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FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN

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'Grass Roots' Incorporation Drive Opens

Farmington Township residents Friday filed a petition asking for an election to incorporate part of the township as a home rule city.

Harry H. Kelch, 28205 Glencastle Court, was quoted by the Oakland County clerk's office as saying there were about 500 signatures on the petitions he filed.

Attorney Robert B. Pierce, 32206 Baintree, wrote the \$500 deposit check which the county clerk's office requires to process the papers.

The new city would be called "Farmington Hills."

Township Clerk Floyd Cairns described the incorporation proposal as a "grass roots movement." He said that neither he nor Supervisor Curtis Hall nor Treasurer Elise Avery was involved. Township officers had pushed a 1966 incorporation drive.

Kelch and Pierce couldn't be reached for comment by deadline time.

Circulation of the petitions was reportedly accomplished by a group calling itself the "Farmington Township Citizens Committee for Community Development."

THE NEW petition excludes the villages of Quaker Town and Wood Creek Farms, along with the area north of Northwestern Highway.

In contrast, the first incorporation proposal, which voters rejected by a 3-1 margin last June 8, had included the entire township.

Superintendent Hall said the opposition to last year's incorporation drive had come to a

large extent from the areas excluded from the new petition.

THE COUNTY clerk's office has 30 days to verify the signatures, and the county engineer will check the legal description.

The petitions will next go to the County Board of Supervisors, which would then schedule an election. Presumably, a special election would be set, because the next regular township election won't occur until the 1968 summer primary for slots and toboggans.

State law requires the county to appoint enumerators to check the number of persons in the area of the proposed new city.

The law also requires petition signatures equal to at least one per cent of the population. The quoted figure of 500 signatures is well in excess of one per cent of the township's official 1960 census population of nearly 27,000.

No announcement of the incorporation move was made by the township residents. There had, however, been rumors that an incorporation election would be sought.

(One version was that the City of Farmington was seeking further annexations of industrial property in the township.)

If true, the proposed incorporation of the City of Farmington Hills would follow a pattern observable all across the state — the formation of one city in order to halt the boundary growth of an established city.

THE INCORPORATION move came as other groups — the League of Women Voters, Board of Commerce and Jaycees — backed a proposed study of unification of the city and township.

The Pre-Study Steering Committee is scheduled to meet Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the offices of the Thompson-Brown Co., 12 Mile near Farmington Road.

Dr. Duane Gibson, a Michigan State University consultant, is scheduled to meet with the group.

Ask Slidders Be Supervised

Appearing before the Board of Education at their Monday evening meeting, Charles Bradskey of 24008 Merrilyn Ct.

requested some help in dealing with the kids who use the City's winter recreation area adjacent to his property. The School Board has authorized the City to make use of school-owned property at Shawwassee and Farmington Rds. for a skating rink, and the bills are used for sleds and toboggans.

Bradskey has found it necessary to report five instances of property damage to the police as the slidders' momentum carries them onto his lot. He hopes that some type of fence or barrier can be erected to prevent this. A snow fence installed earlier proved inadequate as the sports enthusiasts simply removed it.

People using the rink and hill work in the driveways of nearby houses, including his, Bradskey reported, and the noise continues far into the night as sometimes the lights are not turned off.

Leland Clifford said that the entire area should be strictly supervised as is done in all surrounding communities. He points out that this is a definite responsibility of the City if they are going to make use of the land for recreation purposes.

Attorney Robert Kelly agreed that the City should supervise the undertaking and

should also maintain a schedule of hours when the facilities can be used.

Besides the nuisance value of the area, its inherent dangers were also cited. Superintendent Gerald Harrison said he had received a complaint from the mother of a child who had been severely cut by the blades of skaters who were skating down the icy hill instead of confining their activity to the rink.

Also, since there is no path specified for returning up the hill, slidders go back up where they came down and are in danger of being over-run by those about to descend. All of this, it was pointed out, could be avoided by proper supervision.

It was decided that a letter should be sent to the City Council containing a statement that a very dangerous situation exists and that the Council should provide supervision as well as protection to adjacent houses.

