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The Observer

OF FARMINGTON

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THE OBSERVER NEWSPAPER GROUP, founded by Paul M. Chandler, publishing newspapers in the cities of Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Garden City and Townships of Plymouth, Redford, Nankin, Farmington

VOL. 2—NO. 37 27 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1966 33425 Grand River, Farmington Philip H. Power, Publisher

Predicts 2,200 Workers Within Four Years

Alexander Hamilton Plans \$1 Million Farmington Office

Plymouth has lost the home offices of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company and Farmington Township, or more accurately the Village of Quakertown, will gain a \$1,000,000 building and a business that could employ as many as 2,000 within the next three or four years.

That was the terse announcement at the annual stockholders meeting of the insurance company, which was founded in Plymouth slightly more than two years ago.

Plans for the move from Plymouth to the Farmington Township site—13 acres at the intersection of 1696 and 12 Mile Road, were made in a brief statement to the stockholders by Board Chairman Keith Owens.

It has been rumored for several months that Alexander Hamilton was thinking of moving from Plymouth to a site in the general location of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, but it wasn't until a few days prior to last week's meeting that the rumors turned into actualities.

The decision comes as quite a blow to the Plymouth community where more than 260 employees on the payroll of the home office and an additional 100 in the regional office, both located on Penniman Ave.

Under the plans that came out of the annual meeting, the new structure, which is of a colonial design, will cost more than a million and the site is such that there is room for as much expansion as could possibly be needed in the distant future.

Alexander Hamilton owns three buildings on Penniman Ave. Two are used by the home office and the third is in the regional sales division, under the supervision of Robert Johnson. The regional office building is not owned by the company but by Paul Hamilton, former Plymouth regional director who recently was promoted to Executive Director of Michigan.

In explaining the decision to purchase the Farmington Township site, James Milby, a resident of Plymouth who was recently promoted to vice president in charge of public relations, points out that Alexander Hamilton searched for a year and a half for a suitable site for the home office and the plot of ground on 1696 seemed the most advisable for the facilities of the operation.

"We are not moving from Plymouth for any cause, reason, etc. in any shape, form or description, because we have enjoyed our residence there," he said.

He listed the following contributing factors in the decision:

- 1—The location affords a place where the building can be observed daily by thousands driving the expressway, which in turn, gives the company tremendous public relations as to growth and expansion.
- 2—The area is quiet and conducive to a gracious operation of a conservative life insurance company.
- 3—The location is directly across from the proposed beautiful new campus (Orchard Ridge) of the Oakland Community College.
- 4—The location places the (Continued on Page 20B)



This is architect's conception of the new \$1 million Alexander Hamilton building.

JayCees Complete Petition Drive, Polls and Auditorium On Ballot

The Jaycees have successfully completed their drive to place a proposal for three auditoriums and three swimming pools on the June 13 ballot at the annual Farmington School election.

At Monday night's regular meeting of the Board of Education the Jaycees presented petitions with a total of 3,141 signatures for the proposal to the Board. A total of 10 percent or 2,000 signatures were required to place the proposition on the ballot.

Board of Education President Leland Clifford accepted the petitions from Jaycee President Pat Nowak, Community Development Chairman John Richardson and Petition Drive Chairman Bill Mitchell.

In making the presentation the Jaycees expressed thanks to the School Board for its help in gathering all the basic information regarding the proposal and in drafting the petition statement.

The proposal which will be on the ballot calls for the construction, operation and maintenance of three auditoriums and three indoor swimming pools. An auditorium and a pool would be constructed in each of the two existing high schools and the third set of facilities would be added to the plans for the new high school.

According to the plans the facilities will be used extensively for a variety of programs both during school hours and after.

The pools will serve as an additional physical education teaching station during the day and be available to the entire community for after school use.

A teaching station for drama, music, speech and stage craft will be provided during the day by the auditoriums. Space for instrumental and vocal music, formal assemblies, lectures and other programs would also be provided. Community use of the auditorium during the after school hours would be encouraged.

Jaycee spearheading of the project came after the strong desire for these facilities expressed in the Jaycee community attitude survey taken last fall. The Jaycees have taken the position that the community should have the opportunity to vote on the proposal.

Schools Eye Changes in Noon Lunch Program

The subject of released time during noon hour for teachers has long posed knotty problems for school officials. The Monday evening School Board meeting was no exception.

