

## Brotherton Favored Ravitz; Encourages Action Programs

FARMINGTON Mayor Wilbur Brotherton is optimistic that the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is ready to become a viable tool in solving regional problems — mainly rubbish disposal and pollution.

Brotherton returned to Farmington with more hope that SEMCOG can help cure regional ailments after attending that organization's annual election meeting in Cobo Hall.

The mayor was the City of Farmington's delegate to the meeting. Farmington Township and Farmington School District are also members of SEMCOG.

THE MAYOR WAS among those voting for Mel Ravitz, Detroit councilman who was elected chairman of SEMCOG for the coming year. Ravitz replaces William Mainland, member of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors from Milford.

He explained he voted for Ravitz because he is a "positive and aggressive" leader. "Also, this will be a good opportunity to deal openly with the problem some people see that SEMCOG is a huge, massive regional monster that is self-serving to Detroit."

Election of Ravitz to the chairmanship, Brotherton said, "will be a good way to find out

quickly if that is the direction SEMCOG will take. "My own feeling is that Mel Ravitz will direct SEMCOG within the framework that SEMCOG was organized around — that is, as a regional agency to plan for the entire metropolitan area."

"It is ridiculous to feel we are not involved with Detroit," Brotherton said, citing pollution control and rubbish disposal as examples of why the suburbs must work with the inner city.

Describing Ravitz as a competent leader, Brotherton added: "We must wait and see what direction his leadership takes."

BROTHERTON HEARD Ravitz report to delegates that the organizational work of SEMCOG has been completed with the hiring of a director and administrative staff.

With organization out of the way, Brotherton said, Ravitz hopes to direct SEMCOG into some action programs.

"I think if SEMCOG can get a man or two who are professional in this field and aggressive enough to push for positive action programs and come to grips with regional problems like rubbish collection and pollution," said Brotherton, "then the organization will have great potential."

These two problems cannot be dealt with by individual

cities, he added — not even by a city the size of Detroit. "But we need action, not just theory."

Brotherton said he would rather see the City of Farmington be involved in SEMCOG and have some influence on what goes on than to be on the outside and let the agency drift by itself.

RUBBISH REMOVAL is an immediate and costly problem which must be met soon, he said, and economically it is better for Detroit and the suburbs to get together for a solution.

Brotherton stressed that SEMCOG is strictly a voluntary agency. "There are no plans to become an operational agency. On the strength of the acceptance or rejection of SEMCOG programs, they will be put into effect. But the programs must be implemented by local governments. Ravitz's approach is that the voluntary method has to be the one that works."

City Manager John Dinan points out that the federal government is relying heavily on the regional planning approach throughout the nation. "It is doubtful if Farmington would qualify for federal grants if Michigan did not have a regional planning agency like SEMCOG," said Dinan.

## Zoning Matters Pack Agenda

Rezoning requests have been set for a public hearing which, if approved by the Farmington City Council, will change the land use of the entire area on the west side of Farmington Rd. from Freedom to Alta Loma.

The public hearing will begin at 8 p.m. in the city council chambers on March 2. The planning commission has already studied the requests and submitted its recommendation to the council.

THE COMMISSION recommended denial of a request from C.R. Kelly to rezone six lots on Farmington Rd. from single-family to multi-family (R-3).

Planners said the new Deluxe Multiple Family (R-3) zoning would be more suitable for Kelly's property and would be more compatible with the adjacent single-family homes. The council is expected to reject Kelly's request because planners have recommended his lots be rezoned to deluxe multiple and that suggestion will also be considered March 2.

After Kelly's request is disposed of, the council will hold a hearing on rezoning of several lots recommended by the planning commission.

THESE REZONING suggestions follow several weeks of study by the commission in an attempt to develop master planning of logical zoning for the west side of Farmington Rd. from Alta Loma south to Freedom.

Included in the planners' report for that area is a suggestion to rezone Kelly's six lots (140 plus Lot 7, part of 8 and 9, from single family to R-3).

The master plan calls for rezoning of the remaining portions of lots 8, 9 from single-family to office. The remaining suggestions ask for the rezoning of lots 10, 11, 12, 13 from Education Research Office to Office.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN William Burke says the area in question has been single-family for several years and has not developed because of being located on a four-lane, major highway and because the high cost of land and improvements do not make it adaptable for single-family development.

Burke says the new R-3 ordinance provides many safeguards and protections for adjacent single-family residents. He adds the office classification was designed to be compatible with neighboring residential properties.

The proposed location for the new post office is in this zone and would be isolated by the Huron Hunting and Fishing Club to the south, Glen Aquatic Swimming Club to the west, the proposed apartment complex to the north and Farmington Rd. to the east.

## F'ton Student Travels World In Study Voyage

Tracy Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, 3598 Quaker Lane, Farmington, has been admitted to the world campus afforestation program of Chapman College for the spring 1970 semester at sea.

Miss Thompson will join 500 other college students representing 200 colleges and universities in nearly all the 50 states to board the S.S. Ryndam in Los Angeles Harbor for the study-voyage to ports in the Orient, India, Africa and Europe.



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