Board President Richard Peters stated that a School District responsibility to joining property owners exists as well as that of the City. He feels that fencing or some protection should be devised to help protect those who live nearby.

It was suggested that the letter be supplemented by some of the Board members meeting with the Council to offer their cooperation in the matter.

Suspect's Car Found in Ohio

The 1966 Plymouth in which John Merlo, 25, is believed to have made his escape after shooting his wife, Sharon, 18, in a Farmington Township beauty salon was found Wednesday by Cleveland police.

Township Chief of Detectives Russ Conway said he urged the Cleveland authorities to take the car into custody and make a search of it. Township Police Chief Irving H. Yakes says that a flight warrant has been issued for Merlo and the search for him is still underway.

Merlo allegedly shot his wife January 5 while she was working on a customer's hair at the Crest Beauty Salon, 27432 West Eight Mile. Six women and a five-year-old boy were in the shop at the time of the shooting.

Police are searching the Greater Cleveland area for Merlo for him because Merlo had lived his parents' Niles, O., address where he was employed.

343 Voter Listings Cancelled

A total of 343 voter registrations were cancelled by the Farmington city clerk's office last week because the voters had been inactive for two years or more.

Clerk Trena Quinn had sent notices to 570 persons, and 227 asked to be re-instated. The remainder were dropped, most because they had moved out of the city.

The breakdown of cancellations by precincts: 65 in one, 87 in two, 107 in three and 84 in four.

Last Monday was the deadline for city residents to respond to the cards which the clerk had sent out Dec. 7. In Farmington Township, 2,377 persons who have failed to vote during the last two years have been sent cards, but they have until Jan. 28 to ask for reinstatement, according to Clerk Floyd Cairns.

Orchard Ridge College Grows Daily

ORCHARD RIDGE COLLEGE moves toward completion at its site on Orchard Lake and 11 Mile Roads with its target date for opening still set at September of 1967. General contractors for the \$15,000,000 campus development are Giffels and Rosetti of Detroit. Began in the spring of 1965, the completed complex will ultimately accommodate 5,000 students easily. Orchard Ridge, a division of Oakland Community College, will be a two year school with a transfer program to allow for completion of degrees at other universities. It will also offer technical courses which can be completed in one or two years.

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U.S. Turns Down Local Aid Request

Farmington Township has been turned down in its request for \$2,565,000 in federal aid for water and sewer line construction.

Supervisor Curtis Hall said the township would proceed with most of the project anyway, assessing the entire cost to benefiting residents.

THE U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, in a letter to the Oakland County Board of Public Works, with which the township deals, said it lacked a large enough appropriation in 1967 to meet all the requests.

If received, the federal grants would have paid nearly half the cost of the projects, Hall said.

Denied were requests for \$600,000 for the 13 Mile sewer arm, \$720,000 for the 10 Mile-Rouge sewer arm, \$177,500 for the middle section of the township's water line and \$1,067,500 for the northeast section's water line.

The applications had been made over the last two years, Hall said.

Twp. Luring New Industry

Michigan's largest photo-finishing firm is being tempted to locate in Farmington Township.

ABC Photo Finishing, Inc. is contemplating a new plant estimated in size at 76,000 square feet or more, according to company and township officials.

The Township Board Monday night authorized Supervisor Curtis Hall to negotiate a contract with the Oakland County Board of Public Works to extend water and sewer lines to the site.

THE FIRM HAS an option on about 14 acres between Grand River and I-96 in the far western end of the Township.

Because of its water requirements—as much as 200,000 gallons a day, Hall said—the company wanted assurances that it could get service here before building.

ABC Photo Finishing employs 115 persons. It is located at 1214 W. Lafayette, near Detroit's downtown, and is reportedly being forced to re-

locate because of an urban renewal project.

Warren J. Coville, head of the 11-year-old firm, was in Boston last week attending a seminar and so could not be reached for comment on the Township Board's favorable action or for a construction cost estimate.

