

In Our Opinion . . .

Should All of Farmington Be One City?

Is one big city taking in all of Farmington possible in the near future?

Ever since the announcement was made that Farmington Township officials had petitioned for the incorporation of the entire township as a home rule city, comments have been heard from citizens in surprising numbers indicating that they favor the joining of the entire 36 square mile City of Farmington and Farmington Township area into one big city. While the number we have heard express this feeling couldn't hardly be considered as being a strong indication that this represents a majority opinion, we have heard it mentioned by enough to feel it is a proposal that shouldn't be totally ignored.

As we understand it, this is something that wouldn't be legally possible to even call for a vote on until after the election has been held on the present proposition which proposes a home rule city for the township only. If there is a lot of feeling that this is the right way to go, it would be our feeling that it should be brought to light before the incorporation of the township alone as a home rule city is voted on.

Special meeting and efforts are being planned to give all voters of the township details regarding the reasons why incorporation of the township as a home rule city at this time is considered a wise move. It is also planned to ask citizens what name they would prefer for the proposed new city. It might also be well at this same time to ask citizens to register their favor or disfavor with the joining of the City of Farmington and Farmington Township into one single city.

There are numerous advantages to having the city and township combined into one big city that should be quite obvious. One would be the combination of government offices into one body for the whole community as well as being able to set up a one community police and fire department, one department of public works, etc.

Of course, there are some really serious differences of thinking on what a city should be and do for its citizens. Some favor strong city government

with a lot of control vested in the government and in giving appointed and elected officials a substantial amount of authority to enact legislation and set policies without voter approval. Others, and particularly those who prefer a more rural way of living, favor a local government administration with very limited controls and taxing authority without special approval by voters of the people.

Should the joining of Farmington City and Township into one big city ever be placed to a vote of our entire community's electorate then we are quite certain that a lot of compromise thinking would have to be done on the form of government that would be acceptable to the majority. We are almost positive that a majority of the citizens of the City of Farmington would not accept a form of government with very limited power or authority and we are equally as certain that the majority in the township would not accept the Farmington City Charter as it is now written.

The voters of the township might well approve incorporation as a city by themselves in 1966 and also approve a charter of their own to become a separate city shortly thereafter. This would definitely not block the incorporation of the two cities into one later, none-the-less.

If there is some strong feeling that one combined city should be formed or should be attempted for the city and the township within the next decade, then it is our belief that it should be made quite clear that such planning or thinking is in the works before voters of the township ever go to the polls to vote on incorporation of the township only as a city in 1966.

People often won't express themselves on matters of this kind unless they are asked the question specifically by means of an easy to respond to questionnaire or through a direct contact opinion poll. Others have indicated to us that they favor the joining of Farmington City and Township together to make a city and that it would be well worth seeking a good section of opinion on this proposal from the entire community.

★★★★

Valuable to Have But Care Is Needed

If the City of Farmington can buy up 38 acres of vacant land area at \$2,000 an acre and it is land that can be properly developed and maintained to be usable for recreational activities and leisure time enjoyment close to home then we are very much for the proposal.

Vacant land area that can be used freely by all the citizenry and not be restricted to those who belong to "the club" or are members of the exclusive residential development or that one is our preference. It follows the same reasoning that has made us shy away from private swimming clubs and be in favor of an all out effort to someday get a good year-around community swimming pool built in Farmington.

It is very likely that we could have a nice community park on the west side of Farmington Road north of Freedom Drive today if 15 or 20 years ago there would have been some real forward thinking about the value of obtaining

sufficient open space area before community development advances too far. Now the asking price on the property has gone so high that it just isn't practical to even consider this property as a park site anymore.

There is one concern that we have, however, about the city buying up 38 more acres of land for park use. This concern is with whether or not it will be an area that will be properly developed, maintained and policed in the years to come so that it can be fully utilized for the purposes it was acquired for in the first place.

Numerous park areas in and around municipalities have become problem spots and community detriments rather than community assets because they have not been properly maintained and policed after they have been developed as park sites.

We would really hate to see this happen to any additional or present park areas that the City of Farmington has.

Public Letterbox

LETTER TO KENDALLWOOD RESIDENTS

On Dec. 15, 1965 we attended the meeting at Bond School for the discussion of having Detroit Water. I'm wondering if the residents of Kendallwood have bothered to figure out just what this will mean on their water bill.

First there is a capital charge of \$75.00 per house — this is payable in \$3.75 per quarter for the period of five years. Then a \$5.00 per quarter charge for the period of twenty-five years on the bonds. The rate per thousand cu. ft. goes up .74 cents per thousand cu. ft., sewer and meter charges stay the same.

Using my bill for Oct. 1, 1965, I figured out what the bill would be with Detroit Water. Bill for sewer \$5.70, water \$10.15 for a total of \$15.85. To this I added the \$3.75 charge, \$5.00 charge, \$4.44 (extra .74 per 1000 cu. ft. for 6000 cu. ft. water used), for a total of \$28.74. Can Detroit water be twice as good as our present water? Will it do more for me — I doubt it. There is just my husband and I in our family — wonder what the bill would be if we had children.

