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The Observer

OF FARMINGTON

THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Townships of Canton, Plymouth, Redford, Salem, Nankin, Farmington

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Paul M. Chandler, Founder

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The six Observer Newspapers are Michigan's largest weekly newspapers per group. Complete coverage of all local interest. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.

This Edition Contains
64 PAGES

Township Moves To Become A City

Members of the Farmington Township administration were waiting at the Oakland County Clerk's office 7:30 a.m. Monday morning to file petitions calling for an election on whether or not to incorporate the Township, including the Villages of Quakertown and Woodcreek, into a City. Their quick move was based on what they said was information that the City of Farmington planned to file for an attempt at annexing more than the 600 acres it came within 25 votes of securing in last week's election.

Admittedly, the principal fear of the Township administration was that the attempted grab would include "the bulk of our industrial park."

City Manager John Dinan seemed surprised by the Township's action. And Mayor V. W. Brotherton, contacted by 'the Observer on the night before the move became public, said he had no intention of making a further annexation effort at the present time; that they do not do this unless invited in by what appears to be a representative group.

Now it is a matter of fact that the City must wait until the Township has had its chance to put incorporation to a vote of the people. This point was strongly made to a group of Woodcreek and Quakertown residents who came to the Township Board meeting on Monday disturbed by the fact that their Villages had been included in the proposed new City of Farmington.

What the Township has done, explained Trustee Tom

Duke, is to secure its borders, thus providing the citizens time to decide what their future type of government will be. He argued that the Township was not only threatened by the City but by possible nibbling by Livonia, Novi and Southfield as well. Township Supervisor Curt Hall stressed the imminence of the threat in

explaining the suddenness of the move. His arguments were so persuasive they even impressed his Democratic political foe Aldo Vagnozzi.

To the Villagers, Hall pointed out that if they were left out of the new City they would be deprived of their share of the Township's debts without adequate sources of revenue.

That the City almost got Woodcreek Subdivision and might have succeeded in tying it into the City sewers and water was a bad fright for the Township Board as Hall conceded; for the Courts allowed it the Township would have been deprived of a considerable sum of revenue.

"We can expect the City to

sweep its proposals considerably next time in an attempt to convince Township residents of the annexation area of the financial benefits of joining the City," said Curt Hall in a statement which the Township circulated in its successful search for the necessary number of signatures.

"Your Township" Hall's statement continued, "has expended many thousands of dollars and thousands of man-hours of time toward the development of an intelligent comprehensive plan for the development of the area. We have spent, or committed the Township, to millions of dollars for necessary public services. You have dedicated tax

money to the construction of water and sewer services to serve the Industrial Park area in order to develop a balanced tax base which will permit us to afford to live in the kind of community that we want Farmington to be.

"A successful annexation attempt by the City will make a shambles out of our comprehensive plan and destroy the years of work which are now showing tangible results in new factories being constructed and operating in our Industrial Park.

"There is only one way that annexation attempts can be forestalled. Only Home Rule City is immune from these grabs of its territory."

In conclusion, Hall assured that "the Township will appoint a study committee to begin immediately to get the views of our people as to the type of municipal government best suited to our present and future needs."

The move apparently came out of a combined meeting of the Township Trustees and the Planning Commission on Sunday afternoon. There were apparently mixed emotions about it. Thomas Duke said he was an admirer of Township government with few reservations one.

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AT THE 19th DISTRICT Democratic Dinner, on Friday night, the benediction was given by Rev. Joseph Pelham, minister of Farmington's Trinity Episcopal Church. To the left of Rev. Pelham is Frank J. Kelley, Attorney General of the State of Michigan.

Stevenson New Twp. GOP Head

Dale A. Foot, Oakland County Republican Party Chairman has announced the appointment of Charles W. Stevenson, 32882 Biddlestone, as Director of Organization in the township of Farmington. He replaces Tom Nolan, who was recently appointed a Township Trustee.

Married and the father of two children, Stevenson is a past-Councilman of the Village of Quakertown and Assistant District Commissioner with the Boy Scouts. He was just elected Township President of Quakertown last week.

His Party activities have included Personnel Director for Farmington Township and Neighbor to Neighbor Chairman for the Township. As Chairman of the Special Events Committee he was responsible for the GOP's successful O-Road held this year at the John F. Ivory Farm. He has long been an active precinct



REVIEWING THE RESULTS of their survey of community needs members of the Farmington Jaycees, from the left: John Hay, chairman of the tabulating committee; Pat Foran, chairman for publicity; and John Bailey, another co-chairman for publicity. In back of them is Dr. John Richardson, committee chairman for Jaycees development. To fill out a survey turn to inside page.

Public, Private Sectors Join To Build Sidewalk

By Herbert Fine

The Farmington Township Board of Trustees Monday night devoted its entire \$1,200 matching fund plus \$800 of its next year's fund to help build a sidewalk from Forest Park Subdivision—Nine Mile and Inkster—to the William Grace School, Shawassaw near Middlebelt.

Cost of the projected sidewalk is \$6,000. Of the remaining cost, the Board of Education is assuming \$1,000, a home-builder is obligated for another \$1,000, and the remaining \$2,000 has been pledged by residents of the area. Hopefully, construction will begin by the end of the week.

The story behind these figures is one of hard work and initiative on the part of residents of the area.

The children from Forest Park subdivision walk a good half mile on the gravel shoulder of the Shawassaw Road to William Grace Elementary School.

