

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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today's hot line

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what's inside

Santa's Here

Santa Claus was literally everywhere at once last week to begin taking orders for Christmas, and your hometown paper had to field five photographers to keep up with him. We did it — with a full page of pictures.

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Higher Pay?

The state fact-finder has arrived in Farmington and spent all day Tuesday hearing arguments from Farmington teachers on why they deserve more pay. After hearing rebuttals from the administration, Prof. Dallas Jones will return to the University of Michigan to reduce to writing his conclusions.

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25 Turkeys

Twenty-five persons didn't have to buy a turkey to place on their table Thanksgiving Day. The reason why is reported inside, along with an account of adult education classes by Farmington Public Schools and a student who has been honored for being a good citizen.

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Falcons Spread Wings

Farmington opens its basketball season...to see how high the Falcons will be flying read Donoghue's run-down of the team.

Page 11A

Park Money

The federal government came up with some money, so it looks as if there will be a state park at Detroit's old Maybury Sanatorium site in Northville Township after all.

Page 5A

Lady Musicians

How does it feel to be among the few women in a major symphony orchestra? Corinne Abatt talked to some distaff members of the Detroit Symphony, and her story is in today's Women's Section.

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City Manager John Dinan Announces His Resignation

John Dinan has resigned as Farmington city manager, effective Feb. 1, to pursue a private career in business.

Dinan's resignation announcement came as a surprise Wednesday although councilmen were told of the move in a special meeting Monday night, Nov. 22.

THE DEPARTURE will end 11 years as city manager for the City of Farmington and conclude an unusual close working relationship between city council and top administrator.

"It was a real tough decision," Dinan told the Farmington Enterprise & Observer Wednesday. "The city has been a great town to work in and has a real fine council."

The city manager will be leaving government service entirely, after 20 years in municipal administration, to pursue a career in business.

"I am considering a couple of good business opportunities," said Dinan, who added he was not at liberty to reveal details about the offers.

HE WILL, however, remain a resident of the city along with his wife, Jean, and four children.

The city will begin advertising to recruit a successor, Dinan said, by advertising in the state and national municipal journals.

Dinan, 46, came to Farmington in October 1960 after serving almost 10 years as Oak Park assistant city manager. He graduated from Lawrence Institute of Technology as a civil engineer and spent two years in the U.S. Navy before joining the City of Oak Park.

AS FARMINGTON city manager for the past 11 years, Dinan has administered the following advances:

Construction of a new city hall and DPW facility; conversion from well water to Detroit water and establishment of a complete water system; and construction of Drake Road Park and improvements to the City Park on Shiawassee.

Also: paving of six miles of streets in the city; annexation of 500 acres; doubling of city's population and growth in tax base of 300 per cent; repaving of Grand River; construction of three municipal parking lots; the beginning of the downtown redevelopment program; and addition of new subdivisions — Chatham Hills, Drake Heights and Woodcroft.

Dinan has been active in civic affairs, having served as president of the Farmington Exchange Club and member of the Farmington Founders Festival committee. He has also been active with the Farmington Chamber of Commerce as an ex-officio member of the board.



FARMINGTON CITY MANAGER JOHN DINAN
Announces Resignation

City Forum Is Dec. 2

The State Boundary Commission will be in Farmington Thursday, Dec. 2, to conduct a public hearing on the proposed cityhood for Farmington Township.

The hearing will begin at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of North Farmington High School, 32500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Township.

The first hour will be devoted to hearing arguments from attorneys representing the Farmington area governments. At about 9 p.m., the floor will be given to the public so commissioners can hear from residents whether the township should be incorporated as a home-rule city.

COMMISSIONERS will be making a decision on an incorporation petition filed two years ago, in October 1969, by Robert McConnell on behalf of the Future Farmington Assn. (FFA).

The Michigan Court of Appeals has ordered the commission to set an incorporation election, overruling a decision made by Oakland County Circuit Judge Frederick Ziem.

