

Farmington Enterprise & Observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's
hot line

what's inside

One . . . Two . . . Three

The dancers are polishing their routines in the Farmington Players Barn in anticipation of the first production of the season. Photographer Ralph Evert snapped a picture of the rehearsal.

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They Don't Know

Opponents of consolidation from the City of Farmington only say why to vote against a single-city but don't know the answers to the present city residents why they should seek answers and solutions in today's editorial endorsement

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Six More Days

In six days, Farmington area residents will be voting on the consolidation question. This newspaper continues to provide you, the voter, with the most complete election coverage. Today's coverage includes: John Richardson saying why the city should not procrastinate on consolidating; John Stenson telling why the city should vote no; and Dr. Ed Blumberg telling John Allen why he's wrong in urging a negative vote.

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What's Doing

Shirley MacLaine bounced her way into the area in "Sweet Charity" this week, and our critic was there. . . Martin Bard, author and actor, will visit Farmington Thursday for a lecture demonstration. . . A new play opens in Ann Arbor next week, and Staff Writer Sue Shaughnessy talked to author Evan Hunter. All this plus a guide on how the movies rate and other ideas for your leisure time are on the Amusements Pages.

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Regional Scene

Schoolcraft College trustees are pondering an expanded cultural series. . . The GOP plans a public hearing on crime and the Democrats a meeting on the draft. . . SEMCOG tries to pick up members. Each week, the Regional Affairs page—an exclusive feature of Observer Newspapers—gives you the best look at the overall suburban scene.

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The Final Week

This is the last week of high school football for most teams, and the sports staff analyzes the prospects. Cinderella team Redford Union will face township rival Flushing. . . Livonia's classic is Franklin vs. Bentley. . . Interlake champion Stevenson will tackle rough North Farmington.

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HE'S IN BUSINESS ON YOUR STREET

Your neighborhood boy is gaining valuable business training through his Observer route. The \$99 you pay him each month for our new Carrier Subscription Plan assures his success in his first business venture. Be sure to ask for a receipt, which will guarantee delivery of The Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

Township OKs Water, Sewer Projects Costing \$140,000

Water and sewer projects costing more than \$140,000 were approved Monday night by the Farmington Township Board.

Low bids were approved for sewer projects totaling \$103,700. Oak Park Excavating Co. was low bidder on three of the projects and A & P Construction Co. on the fourth.

Three areas scheduled to get water lines are: Franklin Forest, S&D 53, at 13 Mile and Northwestern \$13,400;

Park Hill, S&D 54, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake, \$34,560; and Franklin Fairway, S&D 62, Northwestern and 13 Mile, \$24,120.

A & P Construction will handle installation of sewer lines for Karen Ct., S&D 61, at 9 Mile and Middle Belt for \$31,600.

In addition, trustees approved transfer of up to \$40,000 for completion of the water line on 10 Mile from St. Claire Assist. church east to within 500 feet of Inkster Rd.

IN OTHER action, the board appointed William Flattery to fill the vacancy on the Citizens Complaint Investigating Committee.

Flattery has lived in Kimberly Subdivision for eight years and is manager of First Federal Savings & Loan in the City of Farmington. He was nominated by Earl Oppertbauer who described Flattery as being objective, fair-minded and civic-minded. He was nominated to fill the vacancy by unanimous vote of the Township Board.

The vacancy occurred, explained Supervisor Curtis Hall, when Oppertbauer was appointed to the township board to replace Charles Williams.

The Farmington Democratic Club had sent a letter to the board requesting Oppertbauer to resign. Hall said a resignation was not in order since Oppertbauer automatically ceased to be a member of the review board when he was

appointed to the Township Board. Hall explained the ordinance creating the review board specifically stated that "citizens" were to serve and not township officials.

THE BOARD ALSO voted to share in 25 per cent of the cost to improve Halsted Rd. for a stretch of 1,600 feet between the industrial park and the expressway.

Total estimated cost is \$82,000 with Oakland County paying 50 per cent and benefiting abutting property owners the other 25 per cent.

Hall said between 500-600 cars travel that stretch of Halsted each day plus a number of trucks entering the industrial park. He added that the industrial park accounts for 3.7 per cent of the township's total assessed valuation.

The board also agreed to spend \$1,285 to purchase a public address system for the meeting room in the new township hall. The system will include three speakers, three transformers and six microphones.

