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what's inside

27 Breakins

One recent week, 27 Farmington Township homes were broken into and seven cars stolen. Township police have arrested a man believed to have accomplished the breakins and car thefts and hope burglary activity will slow down.

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Around Your Town

The City of Farmington has planted a memorial tree for a former planning commissioner and a local entertainment spot has temporarily lost its liquor license for offering the wrong kind of entertainment. In addition, there are the regular weekend features such as Local News, Wood Creek Farms, Kendallwood Comments, Floral Park and the Farmington Community Calendar.

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Suburban Women

Suburban women who like to sing are all set to let you hear how well they sound. They've used a lot of imagination, too, in putting together "Rodgers With Heart."

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Behind The Scene

In every artistic production there's a lot of hard work behind the scenes. Two Observer-land mothers have done a lot of driving and sewing to help in the Severo Ballet's presentation of "Coppelia," Sunday in Clarenceville.

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Supreme Court May Settle Township's Cityhood Fate

By EMORY DANIELS
Farmington Township could have a cityhood election as early as this fall. Then again, such a vote could be as much as a year away.

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that it was legal for the township to ask an "incorporation" election to join the township with both villages.

THE DECISION by the three judge panel opened the way for the petitions to be taken up by the State Boundary Commission in a couple months with a possible fall election being called.

But the commission, meeting Wednesday, instructed its attorney to appeal the appellate court's ruling to the State Supreme Court.

IF THE SUPREME COURT agrees to hear an appeal from the Boundary Commission, a cityhood election for Farmington Township would be delayed at least a year.

THE APPELLATE COURT

decision was written by Judge Michael O'Hara and concurred with by Judges Timothy Quinn and Louis McGregor.

Judge O'Hara ruled that the Boundary Commission erred in rejecting the Farmington Township incorporation petition, filed by Robert McConnell on Oct. 16, 1969. The appellate court ruled that the only way to create a new city when no city previously existed was through the process of incorporation.

In making that ruling, the appellate court reversed Oakland Circuit Judge Frederick J. Ziem, who upheld the commission's rejection of McConnell's incorporation petition.

O'Hara's court order sends the incorporation request back to Judge Ziem with instructions to remand the case back to the Boundary Commission.

WHEN THE incorporation

request is placed on the Boundary Commission's agenda, the commission must then hold at least one public hearing in Farmington Township before setting an election date.

Under the State Boundary Act, the commission has authority to rule on the merit of an incorporation petition and can make substantive

decisions such as altering the boundaries requested.

Joseph T. Brennan, township attorney, said he is asking the appellate court to instruct the commission to hold a public hearing within the next 60 to 180 days.

"I am very gratified that we've been upheld in every particular in the lawsuit," Brennan said before learning

of the commission's decision to appeal to the Supreme Court.

"It was a long fight. Although we lost all the battles, we won the war."

JAMES HYDE, executive secretary of the Boundary Commission, said commissioners decided Wednesday to instruct its attorney to ask the Supreme Court to hear an appeal. The request will be made within 20 days.

"The commission felt Thursday there are still some questions left unresolved. We must administer a law we are not really sure of yet," said Hyde.

A number of questions were not answered by the appeals court, Hyde added, including that of protecting a village's charter. Under consolidation, a village has a veto power over cityhood. But with incorporation, village votes are counted as a whole with the township's votes.

The Supreme Court should decide within 90 days whether it will hear the Commission's appeal, Hyde said, and if it does, it could be another year before the Supreme Court gives its ruling.

IF THE SUPREME COURT won't hear the commission's appeal, he added, the incorporation petitions will be taken up soon by the commission.

"The commission's position has never been one of being against what Farmington was working for," Hyde said, "but we need an interpretation of what the law says."

The Boundary Act is ambiguous and hard to interpret, he added, "and we must administer this law. Our sole reason to appeal is to finally decide what this law means."

Once Upon A Time ...

The boundary decision made this past week by the Michigan Court of Appeals has a history going back to Oct. 16, 1969 when two sets of petitions were filed.

Residents from the City of Farmington filed petitions in Pontiac asking the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to set an election to annex the southern half of Farmington Township to the city.

Robert McConnell, on behalf of the Future Farmington Association (FFA), filed a petition in Lansing seeking an election to incorporate the township and villages of Quakertown and Wood Creek Farms into a home-rule city.

McCONNELL WON the footrace by about half an hour and the incorporation request was given first priority for action, if necessary, after the pending consolidation vote. On Nov. 3, 1969, a question was on the ballot to consolidate the city, township and both villages into a single new city. The question passed in the township and both villages but was lost in the city by 245 votes.

With consolidation defeated, the State Boundary Commission then assumed jurisdiction over the incorporation petition. On Dec. 12, 1969, the commission rejected the request on the basis that the villages had no jurisdiction over the township could be joined only through consolidation.

McConnell, at the same meeting, presented a sub-

stitute petition asking the commission to substitute the word "consolidation" for the word "incorporation" in his Oct. 16 petition. The commission denied the substitution request, saying the change was one of substance and was not intended to correct a technical error.

AFTER THE commission rejected the township request, the city residents then asked the county commissioner to call for an election on the annexation request.

