

Books Are Moving Fast

Schools. Farmington's among others, are beginning to explore a new "open circulation" concept of elementary library use.

According to Shiwasssee, Principal Ron Jackson, it has led to a tremendous increase in book-borrowing by students. "No longer is the slow reader forced to return his book long before it's read just because it is 'library day' for his class," Jackson pointed out.

"On the other hand, a fast reader need not sit around idly waiting for book day to arrive so that he can get on with his reading," he continued.

Each day at 1 p.m., Shiwasssee students are free to use the library for returning, selecting, or checking out books. They are allowed this privilege when their class work is completed.

Mothers are involved in the program, checking out books so that Mrs. Verla Kennedy, school librarian, is free to help students with suitable book selection.

Mornings are devoted to reference work and class or individual project research. They also note overdue books so that a reminder note can be sent to the borrower.

Students and faculty alike approve the flexibility and workability of the latest library approach, Jackson says.



BOOKS GALORE - Checking in books of their Shiwasssee classmates, one from left) Andy Korman and John Ott. Student helpers gather each morning before school to see that incoming books are properly checked before being replaced on the library shelves. Delinquent borrowers are reminded to return missing volumes. (Evert photo)

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(Evert photo)

City Faces Redevelopment During First Half Of '70s

By Our Staff

The boom of the '60s has ended for the City of Farmington, and the 1970s will be devoted to refining and purifying the slag left from the past decade's production. The city is expecting continued growth, but it won't be as rapid or startling as during the '60s. There is not enough vacant land left for the boom to continue, and the next 10 years will be spent improving and building upon what already exists.

THE CITY'S POPULATION is expected to reach its peak of 15,000 in 1975. There is some vacant property in the Woodcroft area which can be developed, but this development should be accomplished by the mid-'70s.

When the peak is reached about 1975, the city must look inward with concerted efforts to remove blighted buildings, preserve the favorable, beauty and expand.

City Manager John Dinan says the city wants to refine its parks program and develop a broader recreation program. Hopefully, by the end of the '70s the proposed Drake Road park site will be finished and the city park renovated and expanded.

A big project to be undertaken by the city in the '70s will be separation of storm and sanitary sewer systems to stay abreast of water pollution programs.

Paving projects expected to be accomplished include widening of Orchard Lake from Grand River to 10 Mile; paving Shiwasssee from Grand River to Farmington Rd.; Gill Rd. from Grand River to Freedom Drive and Drake from Grand River to Freedom Drive.

PROBABLY THE BIGGEST undertaking will be redevelopment of the downtown business district and the commercial strip along Grand River. Additional off-street parking will be provided, and a "new face" drawn which could include pedestrian walkways, pedestrian lighting, markers, shabby and greener throughout the downtown; less objectionable signs; and an atmosphere to provide more shopping convenience to customers.

The project is to be undertaken through a combined effort of the merchants and the city, and Dinan believes it can be accomplished in the next 10 years. It is estimated the total cost for both merchants and city will be around \$250,000.

With continued growth, the city hopes to stay abreast of the increasing costs for municipal services during the early '70s. Beyond that, if the city stays the same size, it is presumed more money will be needed to operate the city at the same level of services. If inflation continues to influence

the cost of operation, taxes will begin rising in the city in the mid-'70s.

FUTURE RESIDENTIAL growth in the city will be somewhat stymied by tight money and unavailability of mortgage funds.

Tight money is expected to curtail new residential construction in the early '70s. The Historical Preservation Committee will be busy as the '70s dawn selecting and marking historical homes in the city to preserve some of the old character and its historical value to the community.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, in its study recommending consolidation, predicts the '70s will be a period of depreciation for the city. City officials recognize that the older commercial buildings in town have a detrimental effect on the city's image and assessed valuation. The city can see that the "wearing out" process has started, but some leaders believe it can be slowed and eventually stopped.

The brakes will be a program of cooperative efforts between property owners and the city to upgrade older buildings. The '70s will be oriented towards redevelopment, with stress on architectural improvements of existing structures. Urban renewal will not be necessary.