THE WEED ordinance was amended to read: "Weeds not cut by July 15 by the property owner may be cut by the township." Also, warnings to property owners to cut weeds may be printed in the newspaper in place of certified letters being sent.

On property where the owner has been warned to cut weeds but does not, the township can then cut the weeds and put the cost on the owner's tax bill.

The board also voted to allocate an additional \$450 to the Farmington Area Youth Guidance Committee for a total budgeted amount of \$1,000.

A beer and wine license was approved for the Great Scott supermarket being built on Orchard Lake Rd. at the site of the proposed Toppa Department Store.

Final tentative approval was given the plan for the 30-acre Kings Pointe Subdivision. The subdivision is north of 13 Mile to the immediate west of Briar Hill.

Resoning to office was approved for a parcel at 31805 Middle Belt between Northwestern and 13 Mile Rd.

Board Approves Walk Changes

Students traveling toward Gill School and Power Junior High along Colfax Ave. will have improved walking conditions within a month.

The Farmington Board of Education Monday evening ordered improvements on the walkway on the north side of Colfax Ave. after months of complaints from parents.

THE PART gravel, part cement walkway extends from Farmington Rd. west on Colfax Ave. to Gill Elementary School at 21955 Gill Rd. and Power Junior High at 34740 Rhoadwood.

The gravel part of the walkway will be widened to five feet where possible and leveled. Edging will be installed to hold the surface.

Bushes on the north side of the walkway and trees on the south side will be trimmed or removed. Some trees on the

south side of the walk have already been removed, according to William Prisk, business manager for the district.

The ramp leading to both Power and Gill is slated for improvement also.

ALL THE actions require agreement of adjoining property owners, however.

The safety committee's motion to improve the walkway also contained one portion which likely will not be accomplished. An unoccupied house on the north side of the walkway currently cannot be removed as parents requested. Prisk said township officials told him nothing can be done about the house as long as it is boarded up.

All the improvements approved by the board were arrived at in negotiations between the safety committee and representatives of subdivision associations.

Absentees Must Sign Up Saturday

The deadline for casting absentee ballots in the coming election is 2 p.m. Nov. 1.

The Farmington City Hall at 23600 Liberty and the Township Hall at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake will be open until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Quakertown residents may take their absentee ballots to the home of Village Clerk Mrs. Clifton Strasser at 34027 Cotswold.

Wood Creek Farms residents may deposit their ballots at 29251 Spring Rd., the home of Village Clerk Mrs. Dan Abbott.

Single City Means

(On Nov. 4, Farmington Area residents will be asked to choose whether a nine-man charter commission shall write a charter to combine the four governmental units into a single, new city. A reason why a charter commission should be given the chance to explore the benefits of consolidation is given below in a series of articles on what a single city means.)

A single city would have a single tax rate, tax base and tax system. A consolidated city would mean a consolidated tax and more efficient taxation resulting from a single council's control over revenues and expenditures.

Instead of separate levies for library, police and operation as is now the case for township residents, a single city could levy one rate to cover library, police and operational expenses.

The single rate and single assessor would equalize the burden carried by individual city and township residents for such services as police and library facilities. Community needs cannot be met efficiently now because assessments are divided by artificial boundaries which limit the flow of revenue and expenditures.

Since Farmington is in fact now a single community, the community's needs can best be met by a single tax base and a single tax rate.

This singularity of taxation would result in more efficiency for the District Court and Library System. And it is the only way the needs of the community's residents can be efficiently met.

Families have one checking account and one savings account. The Family of Farmington should also. That's what consolidation means.

Farmington Enterprise & Observer.

Renew Rivalry Nov. 8

The eighth annual renewal of the "Civil War" between Farmington's two football teams stapes up as the southerner's battle against history.

The Old Yule Log Game, the North Farmington Raiders against Farmington High's Falcons, will be 2 p.m. Nov. 8 at Farmington High, 32000 Shawwassee.

HISTORY IS on the side of North's Raiders. They have taken the trophy given to the winner in four of the six games played. Another skirmish ended in a tie.

This season's records also favor the northerners. North Farmington has won five easily and lost two tough games. Thurston, rated one of the top 10 teams in the state, edged the Raiders 20-18, and Livonia Franklin upset the North team 14-8.

Farmington High has won one game and lost six. The Falcons beat Wallis Lake Central 6-6.

THE TEAMS have played one common opponent this year, Pontiac Northern. The Raiders beat the Pontiac team 24-12 early this season, while the team from the southern end of the area lost 24-6.