Ziem had ruled that a township and two incorporated areas (the two villages) could be joined into a city only through consolidation and that incorporation was an improper vehicle.

The appellate court reversed Ziem's ruling and ordered the commission to conduct hearings and set an election on the question of combining Farmington Township, Wood Creek Farms Village and Quakertown Village into a home-rule city.

THE DIFFERENCE between the two cityhood procedures is that consolidation gives a village the power to veto, in effect, a cityhood vote while incorporation provides the village votes will be counted as part of the total township vote.

Loss of veto power has prompted Quakertown to ask the commission to exclude it from the incorporation election. Once the township incorporates, says Howard Bond, village attorney, Quakertown would then ask to become a fifth-class city.



SPECIAL INTEREST groups at Shiawassee Elementary School help students like Edward Miller, (left) sixth grade, and Mark Johnston, fifth grade, concentrate on "Microscopic Plants and Animals." The boys are shown above viewing human blood cells under the school's microscope. (Fran Evert Photo)



NEVER TOO YOUNG to learn about nature, second graders like Julie Ziegelman are easily intrigued by things they see along the nature trail at Forest Elementary School. Julie holds a shaggy mushroom while two beautiful specimens thrive in the foreground. (Fran Evert Photo)

Elementary Curriculum Goes Beyond The 3 'Rs'



ALL ALONG the trail at Forest Elementary School students discover nature's wonders. Here Mike Pennala (left) and Mark Babcock examine shelf fungus growing on a log on a path through the woods. (Evert Photo)

"Probably the most important aspect of our schools is quality teachers and subject matter," says Larry Freedman, new director of elementary education for Farmington School District. He should know—he helped pioneer the "open concept" in education as principal at Wood Creek Elementary School and has watched the concept spread to several other schools in the district.

BOND ELEMENTARY School, one of the district's oldest, learning establishments, is "always open to new ideas," Freedman said. Hence, new "activity rooms" where students can work on small group projects with the aid of school equipment now serve the student body—even the lower grades. The school is adapting its facilities to incorporate as much of the open concept as possible.

Shiawassee, Longacre and Lakeshire elementary schools have each added a new addition this year in an effort to include open classrooms (with

no doors, usually conjunctive with a media center) in the school plans.

Shiawassee Principal Robert Jackson explained in a recent report that his school now sports six open classrooms with acoustical ceilings. "The open school concept," he said, "was pioneered and established in England and Canada. It means basically that the teacher becomes a student helper rather than a lecturer."

STUDENTS LEARN at their own pace, work in small groups whenever possible and help each other.

"Tenets of education long subscribed to by educators — such as children learn best by doing, by discovering for themselves — can at last truly be implemented," said Jackson. For example, sixth graders may read to first graders so they gain reading experience while the first graders may gain writing experience at the same time.

Spelling classes no longer be implemented. (Continued on Page 2A)

Anti-Bussing Rally Set

An anti-bussing rally has been set for Wednesday, Dec. 1, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Farmington Senior High.

The meeting has been staged by the Tri County group opposed to bussing school children to obtain racially balanced schools and is being sponsored by the Drake Heights Homeowners Association.

The forum, open to the public, will feature officers from the Tri County group and its attorney Robert Lord.

Lord, who has been engaged in legal battles against low income housing in the suburbs, is seeking permission from Federal District Judge Stephen Roth to allow Tri County Citizens to intervene in the lawsuit against Detroit Schools.

Before Lord can intervene on behalf of parents in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, all the parties now in the lawsuit must agree to the group's intervention.

Thus far, Gov. Milliken and Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley have written Lord giving their concurrence to the intervention but concurrence has not yet been granted by the NAACP or Detroit Schools. Mrs. Mary Ann Rossman of Farmington says Lord will be at the Wednesday rally in Farmington to answer any questions residents might have on actions which can be taken by individuals.