There may be isolated removals but massive removals, predicts Dinan. Dinan believes economics will force owners to tear down blighted buildings with official action not being necessary.

GERALD HARRISON, executive director of the Farmington Board of Commerce, also believes depreciation can be prevented in the downtown area. "I feel that if the downtown Farmington merchants would capitalize on what they have," he says, "they can still maintain themselves and continue to grow."

"They must provide additional parking and make downtown an attractive place for people to shop as Birmingham has done. The regional shopping center takes care of one kind of shopping, the downtown center takes care of another."

But the downtown area will go one way or another. That's why it is so essential that merchants and the city cooperate in long-term planning, he adds. "I think the city government has to become involved in this planning just as it did in Birmingham."

"Regardless of our own industrial development, we are still dependent on the core city for business relationships on the national and international level."

THE BIG QUESTION mark in the next decade for the city is what will its land area be at the end of the 1970s. If taxes are to remain stable, the city will need more land area and vacant property which can be developed. If growth is stopped, taxes will go up.

The city sees the challenge of the '70s as self-preservation. It can refine and redevelop but these steps will be made easier with a broader tax base.

It is possible that during the early '70s, the southern half of the township could be annexed to the city. The additional land would give the city room to grow for a good number of years. If the annexation is accomplished, the city's ultimate population would be around 50,000 instead of 15,000 and so the city would not reach its peak until near the end of the decade or at the beginning of the '80s.

Some city officials believe that the city's present 2.7 square miles are not enough to provide efficient and effective municipal programs. The annexation, as they see it, would not tremendously boost the city's valuation because the richness of the industrial park will be offset by the poorer residential areas in the southeastern portion.

Instead, the big plus of the annexation is seen to be an addition of vacant property which the city needs badly. Early studies indicate that, if the annexation is accomplished, the per capita assessment will remain about the same for both city and township.

IF THE ANNEXATION is accomplished, the city's role in the '70s will be quite different. It would have to broaden services and adjust to changes needed for a city of 50,000. In case of annexation, the city at the end of the '70s

would be in a position to have more professional specialists—such as a recreation director, city planner, purchasing agent or personnel director.

Dinan believes the present charter would serve the new city with possibly some amendments. The city, which incorporated in 1926, will celebrate its golden year in 1976. But the present charter is not that old. It was enacted in 1951 when the city switched from a commission type of government to city manager-council format.

A charter review would probably be in order if the annexation is realized, says Dinan, with such changes as increasing the council from five members to seven.

WHAT WILL THE '70s hold for the City of Farmington? If annexation is achieved, the boom of the '60s will continue for another decade. If the city stays the same size, the boom will end and the refining process will begin.

Regardless of what happens to the annexation question, the '70s will present a challenge to the city. There will be new challenges, new people, new disappointments.

With foresight and planning, the barriers will be overcome and challenges met. Although one could hardly predict what the city of Farmington in 1980 will be like, it is very probable that a review of the '70s will show the same record of achievements that the 1960s did.

Township Looks Toward Cityhood

FARMINGTON

The biggest problems facing Farmington Township in the '70s, according to Supervisor Curtis Hall, are ones which have plagued the governmental unit during much of the '60s—stabilization of its area and control of roads within the area.

The boundary matter seems on its way to being settled in the early '70s after years of uncertainty. During the last half of the past decade, two incorporation attempts and one attempt to consolidate the City of Farmington with the township have failed.

AFTER THE consolidation was rejected by city voters, the city filed for an election to annex a major portion of the township's industrial property tax base. The township countered with petitions to make its area a city.

"We could make it as a township if they'd leave us alone," Hall says, but he notes something must be done to stabilize and finalize the area's boundaries.

"The fractionalization of our tax base would be a great blow," Hall says. Besides Farmington, any of the cities touching township territory could annex land. The greatest threat for annexation in the '70s after the City of Farmington could come from Novi.

Novi recently became a city and could be interested in annexing industrial and commercial land in the western section of the township after it matures.

HALL SAYS recruitment of industry was one of the main accomplishments of the past decade. It gave balance to the tax base which is absent when industry is missing.

