of 22612 Violet have just returned after a week's stay in Racine, Wis., in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Soule and family. Mrs. Soule is Mrs. Henry's sister.

Their son, Douglas, has been recently discharged from the Quartermasters division of the Army after serving his term at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam and was discharged as a first lieutenant. Currently, he is at Michigan State where he is working on his master's degree.

Zisholz Attends

FARMINGTON Lawrence G. Zisholz of 21953 Trenchell, Farmington, recently attended an advanced pension school in the home office of Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia, Pa. He is a group pension sales representative in the company's Detroit group office.

Siviy Promoted

Steven R. Siviy, 25, of Oakland, a 1963 graduate of Farmington High School, was recently promoted to Army sergeant first class in Vietnam while serving with the 92nd Artillery. He is a cannoneer with Battery B, 1st Battalion.

Renounce Petitions, Says Allen

FARMINGTON City Councilman John Allen issued a statement this week describing the filing of annexation and incorporation petitions as an "irresponsible exaggeration of the facts."

Allen said it is not important who signed a petition for incorporation or annexation. "Those who provoked this action by loose talk, irresponsible exaggeration of the facts and possibly malicious intent have set back city township relations many years."

"They will cost the taxpayers a great deal of money in fruitless elections, and months of hard work and sincere effort by many people to build cooperation and confidence between neighbors."

"Equally unfortunate," continued Allen, "is the fact that the responsibility for much of these happenings lies with the leaders of the movement for consolidation. It is a fact that for some time they have been urging confrontation of the city and the township."

"One wonders if in some sort of devious strategy this appeared the only solution to uniting a village-township vote for consolidation in the face of certain defeat in the villages as things stood."

"I urge both the city and township officials to renounce these moves in the spirit of the moratorium established with their mutual wishes," he concluded.

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Friday, October 24  
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