

# In Our Opinion . . .

## Get the Facts - Weigh Them Carefully

Can the township form of government survive in a very rapidly growing area surrounded by several other rapidly growing cities?

The answer might very well be "yes" if there was some form of protection against neighboring cities moving in to annex away certain choice pieces of property at just about any time they felt they could successfully do so. The plain and simple facts are, however, that townships and villages have no protection whatsoever from annexation attempts by adjoining municipalities.

Farmington Township officials made it clear last week that they would much prefer to continue to use Farmington Township remain and continue to operate under the township form of government. But, they also made it quite clear that they have very strong reasons to believe that more and more attempts at annexing away select parcels of land from Farmington Township will be made by adjoining cities in the months and years ahead.

No one would deny that the township form of government doesn't have some very distinct advantages over any other form of government. There is very likely no truer form of democratic government than this.

But, some very fundamental other facts must also be kept in mind.

The township form of government was established and has functioned pretty much throughout its entire existence as a government with very limited regulatory powers, and little or no taxing power.

It is a form of government that was established primarily to serve rural or quite sparsely settled sections of counties with most of the minimum amount of local services required coming from the county itself.

Michigan legislation has in the past and still does tend to make it desirable for areas that have built up or are building up to change to a different form of government when a rather substantial population density begins to be reached.

A considerable amount of time, energy and money has been spent to develop a master plan that will make Farmington Township a well balanced community and one with a sound tax base but it has been done predicated on the fact that the present boundaries of the township would be kept the same. The cutting away of some of the more choice areas of the township through annexation by neighboring municipalities could almost totally wreck this "balanced community" master plan.

Each and every individual homeowner must consider seriously the effect it might well have on them in the area of personal local tax obligations. Farmington Township is deeply committed and for an extended period of time to pay off on bond issues that were required to bring adequate water and sewer facilities into the community to allow a continued and orderly growth. Again, these commitments were made predicated on the fact that present township boundaries would remain the same. Should some of the choicer areas be taken away by annexation then the added local bond indebtedness burden would have to be picked up by those in the areas remaining in the township.

There are many pros and cons to this question of incorporation and the changing over to a city form of government. It will behoove each and every township citizen and property owner to get all the facts and information he can on these pros and cons between now and "decision day" some four or five months hence.

## It Doesn't Belong to "Us" Anymore

In a "Letter to the Editor" in last week's paper, the writer took some pretty rough pokes at the Farmington Masonic Lodge members for the manner in which they are proceeding to remodel the old Town Hall at Farmington Road and Grand River.

He bemoaned the fact that the local Masonic Lodge was not restoring the building in the manner in which he thinks it should be.

Our only reaction can be that we don't feel anybody but members of the Lodge should have much of anything to say about what is being done to the building regardless of what the Masons may have indicated they might do at the time they purchased the old structure.

After the township offices were removed out the building was pretty much vacant other than when the upper level was in use for Masonic Lodge meetings and was beginning to look pretty sickly. When talks of selling began, both the City of Farmington and the Township made it clear that they had no desire to buy the building and restore and retain it for community uses.

A number of local citizens did voice strong desires to see the building retained as a community landmark but no citizens or community groups came forth with anywhere near enough money to acquire the property to accomplish this.

The property was very near the point of being put on the block for purchase on the open market when the Masons stepped forth with their plans to buy out the city and township's interest in the building and keep the present structure standing. Any outside firm buying the property, we are certain, would have soon had a wrecking crew in.

While many of us may be desirous of seeing the building restored to retain the charm of architecture of another era, the fact remains that the building is no longer owned or controlled by our community's governing bodies anymore but by a private organization. They have the right to do whatever they wish with the building. They can even tear it down at some later date if they want.

## Looking Back in the Files

<p><b>5 YEARS AGO</b></p> <p><b>NOVEMBER 17, 1960</b>  <b>New School</b>          Construction is under way on the newest school in the Farmington School District, the Beechview Elementary School, in Section 14 of Farmington Township.</p> <p><b>Textbook Rentals</b>          A "grass roots" movement to get free school books for youngsters in the Farmington School District or a program that would provide textbooks on a rental basis seems to be gaining momentum.</p> <p><b>FHS Grid Record</b>          The Farmington High School football team finished the 1960 season with an 8-3 record. Leading the Falcons in scoring was George Becker. John Wagner and Jim White. FHS punted 36 times this year.</p> <p><b>Enrollment View</b>          An anticipated 15,000 students will be attending classes in the Farmington School District by 1965, it was estimated this week by school officials.</p>	<p><b>10 YEARS AGO</b></p> <p><b>NOVEMBER 17, 1955</b>  <b>Grid Captain</b>          Dennis McBride, All-Conference lineman for the Farmington High School football team, was elected by his teammates to serve as Captain of the Falcon grid team for the 1956 season.</p> <p><b>Twp. Building Up</b>          Farmington Township ranks among the top communities in Oakland County for building development for the first three quarters of 1955. The Township ranked seventh among the nine units of government that issued over 400 building permits during the nine-month period.</p> <p><b>Torch Drive</b>          Farmington's United Foundation and Community Chest Drive Chairman Orin Sanderson this week announced that a total collection of \$14,500 has been applied to the community's quota of \$27,225 which is expected to be reached when all local units report in this week.</p>	<p><b>15 YEARS AGO</b></p> <p><b>NOVEMBER 18, 1950</b>  <b>All-State Harriers</b>          The Farmington High School cross-country team had two of its members earn All-State stripes for their better than 15th place finish in the State Championship Cross-Country Meet. Bob Mansfield and Gordon Harris were the Falcon harriers earning the All-State honors.</p> <p><b>Request Light</b>          The Clarenceville School District Board of Education has petitioned Oakland County safety authorities for the erection of a traffic signal at the intersection of Middlebelt Road and Eight Mile Road in Farmington Township.</p> <p><b>School Enrollment</b>          An enrollment of somewhere between 3,880 and 4,268 students by 1956 was pictured at the Farmington Board of Education meeting this week when the Board was told the results of a study on projected enrollment for the next six school years.</p>
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### The Farmington Enterprise

