

## Move from township to city: 'birth and baptism'

Looking at yellowed 25-year-old newspaper accounts of how Farmington Township stepped into cityhood, there's a clear message of hope and inspiration conveyed by those early politicians and reporters to the people celebrating the anniversary this year.

"In fact, it will be a birth and baptism combined Monday evening in the Township Hall when the 'City of Farmington Hills' comes into being and the name 'Farmington Township' is relegated to the archives for historians," reporter W.W. Edgar wrote in a story for the Farmington Enterprise & Observer on May 9, 1973. The cost of the newspaper was 15 cents.

The new city included Farmington Township and two surrounding villages, Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown. In fact, voters in the villages rejected cityhood.

Local voters made the critical move toward cityhood with an approval margin of 491 voters.

In fact, the change from township to cityhood passed in only nine of the township's 21 precincts with 25 percent of eligible voters

going to the polls.

The vote was 3,604 yes and 3,113 votes no, a favorable vote of nearly 54 percent.

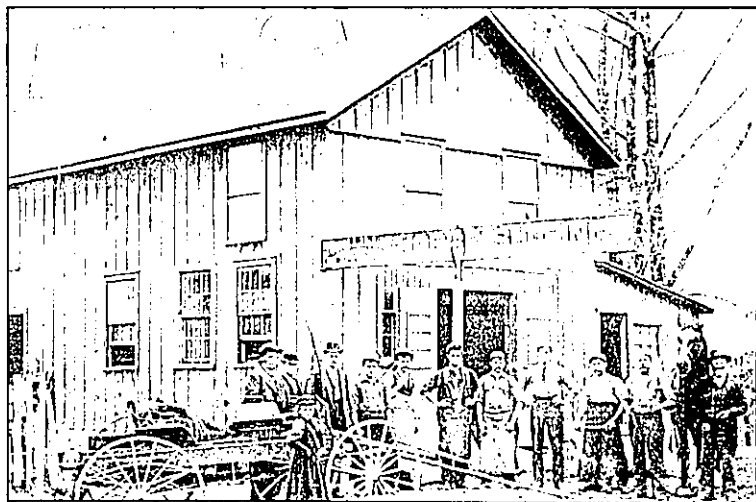
However, the politicians pushing for the change were elated. Edgar, also known as The Stroller, reported that Farmington Township Supervisor Robert McConnell saw untold possibilities with cityhood.

Some of his dreams for the new city included developing a downtown area, a post office and "our own" bank. He also looked forward to a day when the city would have its own hospital.

"And who knows," McConnell said, "the day may come – and maybe not too distant – when we will merge with the city of Farmington and be in a better position to attract many of the things we need," Edgar reported.

Not everything came to pass, but there is a main branch post office; a myriad of banks; and considerable residential and commercial growth. Twenty-five years ago, there were

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**Roots:** The community's roots are largely agricultural, although the area has grown and changed with the times.