ANOTHER company official said ABC does photo finishing work in a geographical area extending from Detroit to Flint, Saginaw and Lansing. The Grand River at I-96 location would be convenient for its delivery trucks.

Supervisor Hall said the firm wants the water and sewer work done by Aug. 1 and would like to have a plant built by Oct. 1.

PROVIDING WATER and sewer service, Hall said, would require extending the Tarabusi industrial sewer arm and water lines that now reach almost to the site.

Water would cost \$36,200 and sewer \$36,200, for a total of \$72,400, according to engineering estimates.

McDonald Raps Tax Hike

Jack McDonald, the 19th District's freshman congressman, looks with disfavor on President Johnson's proposal to raise income taxes.

"I'm not convinced at this time that a tax increase is necessary," McDonald told The Enterprise after listening

to Johnson's state of the union address.

"The proposal is not made in any way to control inflation. It's for Great Society programs and the Vietnam war."

"CONGRESS is going to take a long, hard look at the budget for the fiscal year (which begins July 1), to see if we can live within our present tax structure," he said.

"The economy is leveling off. A tax increase at this time may do harm to our economy."

McDonald said many House members commented on the fact that the President didn't again propose a four-year term for representatives, as he did in his 1966 message.

McDONALD SAID he voted against a Democratic proposal, rejected by the House, against seating Harlem Democrat Adam Clayton Powell first and then investigating charges of misconduct afterward.

The local congressman instead voted in favor of a second. Republican-sponsored motion to prevent Powell from taking his seat until after an investigation.

The difference, he said, was this: If Powell had been seated first and then investigated, it would take a two-thirds majority to throw him out of Congress; but by denying him his seat immediately, it will later take only a majority vote to dump Powell entirely.



OUR HEART

WENT OUT to Charles Bradskey at the Board of Education meeting on Monday evening. His property is in a very vulnerable spot in relation to the City's winter recreation area, so much so in fact that he momentarily expects some toboggans to land in the middle of his dinner table. What would one say? "Would you please take your toboggan out of the gravel?"

AT THE SAME MEETING, Herb Neal expressed some understandable bewilderment over expenditures for a "Catty Caterpillar." It sounded like an insect with malice toward some, but turned out to be a modern descendant of those angles of pipe and tubing so irresistible to children, a jungle gym.

MIKE KANNY, SON OF THE FLOYD KANNYS on Cloverdale, had a terrifying experience one morning a week ago when the ground on which he stood waiting for the bus to take him to sixth grade at OLS gave "way" and he found himself in a 10 foot deep hole unable to climb out. A passing motorist stopped to throw him a rope, and the police were quickly on the scene to help. Seepage from a nearby sewer was found to be the reason for the cave-in and has been duly repaired. Mrs. Kanny who figures that she'll have children bus-waiting in that spot for 12 more years hopes it won't happen again. It's most disconcerting to see one's offspring disappearing into a yawning abyss. Incidentally, the Kannys are most grateful to their unknown benefactor for the rope.

OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE HAD so many motorists in their ditch this snowy winter that they're thinking of naming their property Hubcap Haven or Dew Drop Inn.

RIDING ALONG TO DELIVER her sister back to Ann Arbor, Seven had a lively game going of "My Ship Came In." It turned out that she was stuck with the letter Q, but not for long. She confidently announced that her ship was loaded with Q-umbers.

WATCH FOR ACTIVITY in the former location of Lou Haight's shoe store. It is about to become an extension of Farmington Office and Paper Supply Co.

by Shirley Berger



TEACHERS, SCHOOLS BARGAIN — Working on guide lines for negotiating their 1967-68 master contract are members of the Farmington Education Association and representatives of administrative personnel for Farmington School District. The new contract, when adopted, will take effect on Sept. 1. From left are Robert Neuhouser, Marvel C. Eberly, Clarence B.

Shewbridge, Sharon R. Maher, Robert G. Sallo, Ann C. Luke and FEA president Gene Syverson, all members of the teachers' team. Gerald V. Harrison, superintendent of schools; LeRoy R. Bartman, director of personnel; and James M. Read, assistant superintendent, are seated at the right.