"In the last year there have been at least two incidents where children have been struck by cars, one of them being hit and run. In addition, on days of rain or snow, the children are sure to be splashed by passing cars and there are numerous puddles along the shoulder. This means wet shoes, damp clothes and an occasional scuffle or two."

Although attempts were made previously to get the Township or Oakland County to pave a sidewalk to the school, the answer has always been a big fat NO. That is until two irate mothers, Mrs. Donald Wittenberg and Mrs. Nathan Firestone, got into the act. Both refused to take no for an answer.

First, they got off a letter to the FTA signed by the Forest Park mothers. Next, they presented the Township into agreeing to match dollar for dollar to get the job done, the estimated

cost for paving the sidewalk

was originally \$6,000. However, a builder constructed some homes on Shawassaw will pave sidewalks on one deal of money to be collected

block and the Board of Education will pave sidewalks on another block. This absorbed some of the costs, but still left a good deal of money to be collected

by Mesdames Wittenberg and Firestone. So they recruited a group of neighbors into action. First, (Continued on Page 20B)



A LAND MARK disappeared from Farmington on Friday, when 33014 Grand River was leveled by a wrecker. It had in

the past housed the Thayer Funeral Home. A Goodyear Tire Store will rise on the site.

Square Dancing, Bridge Disappoint Rec Leader

Attendance at the weekly, two-hour "get-together" gymnasium sessions sponsored by the Farmington City Recreation Department continues to be supported by residents of the City. Registration is open throughout the remaining weeks of the program which is offered free of charge.

Participation in the gymnasium segment of the program is on a come when you can basis and all between the ages of 20 and 70 are invited.

The program was initiated this past month on a trial basis to fill a recreational void that the City Council felt present in the community. Thus far, the city leaders have mixed emotions concerning the question as

to whether or not to continue or discard the program. It was hoped that the original activities of the program would be continued through the winter and spring with other varied activities added as the program progressed.

Evans Baggers, program director, stated that he would welcome suggestions from city residents as to what they would like included in any further activities the Department might sponsor. The Department is presently checking into the possibility of renting swim facilities in nearby areas where such facilities exist. Also, some thought has been given to possibility of maintaining a supervised ice-skating rink.

Baggers said he was disappointed in the enrollment figures of both the Square Dance and Bridge Club portions of the program. At present, there are three "squares" of people enjoying the calls of country music, and several tables of bridge players. The Department expected double these figures when the program was in its planning stages however. According to Baggers: "We have the best in the business as far as instructors are concerned in the persons of Harry Wood and Rose Anderson, and its too bad that more people don't avail themselves of their services and talents."

Twp. Changes Drivers' Code

The Township of Farmington has amended its Uniform Traffic Code.

As to whether drivers should respond to "red" or to "blue" flashing lights, the specific color has been taken out of the Code, and only the words "flashing lights" remain. Violations of County speed signs are now to be considered violations of the Township ordinance.

To throw mud or debris at another auto is now to be considered a violation of the Township ordinance. "Careless driving" is now to be considered "reckless driving."

An announcement of these amendments was made at the meeting of the Township Board of Trustees Monday night by Township attorney Joseph T. Brennan.

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Election Analysis:

Should the School Tax Limit Be Increased?

By JOY STINSON
(Editor's Note: This is the third and final article in our information on the three school election proposals to be put before the voters of the Farmington Public School District Monday, Nov. 15. It deals with Proposal C (Operating Millage Increase).

When voters go to the polls Monday, they will be asked to approve Proposal C which decides the caliber of education

their children will be receiving over the next few years.

In order to provide additional operating funds, shall the limitation on the total amount of general ad valorem taxes which may be imposed for all purposes in any one year upon real and tangible personal property in Farmington Public School District, Oakland County, Michigan, be increased as provided in Section 8, Article IX, of the Constitution of Michigan, for a period of ten (10) years from

1966 to 1975, both inclusive by four (4) mills on each dollar (\$4.00 per \$1,000) of the assessed valuation of property as finally equalized, for the purpose of developing and putting it in another.

Approval of Proposal C will not increase the tax rate which is presently being assessed each taxpayer. However, such a switch of funds does require voter approval.

At present the total tax rate for operation and debt retirement is \$32.50 per \$1,000 of

State equalized valuation.

Proposal C asks that the debt retirement rate be reduced from \$11 per \$1,000 (which has been paid for several years) to \$7 with the operating rate rising from \$21.50 to \$25.50 per \$1,000. Taxpayers would still be paying the same amount but more money would be used for operating expenses with the debt retirement being reduced.

This means that the payment on bond issues would be extended over a longer period of

years.

Experts in school finance have assured the Board of Education that this action is financially sound and necessary in a rapidly growing area where operating funds are urgently needed. This is also good business, they say, because people who will be using the buildings in future years also will be helping to pay for them.

Even with the lowered debt rate, Farmington still will be above average in their efforts

to pay off their debts. School bond issues are now showing tangible results in new factories being constructed and operating in our Industrial Park.

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Local residents that levied 13 mills for debt and found their tax revenue inadequate to meet payment on their outstanding bonds in the State law affecting rapid growing school districts and their ability to borrow from the State Bond Loan Fund. Since May, 1963, every Michigan school district

Observer Urges 3 'Yes' Votes For Schools, . . . See Editorial Page 18A