Kendallwood residents paid for the present water and sewage system when home and lots were purchased. Then we had the big assessment when they connected our system to the Interceptor Sewer. Now so that the builders, land developers, real estate people etc. can advertise Detroit water to their potential customers — Kendallwood residents are being asked to pay for another water system by practically doubling our water bills.

(Editor's note: The Michigan Children's Aid Society, with offices at 2527 Grand River Avenue in Farmington, sent the following letter to the Farmington Optimist Club. The Optimist wish to pass it along in hopes of creating an awareness by Farmington citizens that this worthy organization maintains 16 offices throughout the state and one of them is located in this community.)

Mr. Royce Norton, President
Farmington Optimist Club

Dear Mr. Norton:
May I express appreciation on behalf of the headquarters office of the Michigan Children's Aid Society for the most thoughtful and generous gift of an artificial Christmas tree to the Society from the Farmington Optimist Club. This is a gift we can use for many years and we want to give special thanks to Mr. Charles Wirtz (Optimist Club Treasurer) for bringing it to us.

May we extend an open invitation to your organization and to each individual member to visit our headquarters office at any time. We would be happy to tell you more about our state-wide child welfare program.

With best wishes for a happy holiday season, I am
Sincerely yours,
Michigan Children's Aid Society
Marvin R. Koriogger
Administrative Assistant

Fire Deaths in U.S.

NEW YORK — There were approximately 11,900 fire deaths in the United States in 1964, an increase of 100 over 1963, the Insurance Information Institute reports.

15 Years Ago
DECEMBER 21, 1950

Hockey Risk
The Farmington City Commission approved a request from Joseph J. Gadaw, M.D., allowing him to construct and maintain a hockey rink on a portion of the City Skating pond on Shawassee Avenue, in cooperation with the City Park Commission. It should be noted that the City is without cost to the City.

Goodfellows Fund

The old newsboys of Farmington collected a record \$1,400 in their sale of the annual Goodfellow Edition of the Farmington Enterprise this past week. Funds will be used to help needy families in the community this Christmas.

Falcons Post Win

The Farmington High School basketball team downed Holly, 63 to 24, for their fourth victory of the season against two defeats.

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Kendallwood Residents—They took a vote at this meeting by having the people raise their hands whether they were for or against having Detroit Water. NO ONE was asked to give their name or address to be sure that it was residents voting. It was just assumed they were residents.

If you don't want this new water system — it will take 50 per cent of the residents to sign a petition.

Wake Up Kendallwood — At least before this is assessed on to you—figure your water bill out and see if Detroit Water is going to be that much better—at these new rates — we can give up watering flowers, grass, trees and the big bonafitter will be the new subdivisions that won't have to pay twice for a water system and can brag about having Detroit Water.

ONE POOR BUDGETER

Now you can
RENT
SOFT
WATER

the carefree way!

Now, for the first time, you can RENT a famous multi-purpose REYNOLDS Fully-Automatic Water Conditioner . . . the softener that removes iron the "carefree" way.

NEW LOW RENTAL PRICES
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Merry Christmas

The joyous Christmas Season is here, filling our hearts with its spirit of happiness and good cheer. May you enjoy an abundance of pleasures among family and friends. And please add our sincere greeting for a very, Merry Christmas.

Himmelspach Dining Room, Inc.
Farmington Dairy, Inc.



"The 12 days of Christmas"
by Joseph Kozlowski

365 days of good wishes
from all your friends at
MANUFACTURERS NATIONAL BANK

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32300 Grand River

STATE FARM
INSURANCE
COMPANIES
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois 99-10

Thirteen Mile Road W. near Orchard Lake Road
21015 Farmington Road near Eight Mile Road
Telegraph near Ten Mile Road W.
Northwestern at Inkster Road
Orchard Lake near Middlebelt, Sylvan Lake

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

DECEMBER 22, 1960

Goodfellows Help

The Farmington Goodfellows will deliver food baskets, clothing and toys to approximately 170 needy families in the Farmington area this week in the annual effort to provide the less fortunate with a Merry Christmas. Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall is the General Chairman of this year's Goodfellow Drive.

New Scoring Mark

The Farmington High School basketball team soared to a new high scoring mark in defeating the Southfield Jays, 82 to 65.

Wrestling Victory

The Falcon wrestling team downed Bently High, 42 to 10, with Bob and Dick Cook leading the way with their third straight dual meet victories. Also winning for Farmington were Dick Lam, Bob Burton, Bill Uplegger, John Johnson, Dave Sherer, Louie Owens, John Wagner and Rick Weston.

10 Years Ago

DECEMBER 22, 1955

City Mgr. Resigns

Farmington City Manager James O. Tennant submitted his resignation to the Farmington City Council this week, effective January 16, 1956, to accept a similar position in Idaho, California.

Wills DAR Award

Miss Lois Ayres, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Ayres of 23632 Wesley Drive in Farmington, has been selected winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award for her outstanding citizenship and character. She is a senior at Farmington High School.

FHS Downs Trojans

The Farmington High School basketball team downed its neighborhood rival, the Trojans of Clarencerville, 54 to 51, on the FHS hardwood floor at night, Don Robinson led the Falcon scoring attack.

15 Years Ago

DECEMBER 21, 1950

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The Farmington Enterprise

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