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## Kendallwood Farms Women

Be sure to get aside the evening of Tuesday, November 20, for this is the date of the Annual Telephone Bridge and Pinnock Party sponsored by the Kendallwood Farms Women's Club. The cost is \$1.25, and you can look forward to a delightful evening of cards, prizes and desserts, with a feeling of satisfaction knowing that you are supporting a very worthwhile project. This year the proceeds will be sent to the Plymouth State Home and Training School for use in helping to outfit new training kitchens being built there.

Mrs. Paul Robinson is our chairman, and is enthusiastically making plans, with various members of the club opening their homes for bridge or pinnock. Using standardized rules, official card playing will begin at 8 p.m. and continue until 10:30, at which time each hostess will phone in the high scores to Mrs. Robinson. First prize of \$50.00 and second of \$20.00 will then be awarded to overall high scorers in both bridge and pinnock. Individual prizes will also be awarded in each home by the hostesses.

IF YOU WOULD like to play, or would enjoy opening your home for as many tables as you wish, please contact Mrs. Paul Robinson, GR. 6-3226, as soon as possible. Hostesses will be reimbursed for their expenses. This should be a very pleasant evening, and with such a worthy project to support, let's make it a big success!

A big "thank you" Mrs. William Dempster for a very well-planned afternoon at the Rotunda Country Inn on October 27. The weatherman greeted us with one of those gorgeous fall days, and the Smorgasbord Luncheon was simply delicious. The door prize, a certificate from Harvi's, proved to be an unexpected bonus for Mrs. Nathaniel Gregory, who was the lucky winner.

## Made Superintendent Of Edison Co. Division

John F. Henige, a Farmington resident for the past 12 years, has been appointed superintendent of the Detroit Edison's stores and transportation department.

A native of Saginaw, Mr. Henige moved to Dearborn as a young child and received his early education there. Following four years service with the Navy Air Corps during World War II, he earned a degree in architectural engineering at the University of Detroit. He is a registered professional civil engineer.



He joined Detroit Edison in 1951 as an engineering draftsman. While assigned to the company's engineering department.

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Ladies Invited

## Cub Pack 110 Awards Made

Terry Crawford and Thomas Gallagher each received four Silver Arrow awards at the October meeting of Farmington's Cub Pack 110.

A Lion Badge was earned by David Abowd and a Bear badge by Gerard Delaney. A Silver Arrow and a Gold Arrow went to John LaPrise for his achievements.

DEN 9 TOOK first place in projects prepared for the meeting and individual honors went to Edwin Sempowski and Fred Champagne.

The next pack meeting is scheduled for November 23 at Our Lady of Sorrows.

## Okay Plan Change For Twp. Apartments

Revisions in the site plan for a new apartment development at Nine Mile and Gilt Road were approved by the Township Board at its regular meeting Monday night, Nov. 8.

The plan change moves one apartment building unit closer to the perimeter roadway to permit more area for interior parking and open area but still keeps the building back far enough to be in conformity with the township's setback requirements.

## Use the Classifieds

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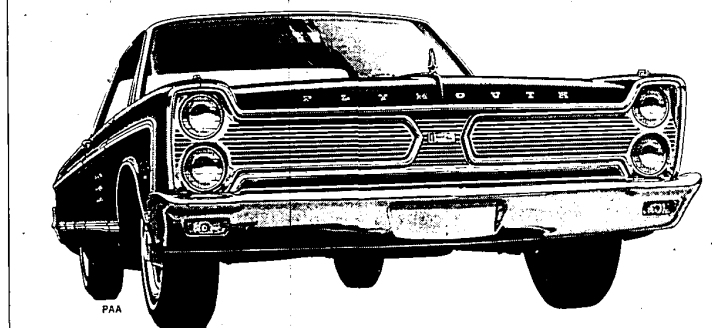
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