The Old Yule Log game was established in 1963 by the Farmington Board of Commerce. The trophy given to the winning team is a small log engraved with the date and score of the game.

The two schools played one game before it was titled the Old Yule Log game. The Raiders won 7-0.

Proceeds from the game will be divided among the participating school departments. The board of commerce this year elected to return the money to the school system instead of taking its share.

Tickets can be purchased at most stores in the area or at the Board of Commerce office.

Halloween Cleanup Planned

Three shopping centers in the City of Farmington will be target areas for teenagers during a mass cleanup campaign Nov. 2. With the cooperation of the Farmington Junior High School Students Council, the City of Farmington Beautification Committee started the project.

The student council, under the leadership of Steve Barst, president, will kick off their campaign on Oct. 29, soliciting help from fellow students.

Sunday, The Downtown Center, Farmington Plaza and the Del-Aire Shopping Center will be a hive of activity as students get together to help "Keep Farmington Beautiful."

This program, promoted by the Beautification committee, is just another way to help Farmington residents become more involved in beautifying and improving their community.

After Halloween, the cleanup will be a must!

Another mass cleanup program is scheduled for next spring by the Beautification committee. Many other programs during the winter months will be undertaken such as beautification suggestion boxes, plans for the spring tree-planting program, replacement of trees planted last spring, awards programs, litter control and many others.



WATCH FOR MUNSTER . . . There will be a lot of little Munsters on the streets Halloween night. Drivers are cautioned to keep a sharp eye out for the junior Frankensteins who won't be watching for autos.

(Evert photo)

How Local Police Can Be Improved

A former Farmington Township justice of the peace issued a statement today claiming consolidation provides a valuable means of changing for the better the Township Police Department.

Robert H. Nelson, a resident of the township since 1956, served as justice of the peace for 9 1/2 years. He was president of the Farmington Township League of Subdivision Associations, is the originator of Kewdownwood One's July Fourth celebration, and was a member of the Greater Farmington Youth Guidance Committee from 1959-64.

IN A STATEMENT to the Farmington Enterprise & Observer, Nelson said consolidation can provide the necessary changes in the township police force with "maximum face-saving."

Nelson began with his feelings on consolidation:

"Farmington Township needs to incorporate in order to protect its boundaries. This is a major necessity, so that our industrial tax base can be preserved and our area planning made more secure than our present hazy, already on file and waiting in the wings, with roughly two-thirds of us being unable to vote against it. This petition would take our industrial park and other vacant

land which will probably go industrial. It will hit each of us intelligible voters right in the pocketbook.

"We can incorporate and prevent this, either by consolidating with the rest of Farmington or by incorporating by ourselves. Either method will seal our boundaries.

"Either method will also give us the opportunity of having a charter which gives us several important improvements over our present state of struggling along at the mercy of Lansing lobbyists. Non-partisan elections and no full time elected officials, for one. This would remove some almost impossible barriers to changing an administration. Eastern zoning referendums, another, making it easier for us to resist increases in population density, and hence, taxes. More controls over taxes for facilities and services, for a third.

"WHILE EITHER method, consolidation or township incorporation, will give us these opportunities, only the consolidation method will give us a half decent chance at getting changes in the Farmington Township Police Department.

"If we consolidate township, villages and city, our local police departments can be merged, with any changes being made with a maximum of face-saving, and that's important, and with a different administration in charge of the consolidated police department.

If we incorporate by ourselves, we'll have exactly the same old police department, both the good as well as the elements we don't like.

"Your friends visiting you at your home, as well as Farmington City residents traveling through the township, come under the territorial jurisdiction of this police department, so interest in exploring possible changes should be widespread.

"If there is no other feasible way of getting possible changes in the Farmington Township Police Department, and I know of no one who has thought of any, consolidation provides the sole opportunity, the only chance. You'll get no other.

"Some other reasons for at least exploring the consolidation method, which can only happen with a Yes vote next Tuesday, are avoidance of piecemeal planning, elimination of duplicating top echelon salaries and of having two court houses instead of one, two radio centers instead of one, etc., and possible obtaining volume efficiencies on clerical work. We just possibly could lower our taxes—all of us, whether residents of township, village or city.

"A charter providing for the zones which I suggested in my letter to the editor last April could protect township and village residents from unwanted taxes for additional facilities and services as well as protect city residents from dilution of services," Nelson concluded.