

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Weekend of October 30-31, 1971

today's hot line

Vol. 83 No. 7 30 Pages 3 Sections

what's inside

Endorsements

City of Farmington residents will be voting Tuesday to elect three councilmen and decide the fate of three proposed charter amendments. Election information and our recommendations are offered inside.

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Sports Saved

The drive to fund athletic programs of Farmington schools is almost complete with about \$50,000 cash in hand. Success of the drive insures continuation of winter and spring sports for the three local high schools.

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101-Years-Old

News reports inside today's issue of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer are about a Farmington resident who is now 101-years-old and an upcoming "Bandorama" at Harrison High School. In addition, you can find inside our regular features such as Local News and the Farmington Community Calendar.

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Falcon Shocker

The Farmington Falcon cross country team shocked its rivals in the Inter-Lakes League conference meet last week. Here's how it happened.

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The End of October Means Halloween Fun But Don't Forget...

It also means that your Observer carrier will be coming to collect for your carrier service. Remember to ask him for a receipt. It's worth its face value toward a classified advertisement in the Observer Newspapers.



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Quakertown Asks Exclusion From Incorporation Move

By EMORY DANIELS

The Village of Quakertown wants to be excluded from Farmington Township's cityhood petition and left free to become a fifth class city on its own.

The exclusion request was made by Howard Bond, village attorney, at Wednesday afternoon's pre-hearing conference held by the State Boundary Commission.

The request came as a surprise to most who had gathered in township hall to hear arguments on why the township should incorporate

and why five parcels of the township should be excluded for eventual annexation by the city.

THE CHOICES now facing the boundary commission are: (1) whether the township should have an incorporation election, (2) whether five separate parcels should be excluded for annexation to the city of Farmington and (3) whether Quakertown should also be excluded.

Bond explained that the Quakertown council, miffed because the village will not have veto power on cityhood under incorporation

proceedings, wants to "go it alone" as a fifth-class city. Bond said villagers are proud of their large, wooded residential lots south of I-96 and want to insure zoning control to maintain the village's character.

The village is capable of maintaining itself, he added, because Quakertown has a tax base of \$7.2 million, and this will grow to about \$12 million within five years.

The tax base will increase with new construction in the Thompson-Brown office complex on 12 Mile east of Farmington Rd. and with completion of the Sheldon

development on the southwest corner of 12 Mile and Farmington Rds.

IN ADDITION, Bond said, Quakertown has some 85 undeveloped acres north of I-96 which will be developed commercial, multiple or office to add to the village tax base. "If Quakertown is to be involved in a cityhood vote, it would prefer a consolidation election, but the court has eliminated that right."

"Because of this, the village council is requesting the boundary commission to exclude Quakertown from the present incorporation

proceedings," Bond said.

The council feels the present tax base is very adequate to maintain all the necessary services for the village, Bond said, pointing out villagers have been contributing two mills for police and fire protection and 1 1/2 mills for library services.

If the 10 Mile sewer arm eventually is located through Quakertown, Bond reasoned, it could be constructed through joint agreement by township and village with the contract signed with Oakland County and costs based on a connecting basis.

agreements for fire protection, he added.

"I believe in local community identity and think the individual should have the maximum right to do what he wants with his own land," Rozian philosophized, "and hesitate to give these up for more efficiency and service, but cities must be self-supporting."

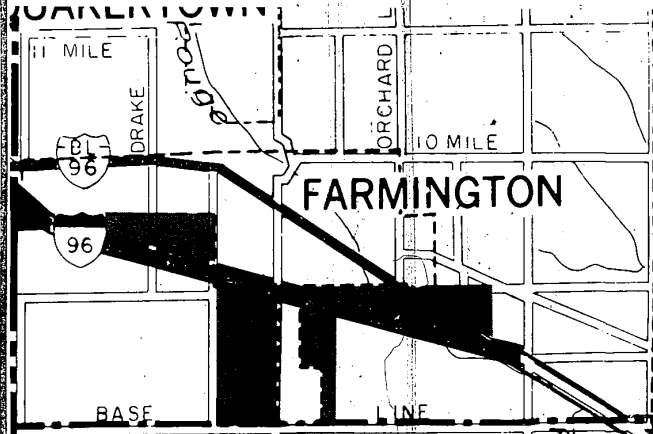
Quakertown had problems with vandalism, Bond added, and most residents would be glad to pay more for police protection.

JOSEPH T. BRENNAN, township attorney, argued Quakertown is essentially part of the township and there was not any legal justification for exclusion.

The incorporation question will not carry unanimously, he added, and should persons voting "no" also be excluded? Why exclude Quakertown because 800 persons out of 50,000 in the township don't want incorporation? asked Brennan.

The township has always

Continued on Page 2A



DISPUTED LAND—Five parcels of land in Farmington Township, totaling about one square mile, are a matter of dispute to be settled by the State Boundary Commission. The

City of Farmington would like the parcels to square off its boundaries while the township insists the territory is best left to become part of Farmington Hills. (Observer map)

State Hears Debate On Disputed Areas

Attorneys vocalized more than two hours Wednesday afternoon as arguments and counters were made before the State Boundary Commission. The questions were whether Farmington Township should incorporate as a city and whether the City of Farmington should be given the chance to annex five parcels of land from the township.

There was little argument whether the township should incorporate as a home-rule city. Most of the discussion centered on whether the city

should be allowed to square its boundaries by adding township territory.