The township countered in Oakland County Circuit Court by appealing the rejection by the Boundary Commission. Circuit Judge Frederick J. Ziem issued an injunction against the county preventing an annexation vote until the lawsuit was settled.

On Aug. 31, 1970, Judge Ziem issued his decision: the Boundary Commission was correct, and the city could proceed with the annexation election.

On Nov. 4, the annexation proposal was defeated by a negative vote of the affected Farmington residents.

Meanwhile, on Sept. 25, 1970, the township appealed Judge Ziem's decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals. On April 27, the appeals court issued its ruling that the Boundary Commission erred in rejecting the township's October 1969 petition. The next day the Boundary Commission instructed its attorney to seek an appeal to the State Supreme Court.



PHONE TRAINING — Scott Mathews is training two young persons how to use the rap phone operated by Rap Line to deal with potential drug users. Receiving the training is Jack Mingo, shown using the phone, and Joan Dickinson.

Rap Line Asks 75% Budget Hike To Add Drop-In Center, Staff

By MARTHA MAHAN
Rap Line, which recently lit a candle on its first birthday cake, will seek a \$75,000 budget for 1971-72, a 75 per cent increase over its current \$42,600 operation.

It will ask Farmington Township to up its contribution from \$12,000 to \$15,000, the City of Farmington to increase its backing from \$1,000 to \$4,000, and Oakland County to furnish \$13,000 in place of this year's \$10,000.

The Farmington Board of Education will be asked to continue to furnish administrative headquarters and certain consultative services.

WITH THE ADDED funds, the drug combat program hopes to establish one or more teen drop-in centers and to increase its staff to reach an even greater number of troubled youth than the nearly 200 Director Ralph Rideout estimated were brought into "intensive contacts" during Rap Line's first 10 months.

The projected budget, including anticipated revenue sources, was presented at a Tuesday meeting of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC), which administers the program, and representatives of the city, township, county and schools which help fund it.

Contributions from local churches, service clubs and foundations were budgeted at \$10,000, although Rideout said \$38,000 was received from these sources in the first year. He also expects to collect within the next few days a "minimum of \$2,000" from the Lala C. Wilson Trust Fund as a result of Rap Line's designation as a public foundation, making it eligible for funding from any source. The gift was held in abeyance, Rideout said, until the designation was formally approved.

However, a requested and budgeted \$19,000 grant from state distributed federal funds has been tabled in Lansing, he reported. Even if ultimately granted, the money could not

be received before September under the circumstances.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials, faced with nearing deadlines for finalizing their own (tightened) budgets, expressed alarm at what they called failure to place written statements of goals, a firm policy so I can say I have a reason for doing this."

Both Allen and Township Supervisor Earl Teeple expressed alarm at what they called failure to place written statements of goals, a firm policy so I can say I have a reason for doing this."

Allen said he was concerned about "possibly suicidal" calls which might be ineptly handled and "could conceivably end in tragedy." Teeple described himself as "grossly disturbed" at what he saw as lax follow

through both on possible suicides and those needing psychiatric care. The supervisor, a former detective, also said he was troubled lest Rap Line might be "cloistering" narcotics law breakers where they can just talk and come down."

"AGREEING ON a need for 'carefully defined goals,'" Rideout said, "some tentative goals" already have been written and he "personally hopes to have them pretty carefully defined by summertime."

Donald Thompson, advisory council president, promised to have "something — some beginning" by the group's next monthly meeting.

Among the first year accomplishments Rideout reported: 1. Legged telephone calls to Rap Line numbered between 1,200 and 1,300 in the first six months, with another 400 in January, 435 in February and 70 in March. About half were legitimate trouble calls.

2. Between 20 and 25 trained youthful counselors now are converging the Rap Line phone. "many" of whom have been "fairly closely related to this drug scene." All are drug free and have undergone training and screening of their counseling skill.

3. A training manual has been written by Scott Mathews, University of Michigan graduate student who conducts the seven-week, 14-hour counselor training program, and it is being considered for publication for use elsewhere.

4. Seven teenage and one adult "rap" group, each numbering from six to eight persons, are functioning currently. These are no sensitivity training "in the sense of nudity" and that type of expression, Rideout said, but attempts to help group members discover their problems and to devise a method of solving them, "to own and express their feelings appropriately."

"Rap" groups are being established at Duncun Junior High School "as a preventive

measure at the junior high level."

6. Speaking engagements have been "highly productive," with 51 presentations during the September-March period before a total of 3,200 persons.

7. A total of 7,079 hours of volunteer help from 107 adults was provided in Rap Line's first 10 months, including the services of doctors, lawyers, psychiatrists and other professionals. This would represent more than \$21,000 if they were paid at the rate of \$3 per hour, Rideout said.

IN THE COMING year, Rideout said Rap Line hopes to help establish and serve in a cumulative capacity to a drop-in center in Section 36, in Farmington Township's southeast area and a "verbal promise" of \$1,000 to fund it has been made by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

He also hopes to set up another administrative center to serve the township's northern section.

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HE HAS THE RIGHT IDEA



Squirrels are smart. They save good things. Like nuts. People are smart too. The ones who save their Observer carrier collection receipts are especially smart. Why? Because, starting this month, the other side of their receipts will be worth 60¢ toward an Observer Want Ad. Smart people will use their coupons to earn money with a want ad. Will you?