



**DOLLS READY** -- The Goodfellow dolls are in and ready to be picked up by Farmington women who would like to sew clothes and dress the dolls for delivery to needy families during the Christmas season. Showing the dolls are Charles Williams, this year's Goodfellow drive chairman, and Mrs. Shirley Richardson. (Evert photo)

# Stenson Tells Stance Against Consolidation

(The following article expresses the views of John F. Stenson Jr., who is opposed to consolidation. Stenson is presently serving as task force leader of the Urban Housing Subcommittee of New Detroit, Inc., under sponsorship of General Motors Corp. He has been associated with the architect-engineer and field supervision fields of construction and was an unsuccessful candidate for Farmington City Council last spring.)

While at New Detroit I am directing my attention toward a substantial increase in the production of housing for low- and moderate-income families. My everyday activity with urban problems, including personal contact with governmental and citizen groups has provided input for my decision to resist consolidation.

I recommend at least two, perhaps three, cities should be operational within the 36-square-mile area. This affords close citizen scrutiny of governmental activities affecting their everyday life.

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# An Open Letter Allen's Dead Wrong--Blumberg

Dear John: Some of us have not yet spoken out strongly on the proposed consolidation before the Farmington Community. Many of us have worked behind the scenes for live and raise children. The issue of consolidation is being considered by sincere people through all of greater Farmington. But... even sincere people sometimes make grave errors which affect others.

John Allen-- I feel that you are making such an error. You and I are close friends and will certainly remain so. We have shared a concern for the real welfare of this area. No one has to enumerate the many contributions that you have made to Farmington. You have earned respect. However, for reasons known best to yourself, you are now acting contrary to all that you stand for. John, be assured, that in my judgment, you are totally and completely wrong.

ALL OF US in community life have seen many examples of waste, needless red tape, wheeling, project failures, petty bickering, political jockeying, and sometimes, deceit. Most of the things occur because of the politically-framed Farmington Community as it is today.

Sure, consolidation won't solve all the problems, nor will it eliminate waste and red-tape. But it will sure as heck make it easier to deal with the

## Beautifiers Seeking Suggestions

FARMINGTON The City of Farmington Beautification Committee is attempting another action plan to involve residents in helping to "Keep Farmington Beautiful."

The committee has placed five suggestion boxes in locations throughout the city for the use of interested residents. These boxes, provided by Bernard B. Dickman, a committee member, will be placed in the following: Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road and 10 Mile; City Hall; Farmington District Library; Board of Commerce office; and in Frank's Nursery in the Farmington Plaza Shopping Center.

There is NO reason whatsoever that the people of Farmington Township need to absorb 100,000 people like a sponge and have every square foot of open space covered with buildings and parking lots. These things they can control and I sincerely encourage them to do so.

People of both city and township should look down the road five or ten years hence and project a tax figure they will be called upon to shoulder. I now believe we will also think about the disadvantage of compression, due to increased density that mass urbanization will bring.

My feelings today are exactly as they were last April 7, when I initiated the proposal supporting the annexation to the City of Farmington, the area south of 10 Mile Rd. Without question the existing city government, with modification, could adequately care for this land annexation and provide proper administration and improved services for the citizens involved.

The areas of the township north of 10 Mile Road should form a new city and draft a charter of their own, geared to the rural environment they enjoy and must protect. Their new city should develop zoning ordinances, stringent on land use and density of people per acre. They can accomplish change or obtain services at their own pace.

problems of the '70s. And that, my friend John Allen, is one of the points I wish to make. To wit-- You may wish to still live in the '40s or '50s or '60s, but the majority of Farmington people want to work and live in the '70s-- It is not too late-- we can start on Nov. 4 with a "YES" vote on consolidation. The purpose of this note to you is not to discuss consolidation. That is amply covered elsewhere by others. Almost every leader, including officials of the four government units, almost all civic and club leaders, school officials, units of both political parties, business leaders, and hosts of others, have come to the conclusion-- YES vote on Nov. 4, in order to give the community a chance

## Reader Writes Resident Tells I-City Views

EDITOR: Recent comments in your newspaper by charter commission candidates and others have expounded many reasons for consolidation into a single city. I would like to comment on several of them.

First of all, one statement was made that consolidation does not mean an increase in taxes but it is the budget that dictates the tax rate. It's difficult to imagine consolidation without immediate or eventual budget increase. Therefore, it is a foregone conclusion that taxes will increase.

Second, another comment was made that consolidation was necessary to acquire a voice in the development of surrounding areas of the city. This is more or less immaterial to the residents of the city as the city is generally encircled right now by apartment complexes, industrial and residential areas. In fact, under consolidation, we would be more anonymous than ever.

There are some individuals who say let's vote "yes" and see what the commission proposes. To this I reply that a yes vote indicates that consolidation is desired and it much easier to pass the charter at a subsequent election due to lack of interest and voter apathy.

I urge everyone to think twice before voting "yes" on consolidation. The City of Farmington right now is mar-

ried quite well, stabilized and it is very nearly developed. It is entirely possible that the city tax rate will increase as is everything else but look what we face if we consolidate and inherit a share of the township's problems.

V.L. Vanderberg  
City of Farmington

man campaign based on emotion and fear.

AMONG THE TRUTHS and facts which you refuse to see are these:

A YES vote Nov. 4 simply gives the Farmington area two years or two votes by the people to determine their future. You are bent on denying that in the past. You have screamed for more study and more facts. They are mostly in now; open your mind and look. You have ranted about the problems of the "big" city. You have never once discussed the obvious and overwhelming problems of a "too small" city or a "fragmented community." You have instilled fear in people by misinformation about taxes, public services, local zoning, and a host of others. You refuse to recognize the obvious-- this area is going to be in a hell of a

mess, and impossible to govern in 1970, if we don't prepare in 1970.

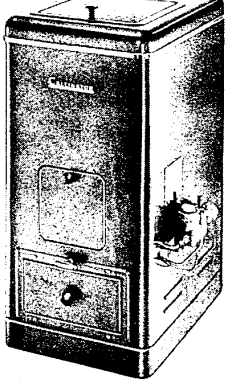
You have witnessed the rampant, distrust, needless competition, putting one over, and self-concern which have characterized too much of this area for too many years (e.g. the petition war last week). You have chosen to remain oblivious to it, and wish to continue to live in the past. John, this note to you is strong, personal, and dramatic. The future welfare and best interests of all of Greater Farmington depends on strong YES vote in all four units on Nov. 4. Come join with the rest of us, and get in step with the future. Don't let Farmington be crucified on a cross of blindness and ignorance. You are a respected leader here, by me, by everyone, so lead. Your friend, DR. ED BLUMBERG

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