Considerable discussion centered around the findings of a committee appointed last fall to study the desirability of limiting those children who stay at school for lunch.

The Board of Education authorized the committee to circulate a prepared survey to parents and tally the answers of the questionnaire. This survey was prepared as the result of requests by some teachers and parents who feel that limiting those children who stay at school for lunch would offer a more desirable noon program.

Five questions will be asked parents. They are:

- Would you prefer a single noon hour rather than our present schedule?
- If a single noon hour were arranged would you agree to have your children home regularly for lunch with certain exceptions?
- In your opinion what is a reasonable distance for children to return home for lunch?
- Approximately what length of time should be established for a noon hour period providing time for children to return home for lunch?
- Circumstances very widely (Continued on Page 20B)

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Township Board OK's Fee Refunds For Sewer Service

Connection fees for sewers which are not yet installed will be returned in Farmington Township.

At Monday night's regular Township Board session the Board agreed to return the fees in the following cases:

- Refunds from the intercepter fund shall be made by the Township Treasurer, on demand, when, at the time sewer connection charge was paid, no public sanitary sewer service was available with respect to the particular property for which the connection charge was paid.
- No refund will be made, however, except when the following conditions are met:
- No public sanitary sewer is available to serve the property involved at the time demand for refund is made.
- No public sanitary sewer designed to serve the property is under construction or will be constructed under a special assessment district pending before the Township Board or within a six month period following the date of demand; and
- Refund shall be made only to the person who actually paid the connection charge, exhibits the receipt and is owner of the property involved as of the date of demand.

In other action the Board:

- Approved the nomination of Robert Brown to the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee. The Board of Education took similar action Monday night. Brown is the assistant manager of the (Continued on Page 20B)

4 Year Old Boy Goes to Hospital After Accident

Two people were taken to two separate hospitals following an accident Saturday afternoon at the intersection of 14 Mile Rd. and Orchard Lake Rd. in Farmington Township.

Lisa Gay Szabo, of 25127 Lyncaire, Farmington, was taken to Botsford General Hospital. Her son, Jeffrey, 3, was taken to Children's Hospital where his condition was listed as "critical" Monday.

Mrs. Szabo was traveling south on Orchard Lake Rd. when her car was struck by a vehicle driven by Lee V. Saylor, 35, of 21987 Altman, Farmington. Neither Saylor nor his wife, Bebe, and three children, who were passengers in the car were injured.

The Szabo car was knocked 38 feet across the intersection in the accident and landed on its side. It was understood that Jeffrey was flung out of the car.

Two Injured in Township

Joan M. Larson, 27, of Royal Oak was injured and taken to Botsford General Hospital April 8 following an accident at Middlebelt and 12 Mile Rd. in Farmington Township.

According to the Farmington Township police report her vehicle struck one driven by Gerald E. Ignash, 32, of Southfield when she crossed the intersection after failing to stop for the flashing red light.

A third car was involved in the accident and the driver taken to Botsford. That person's name was not available at The Observer press time.

Ignash told police that he slowed down for the light, but that Miss Larson's car struck him. He did not know how the third car was involved. Miss Larson told police that she was waiting for 12 Mile Rd. and entered the intersection unaware of the red light. She did not know how the third car was involved either.

Masons Slate Open House at Lodge

Have you ever wondered what the inside of the big old building at Farmington Rd. and Grand River is like inside?

The building, which was the old Farmington Township Hall and Masonic Lodge, was recently purchased by the Farmington Lodge No. 151 F.&A.M.

Extensive renovations and remodeling have been completed in the building and the Masons are inviting the Farmington community to an open house two days this week, April 16 and 17.

Hours of the open house are 2 and 4 p.m. each day. Charles Valerius, worshipful master of the Lodge, said that the two-day celebration was planned so that all members of the community could have additional opportunity to attend.

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The Area Youngsters Scavenge Eggs from City Park



Farmington's younger set shoes, but they enjoyed them turned out for their own "Easter Parade" last Saturday morning. They weren't dressed in the latest mod fashions or decked out in flowered hats, gloves, new patent leather purses and

Saturday they could make all the noise they wanted and had the full run of the City Park on Shawwassee.

The occasion was the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Farmington Jaycees.