

the Farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

15¢ a Copy

Weekend of April 21, 1973



THE SCRAMBLE at the park began for these five through 10-year-olds at Saturday's egg hunt. (Evert photo)



A CARROT for the Easter bunny is offered by Aliza McCormick, age 3 1/2, Farmington. (Evert photo)

today's hot line

Volume 84 Number 55 • Three News Sections

what's inside

Proposed Charter

A complete copy of the proposed charter for the City of Farmington Hills is published in a special supplement to today's Enterprise and Observer. Save the complete text as well as a brief summary, as a reference for the coming election May 8.

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Charter Critics

A group formed to oppose incorporation had its first hearing at North Farmington High School, Thursday. We have the story on...

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Easter Services

We have information on special ones being held all over the area. Check our Church Section for details.

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Agape Meal

It was served at Schoolcraft College as part of Holy Week observances, and we have pictures and a report. See today's Church Section.

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Boycott Postview

Several businessmen agreed in a recent panel discussion that the meat boycott didn't accomplish its purpose, but a consumer group leader insisted it's still needed. The report is in Observing Life.

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Reorganize Town Hall? Charter Will Bring Changes

EDITOR'S NOTE: The proposed charter for the City of Farmington Hills is published in today's Enterprise and Observer. This is the first of a series of articles analyzing what changes in local government proposed by the document, which will be presented to the voters May 8.

By DAN McCOSH

Removing politicians from administrative posts will probably be the biggest single change if voters of Farmington Township approve the charter for the proposed City of Farmington Hills.

As a township, three of the five administrators with names on their doors run for office on a partisan ballot. These are the clerk, supervisor and treasurer. The building and police department heads are appointed. The charter calls for eli-

minating all the elective administrative offices.

Instead, an elected, non-partisan seven-member council will appoint and administrative staff, headed by a professional city manager.

A straight line of authority through the manager would be established, emphasized in this section of the charter: "The council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the manager solely through the manager, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately."

That section emphasized the major change over the current situation. Under a township form of government, the administrators are autonomous, political equals, who can cross each other and the remainder of the

township board almost at will.

The charter provides for a three-year contract for the city manager, appointed by the city council "solely on the basis of his executive and administrative experience."

The manager appoints department heads, subject to the approval of the council. Department heads appoint and remove employees within their departments.

There are exceptions to this straight line of appointments in the document. The city clerk, for instance, is appointed directly by the council.

The mayor, who is elected by the council, makes appointments to boards and commissions, including planning and the board of review,

with the approval of the council.

The board of canvassers and professional consultants are named directly by the council.

If the charter is approved, a new set of department names will go on the doors at city hall. A department of finance will replace the treasurer's office.

The department of public safety will change little, but a new "division of human rescue" is called for.

This is the only new service called for directly in the charter. It would establish a department to handle rescue calls, currently handled by the volunteer fire department.

The township building de-

partment becomes one of three divisions under the department of public services.

Public services will probably eventually expand to a full-fledged DPW for street repair, etc., but initial plans are to contract for the actual work to be done.

Two new departments established by the charter would have to put in commission by the city council — planning and special services. The charter makes provision for these departments, but plans are not to establish them immediately.

All this reorganization likely will cause a massive shift of duties at what is now township hall.

The township clerk, for instance, has assumed a large number of duties regarding special assessments, drain and water projects.

Under the charter, this is the clear responsibility of the

division of public works. The city clerk will run elections and act as secretary to the council.

Besides the reorganization, the charter has been written to include some explicit management tools:

- Quarterly reports to the council on budget expenditures.

- A five year major capital improvement program resubmitted every year.
- An independent audit done annually by a registered CPA.

- A managerial audit of the functions of city government other than finances. This mandates an outside consultant to review the internal organization of the city at least every five years.

In this area, the charter goes further than most in requiring the management audit and quarterly budget reports.

First Boy Scout Takes Look Back

By STEVE BARNABY

A mild May breeze prodded the newly blossomed apple trees in the church yard at Bristol, England in 1910 when John Hunt proudly took the oath as a Boy Scout from scouting founder Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

Today, Baden-Powell and Boy Scouting are firmly entrenched in history and John Hunt, 75, of 22948 Hayden, Farmington remembers that day with a gleam of pride in his eye.

Since that day, Hunt has risen to earn the highest honor in scouting, the silver beaver, and served as president of the Clinton-Oakland Scouting Council.

A few weeks before that swearing-in, Baden-Powell had initiated the scouting movement in London.

"Sir Baden-Powell was a strict military man; a tough fellow. Because of his experiences in the Boer War, he believed the average soldier was in bad condition and that scouting would be a good way for youth to learn how to be physically fit and mentally independent," said Hunt.

Baden-Powell walked along that line of rag-tag youth, speaking to each one individually. After explaining his conception of scouting to the boys he addressed them.

"Are you willing to stay in scouting?"

Whether out of fear or admiration, not a boy flinched. They all wanted to "stay" in scouting.

Hunt proudly relates that the architect of the largest youth movement in history personally picked him to be a patrol leader.

"Scouting was held in high regard in those days. In order to get in you had to have a letter from a minister and a businessman. Being a scout was one of the best references a person could have to get a job. If you were a scout, no questions were asked."

In the early days of scouting, regular church attendance and good report cards were an integral part of scouting. There was only the King Scout rank which took from 18 months to two years to achieve.

Shortly after achieving the King Scout rank, Hunt moved to Canada and then on to the United States where he was instrumental in creating scout troops in Ontario and Pennsylvania.

In 1927 he moved to Farmington and took over as scout leader. The local troop was housed in the basement of the bank on Grand River and Farmington Rd.

An executive at General Motors for 35 years, Hunt sought out his fellow workers to support the scouts. It wasn't long before he had all the major executives into one branch or other of scouting.

"We built up a group that wouldn't quit. Once we made the plans, everything was sure to go fine. I can't think of one person who failed me

in all of those years."

"Through years in scouting his philosophy has been to give a person a job and leave him alone to do it. He swears that it works the majority of the time."

Married for 47 years, Hunt, his wife Lillian, and four children have all been active in scouting.

His proudest moment in scouting was when he became a member of the Order of the Arrow, a branch of scouting that requires in-depth knowledge of the outdoor skills.

Hunt doesn't believe in the "good old days" philosophy. He sees a bright future for the youth group.

"They are steering toward the environment as nature. This is a sign that scouting is keeping up with the times. The problem today is that you can't get adults interested in young people."

Although he dedicated a large portion of his life to scouting, Hunt doesn't see it as the last word in youth. He was also active for many years in coordinating the publicity for the soap box derby in Akron, Ohio.

"Just because a youngster doesn't want to join the scouts doesn't mean there isn't some other kind of group that would interest him. A little caring from someone is bound to help."

Without a doubt, John Hunt has displayed a record of caring for his fellow man that any young man could admire.



JOHN HUNT displays the "silver beaver," scouting's honor for contributions by adult workers. (Evert photo)

When your Observer carrier stops his bike at your doorstep this month and says, "Collect," be sure to ask for your receipt. It's worth its face value toward an Observer Want Ad.

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