## In Our Opinion . . .

### Township Incorporation - A Complex Issue

Township Incorporation

Next Monday, June 6, Farmington
Township voters are expected to go to
the polls and vote on the complex issue
of incorporation of the Township into
a Were the Mayord "complex" because
the responsibilities of the voters in this
election extend far beyond a simple
"yes" or "no" vote.

The main objections to incorporation
have been that becoming a city would
jeopardize the rural character of the
Township by bringing in more homes,
more children, more traffic, crowded
schools, air pollution and bigher taxes.
These conditions will now necessarily
be created by a city government, township government, or any other governmental factor — They are already actualities.

Thirteen years ago a run-down, but
jeturesque farm existed where Kimberley now stands, cattle grazed peacefully
on the site of the Our Lady of Mercy
Provincialate, beautiful orchards gave
up their harvest where 1-806 now roars
—These are but a very few of the many
changes that have taken place in this
short time.

During these 13 years we have listen-

—These are but a very few of the many changes that have taken place in this short time.

During these 13 years we have listened many times to the same cry, "We want Farmington to stay like it is!"—and we coludn't agree more. We would all like Farmington to stay like it is, but we must be realistic. Farmington is nit is. Unless we are willing to buy up and hold all the vacant land, that land will be developed. We will have more homes, more children, more traffic, more taxes and all of the problems that go along with such growth — no matter what form of government we have.

Every month new building plans are being submitted to and approved by the Township Planning Commission and the Township Board. Just last week three more sets of plans for new subdivisions were reviewed.

Voting for or against incorporation will not in itself affect the growth of the township. We must add the word "orderiv" and ask the question. "How best can the 'orderly' growth of the Township be accomplished?"

The major reason put forth by proponents of incorporation is that incorporation would protect the boundaries

iv" and ask the question. "How best can the 'orderly' growth of the Township be accomplished?"

The major reason put forth by proponents of incorporation is that incorporation would protect the boundaries of the Township from annexation of portions of the Township from annexation of portions of the Township by neighboring municipalities and that annexation, particularly of the industrial area needed for tax base, would destroy the years of york that have gone into the preparing of a comprehensive plan for the development of the Township.

Opponents of incorporation have taken the stand that the possibilities of annexation are remote and that the threat of annexation is not sufficient reason for incorporation.

All other questions that have been asked during the past six months — questions regarding taxes, services, regulations, zoning and other matters — have had the same answer: It depends upon how the charter is written.

A "no' vote will most certainly settle the incorporation issue — for the time being at least.

A "yes" vote will most certainly settle the incorporation issue — for the time being at least.

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A "yes" vote will nost certainly settle the incorporation issue — for the time being at least.

A "yes" vote will nost certainly settle that a "yes" vote will not automatically change the Township into a city. A "yes" vote hip per least of the per least of the

ever be desirable? Some of the oppon-ents of incorporation have stated that we are not "ready" for incorporation. Others have stated that incorporation should be considered sometime "in the

should be considered sometime in the future."
This, we submit, is the major question to be considered by the electorate:
If Farmington Township is ever to be incorporated into a city, shouldn't it be done now?

If Farmington Township is ever to be done now?

A great many people, whom we consider to be the most responsible citizens of the Township, have given overwhelmingly of their time and money during the past six months—on different sides of the question, true—but nevertheless in the interest of their community. These people are to be commended for their interest and efforts.

If the Township is ever to be governed by a city charter, we would rather see that charter written now—while we have the advantage of the interest of so many dedicated and responsible citizens. We would rather see a charter prepared under the watchful guldance of the members of two opposing committees—while the information they have gathered is still fresh and of practical use—than to put our trust in a future electorate which may or may not have the same interest in their community. The preparation of a charter brings us to the two-fold responsibility of selection. Voters who go to the polls next Monday will have the added responsibility of selection gine charter commissioners out of twenty-six candidates. All twenty-six of these citizens who have indicated their willingness to undertake the task of preparing a charter are worthy of consideration in our opinion.

Whether the voters are for or against incorporation, we cannot over-emphasize the importance of the basis for selective and the properties of the proper in the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the properties of the basis for selective the polls and the pol

Whether the voters are for or against incorporation, we cannot over-emphasize the importance of the basis for selection of the commission members. We suggest that the commission should include, as equally as possible, members who are active in Township government, members who have served on the pre-incorporation study committee, members who have been actively opposed to incorporation as well as those who have favored it, members of both political parties, and members of both political parties, and members of both sexes. Consideration should also be given to selecting members who live in different geographical locations of the Township.

Blographical data on all of the candi-

geographical locations of the Township.

Biographical data on all of the candidates, as well as their answers to questions asked by the League Windows, has been published Woman Voters, has been published Woman with the west Enterrise. Several of the candidates are qualified under more than one of the above-mentioned categories; but or careful selection, candidates from all of the categories can be included.

It may well be that a commission will be elected and have nothing to do—lift he incorporation question fails; but every elector must consider that he incorporation question fails; but every elector must consider that he incorporation question sails; but every elector must consider that he incorporation questions; and must assume the responsibility of selecting a well-balanced commission.

As we see it, the questions to be con-

anced commission.

As we see it, the questions to be considered by the voters are these:

1. Should the Township be incorporated into a home rule city at this time?

2. Should the Township ever be incorporated into a city; and, if so, would it be better done now or in the future?

3. If I vote for incorporation, will I be willing to follow through, keep informed, and vote intelligently on a charter?

4. If the incorporation question should carry, which nine candidates would be the best possible combination to prepare a city charter?