Setting was the township hall, site for the pre-hearing conference held to allow attorneys to file briefs and argue points with the commission before the public hearing.

The public hearing will be held Dec. 2 in the auditorium of North Farmington High School. At that hearing, the governmental units will be given an hour to share with the remainder of time given to residents.

The city, represented by

special counsel Burton Shifman Southfield, asked that five parcels of township land be excluded from the incorporation petition to be annexed later to the city.

"THE FIVE PARCELS the city desires are:

AREA ONE: 80 acres bounded by Gill Rd. on the east, I-96 (freeway) and Freedom Rd. on the south, the city limits on the north running to a point on the west where I-96 and the city limits intersect.

AREA TWO: 60 acres

bounded by the intersection of Grand River and I-96 on the east, Grand River on the south, the city limits on the north and I-96 on the west.

AREA THREE: 150 acres bounded on the east by the property line east of Power Rd. and then by Power Rd., Nine Mile on the south, I-96 on the north and the city limits on the west.

AREA FOUR: 320 acres bounded by Farmington Rd. on the east, Eight Mile on the south, Nine Mile on the north and Gill on the west.

Continued on Page 10B

RESIDENTIAL development in Quakertown is of a nature which cannot be found in other areas of the township, Bond responded. Residents feel if the village becomes part of a large, populous city its residential developments will soon fade into other types of developments.

Rozian observed that a community of only two square miles is likely to become pariahs upon neighboring communities because either residents will be crushed with high taxes to pay for services or services must be borrowed from neighbors.

"You will have to argue pretty hard to me to justify another two-square mile city in the Detroit area," Rozian told Bond.

Bond replied that many municipalities rely on larger cities for services, such as Farmington Township getting its water from Detroit. Many cities also have mutual pact

Fact-Finder Is Delayed

Roger Allen, executive director of the Farmington Education Association (FEA), announces that fact finder Dallas Jones has indicated an inability due to schedule difficulties to set the fact-finding hearing between the FEA and the Farmington School District prior to Nov. 23.

Jones told the parties that he realized the importance of hearing these matters as soon as possible and, therefore, should the parties wish to try and arrange for an earlier hearing with a different fact finder, he would approve such a request.

Allen stated that "in view of Jones' rather severe schedule problems, the association would accept the fact finder's advice and seek the board's cooperation in petitioning the Michigan Employment Relations Commission for an earlier hearing date."

"I am sure that both the board and the association are interested in a quick resolution of the present contract dispute. I feel that Jones' alternative affords both parties an opportunity to expedite what otherwise might be an unduly cumbersome process," said Allen.

Should the actual hearing not begin until Nov. 23, the fact finder's recommendations would most likely not be known until very late in the first semester. Teachers have been working without a contract since the opening of school.

100 Losing Jobs

Star Cutter Closing Plant Here

The recession may be coming to an end, but the conclusion will come too late for Star Cutter Co. of Farmington Township.

The firm has announced it is closing down its production facility after 20 years in the township at 34500 Grand River.

THE CLOSING will mean a loss of jobs for about 100 production workers, about 90 per cent of whom live within a 10-mile radius of the plant.

The phase-out will also mean a substantial loss of tax revenues to the township and Farmington Schools. In 1971,

the 80,000-square foot building and 44 acres were assessed at \$458,900.

The building and land will remain on the tax roles but personal property within the plant, machinery and equipment, will be removed. Star Cutter's 1971 personal property was assessed at \$1.25 million.

This year, Star Cutter paid \$20,560 in school and county taxes and \$2,155 in township taxes.

THE FIRM, which produces metal cutting and machine tools, has been in Farmington since 1951 and before that had operated in Detroit since 1927.

The general offices and sales offices will remain in Farmington, says president Norman Laughton, but the production facility will be closed down and moved outside of Farmington, somewhere in Michigan.

Laughton explained that his firm is reorganizing and will move into a smaller factory and go into a more specialized operation.

Rising costs have forced the reorganization, he noted, particularly increased labor costs and higher taxes. "Some of our product lines will be eliminated, and we'll add a few. We'll close down this plant and begin looking

for a smaller site. Costs have gotten too high all the way down the line. High taxes are but one of the many factors."

LAUGHTON SAID it will be a product-by-product phase out over a period of 18 months to two years. Within this time, a decision will be made where to relocate and to whom to sell the present facility.

He said the machine cutting business is very competitive, and industries with lower taxes and lower labor costs have an edge in the market. He likened cost problems to facing Star Cutter to those of Federal-Mogul which is closing its Detroit plants.

At one time, Star Cutter employed some 250 workers in its factory but over the past few years has lowered its work force to 100. The average seniority of employees, Laughton estimates, is 15-18 years.

The employees had been members of an independent union but were organized by the UAW in 1955. Starting in 1967, rising costs began reaching a point where serious problems resulted.

FOR THREE years Laughton fought the trend but has finally decided to reorganize and begin operating on a smaller scale.

Star Cutter has four other plants other than its main facility in Farmington.

"I am sorry to see them go," says Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeples. "They've been a real fine neighbor and have contributed a lot to the community."

Among these contributions are a pistol range for the township police and Fire Hall Number One, both on the Star Cutter property.

Star Cutter was among the top three industries in the Farmington area. It is a closely-held corporation with Laughton's son, Brad, a vice-president.