Hall points to Pleasant Ridge and Huntington Woods as cities which are practically all residential land. Both are

having trouble financing services because of the lack of tax base.

Hall says most residents of the eastern part of the township don't realize what a great loss it would be if the western part were annexed by the city.

The dispute between the city and the township over the south half of the township's territory will probably end in the courts, the supervisor says. He said the township will "extend every effort to defeat the city's proposal" to annex its territory.

After the township becomes a city, Hall says, a tax increase will not necessarily occur.

"The tax rate," Hall says, "depends on the level of services rather than the form of government."

Cityhood probably will mean better roads in the old township's area. The supervisor notes federal funds might be available around 1975 to improve city streets. Besides the city would establish priorities for road projects which are county decisions under the township government.

THE '70s will bring another major freeway into the township and Hall notes the road will mean a change in land use along it. M-275, traveling north, and south near Haggerty Rd., is to be finished during the decade.

The new freeway with the extension of Northwestern Highway and existing I-696 has brought plans for a regional shopping center in northwest Farmington Township.

The shopping center will ultimately be the size of Northland, with many other new buildings in the same area. The center could lead to a large office and apartment building in the northwest and extending the length of M-275.

The period of the '70s will probably mean trying to provide basic services for its population, whether the area of the township is its present size or half.

"It would be nice to have a civic center or city auditorium," Hall says, "but we have to get to these bread and butter things first."

Classes To Help Women Identify

SOUTHFIELD

The second in a series of eight classes for expectant parents offered by the Oakland County Health Department will begin Jan. 14.

The free classes, held weekly from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. will be offered in the South Oakland office, 27725 Greenfield at 11 1/2 Mile, Southfield. Registration may be accomplished by calling the health department at 358-1400, ext. 232.

The classes, taught by public health nurses, are co-sponsored by the Oakland County Medical Society and various adult education departments throughout the county. Topics include the mental health of the family unit, growth and development of the baby before and immediately after birth, labor and delivery and care and feeding of the infant.

Films and other audiovisual aids are used to illustrate some of the topics and each class is taken on a tour of a hospital.

Classes are limited to 25 persons (13 couples).

"Exciting Alaska," a slide talk presentation will be given by Allen H. Boelter. He is a professional forester and practical conservationist. Featured also will be serial slides of Oakland County, presented by William Muller, extension director in Oakland County.

Tickets for the dinner can be obtained from the SCD Office, Room 9, Federal Building, 35 East Huron, Pontiac.

PONTIAC

The Soil and Water Conservation Award for 1969 will be presented at the Annual Oakland County Soil Conservation District dinner to be held at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 21 in St. Benedict's Church, Pontiac.

An election to name two county directors will be conducted. The terms of Robert McCarty, of South Lyon and Phil Elkow of South Lyon. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

"Exciting Alaska," a slide talk presentation will be given by Allen H. Boelter. He is a professional forester and practical conservationist. Featured also will be serial slides of Oakland County, presented by William Muller, extension director in Oakland County.

Tickets for the dinner can be obtained from the SCD Office, Room 9, Federal Building, 35 East Huron, Pontiac.

MRS ALEXA L. BIRKMAN of 2364 Fowler, Farmington, graduated recently with cum laude honors from Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo. She was one of 48 students graduating with high honors at WMU's fall commencement.

ALBERT P. HENZLIK, Attorneys
1229 Farmington Road
Farmington

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND
100-306

Estate of WILLIAM J. MURPHY
also known as WILLIAM J. MURPHY and W. J. MURPHY deceased.

In a hearing held on March 13, 1970 at 11 A.M. at the Probate Court in Oakland County, Michigan, hearing the will of said decedent and all other matters required to prove their claims and in relation to said hearing the following names and addresses were filed with the court and were approved by the court as beneficiaries of the estate of said decedent.

Beneficiaries and shares shall be made as provided by the attached will.

Dated December 13, 1970
I, ALBERT P. HENZLIK, Notary Public in and for the State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in my files.

ALBERT P. HENZLIK, Notary Public in and for the State of Michigan
The Farmington Office & Attorney
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