After six months of public meetings,

a city charter?

After six months of public meetings, debates, distribution of literature, newspaper reports, and personal contacts, all eligible voters in the Township should be aware of the issues; and, hopefully, they will express their awareness by going to the polls next Monday.

### Teacher Negotiations --- No Cause For Alarm

Last week's action taken by Farming-ton teachers regarding contracts for the coming school year has caused consid-erable concern among the clitzenry After further investigation we are pleas-ed to have found that, appearances to the contrary, negotiations between the school administration and the FEA have not broken down.

the contrary, negotiations between the school administration and the FEA have not broken down.

We understand that both the school administration and the FEA are eager to come up with a master contract before teachers disperse for the summer, and three meetings have already been scheduled for this week.

The FEA is to be congratulated for seeking public attention for its story in an orderly fashion, with the written set of resolutions that was presented to the Board of Education on May 23. The school administration also is to be congratulated for its willingness to meet at any/lime and as often as necessary, outside of school hours, for negotiations.

The first of many meetings took place stock place in the first of many meetings took place. The first of many meetings took place place is also took until May a right of the place of the pla

meeting and a revised budget was presented at the March 14 meeting. Since salaries account for more than 85% of the total budget, it would seem logical to have had negotiations on this subject at the top of the priority list as far as timing goes.

In encosing the FEA as a bargaining unit, teachers indicated that their image as professionals was important to them. To keep bargaining at a high professional level, we hope that they will recognize that negotiations must not be carried on at the expense of the school day. Nor dow believe that any teachers should use his or her captive classroom audience on which to air the cause of professional negotiations. Meanwhile, nobody should be pushing the panic button. What is happening in Farmington, in our opinion, is a reflection of what is happening all over the state as a result of last July's amendment of the Michigan Public Employee Relations Act by the state legislature.

For everybody's peace of mind, we urge the FEA and school administration to arrive quickly at a realistic contract—one that will improve salary and employment conditions for teachers, yet not lose sight of the school district's total financial picture.

## Farmington Enterprise Public Letterbox

The Editors of the Farmington
Enterprise and the Observer of Farmington
On Tuesday evening, May 24, a meeting of the cittuens of Farmington Township, to ok place in the symmasium of the North Farmington Township, to ok place in the symmasium of the North Farmington Township, to ok of Farmington Township in code tax on the income or armings of city residents any levy a in percent of the proposed incorporation of the propose rearrington to the street of the proposed incorporation of parmington Township into a control of programment of the was not readily more difficult for citizens of a city to protect using than it would be as a township form of government. This question is found at MS.A. 2234 (the Michigan Statutes Amontaed) also being Sec. 125384 of the forming provision is found—"after the ordinance and maps have in the first instance been body of a city or village, amendments or supplements thereto may be made from time to time a protect again." Free two species of the proposed amendment, supplement or change be presented. Guly signed by the owners of 20 per-centum or more of the first the forming proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum or more of the per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum or more of the per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum or more of the per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum or more of the per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum or more of the per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage of the proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage of the proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage of the proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage of the proposed to be altered, or by the owners of 20 per-centum of the frontage of the propos

that the speed limits on 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 Mile Roads are 65 MPH?

65 MPH?

Does it seem right that Haggerty, Halsted, Drake, and other roads also have areas where
it is 65 MPH?

How many people will be
killed at poorly lighted locations
on the road at night?

As a City we could these situations, as a Township we must
accept what the State or County
permits.

permits.

If you fall to Vote Yes on June 6 you have failed to take a big step forward in safety for your family.

An Experienced Officer

The second of th

We are extremely interested in our children's education just as our fathers were interested in ours. The paragraph that was quoted from our newsletter was not suggest that all senior clittees would vote 'No" on the proposal. We said some and last week's Enterprise proved there was at least one. "We are sorry that this person feels "A Lack of Appreciation of the proposal. We are sorry that this person feels "A Lack of Appreciation of the proposal of the propo

The Farmington Jaycees c-o Dr. John H. Richardson 34069 Alta Loma Farmington, Mich. 48024

JAGOS Alta Loma
Farmington, Mich. 48024

Dear John.
The Farmington Area VMCA, since is sugginating in 1985, has the farmington through the WMCA aquating polymer and progressive swim instruction. However, the lack of any indoor swimming pool facility in the Farmington Area has curtailed the amount of instruction that could be offered to YMCA youth and the swimming pool facility in the swimming ham and Northwestern branches on a very limited basis. During the summer months, as available through the Birmingham and Northwestern branches on a very limited basis. During the summer months, as backyard with instruction program has been made available through the Birmingham and Northwestern branches on a very limited basis. During the summer months, as backyard with instruction program has been made available through the summer months, as the summer months, as the policy of the summer of the farmington schools we ould greatly enhance year r oun of a facilities.

THUS, POOL facilities in the Farmington schools we ould greatly enhance year r oun of a facilities.

THUS, POOL facilities in the Farmington schools we ould greatly enhance year r oun of a facilities.

THUS, POOL facilities in the pools could be made available to the YMCA on a rental basis.

The YMCA as an organization dedicated to the growth and development of youth and families would look to swimming pools as an additional program tool to arree not only life of swim instruction to all members of the community.

Sincerely,

David R. Confort

David R. Comfort C. Day Morris Farmington Area YMCA

# Looking Back in the Files

10 Years Ago

5 Years Ago

10 Years Ago

MAY 11, 1954

Secretary of State

The combined equalized value at the combined value at the

# Half Gallons ... 89c & 99c

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Cones ..... 15c ... 25c

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Himmelspach

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