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OF FARMINGTON

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1966

33425 Grand River, Farmington

Philip H. Power, Publisher

Proposal Calls for Regional Cooperation In Area

A voluntary regional association to help solve common problems...

Such an organization has been talked about for years—especially in fast growing metropolitan areas such as Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The dream might be on its way to becoming a reality. About a year ago the Committee of One Hundred was formed to explore the possibility of a regional association for cooperation. Delos Hamlin, Chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, Curt Hall, Supervisor of Farm-

ington Township, and Gerald Y. Harrison, Superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools, were all invited to serve. The group has just published its final report and last week the City Council decided to try to set up a meeting to learn more about the project in December. At Monday

night's Township Board meeting Supervisor Hall was directed to try to arrange a meeting "at the earliest possible time."

Hall suggested the idea that a joint meeting of the City Council, the Township Board and the Board of Education be held in December. (Continued on Page 12B)

County Employee Merit System Faces Voters Nov. 8

Annexation Campaign Moves Into Final Push

The Committee Against Annexation in Farmington Township formally opened its campaign against the City's drive to annex more than 2,000 acres last week with three separate letters mailed to the residents.

A letter went to the residents of the Independence Green apartment project. One went to other residents in that proposed area. A third went to the residents of Woodcroft.

The two letters to residents in what has been termed as the industrial parcel asserted that the proposal was legal but asked whether it was "really right."

They both appeal to the voters' sense of "fair play" in asking for a no vote on Nov. 8.

In the letter to the residents of Independence Green

the Committee calls the annexation attempt "combustible" and then adds:

"This city could have annexed the area in question when it was sparsely settled. But they waited until the people of Farmington Township had installed sewer and water lines, obligating the Township residents to pay the costs over a period of many years to come. They waited until the people of Farmington Township had created a fine industrial park with a much needed base of industrial tax dollars."

Woodcroft residents, however, are advised to all fight as the committee believes that the residents of the industrial area will vote no on the question. "Isn't it premature to take the 'jump now'?" the letter queries. "Why not wait and

see what the industrial area does? The city will always want you and there will be further opportunities for you to go that way later on. Vote. No this time and play it safe."

What would happen to Woodcroft if it became part of the city while the industrial area remained in the Township is also discussed in the letter.

Asserting the belief that the industrial annexation attempt will fail the letter asks: "Where would this leave Woodcroft if you went with the city? We believe the city would lose little time in zoning industrial around you. Is that what you want to have? Stay with the Township which has a comprehensive master plan, assured zoning and density."

(Continued on Page 12B)



REIGNING OVER the 1966 Homecoming Festivities at Farmington High School last Friday were these five lovely ladies. They are from left, Jean Atchison, Sally Parker, Queen Linda Lang, Sally Balsley, and Jan Henry.



FLOATS, A BAND AND CARS all participated in the Homecoming Parade at Farmington High School last Friday. This one urges the Falcons on to victory over the Wallied Lake team. It was all in vain, however, as the Falcons went down to a 21-19 defeat.



THE QUEEN Linda Lane rode on her throne during the Homecoming parade. Linda is a senior at Farmington High. She and her court were presented to the Homecoming crowd during the half time ceremonies.

Planners Examine Setback

The Farmington Township Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Oct. 27 on an amendment to the zoning ordinance requiring a minimum clearance for a separated garage construction.

Originally proposed as a fire safety requirement, the Township Board has requested the Planners to consider a change in the distance required.

In other business the Planners will consider:

- The rezoning from RA-3 to B-3 in Section 26 to permit the construction of the new Elks Lodge on Orchard Lake Rd.
- The preliminary plan for the new Thompsons Blown PUD development in Independence Commons at Drake Rd. and 11 Mile.
- A proposal to split an outlet in Section 14 on LeMars Drive into five or six lots.
- Preliminary review carried over from last month on an apartment proposal on Freedom Drive between Ruth St. and Orchard Lake Rd.

Board Eyes Parking Lot Upgrading

The Farmington Board of Education spent Monday evening taking care of an agenda of odds and ends. In answer to many comments received over a long period of time, the board voted to employ Harold Wright to work on drawings for improvement of the drives and parking lots at Bond and Eagle Elementary schools.

The board said they hope that the work can be completed this fall.

In other business:

- The board purchased .0332 of an acre adjoining Farmington Junior High School for \$211.20 was paid to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Klepinger based on \$6,000 per acre value for the land. This additional property will be used as added space for the planned drive from Warner St. to the school.
- The honor roll policy for secondary schools was changed to read that all students with a B average would be placed on the list. The policy called for all A's and B's to be named to the honor roll.
- Permission was given to the Beechview PTA to construct a 100' by 150' skating rink at the school site. The board stipulated that the group could not erect a shelter and that other details were to be worked out with John Cotton, director of athletics.

'Procedure Not Change Taxes' Hall

New tax assessment procedures now in effect will not increase property taxes levied by Farmington Township home owners.

This was the answer given by Township Supervisor Curt Hall to statements by Aldo Vignozzi, Democratic candidate for supervisor, reported recently in the papers.

"I cannot believe that my Democratic opponent is so uninformed of Township government that he could seriously make the statement that tax assessments are going to be doubled and that something must be done to prevent tax bills from doubling in the township," said Hall. "It is clear to me that, in his frantic attempt to create an issue for his campaign, he is deliberately misrepresenting the facts."

Hall explained that the law (Continued on Page 8C)

1600 Employees Covered If OK'd

A proposal designed to provide basic good personnel administration for Oakland County regardless of politics and the individual differences will face the voters Nov. 8.

Drawn up by a non-partisan committee of the Board of Supervisors, the system guarantees that the selection of new employees will be made solely on the basis of merit as measured by competitive examinations. The separation of employees except for reasons of curtilage of work, lack of funds or "cause" is also forbidden under the proposal.

Under the Michigan Constitution the proposal must be approved by a majority of the voters in the County before it can go into permanent effect.

Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall, who helped to formulate the proposal, told The Observer that the end result was the product of more than two years' work by a bipartisan committee. When submitted to the Oakland County Board of Supervisors it was approved unanimously.

More than 1,600 county employees will be covered by the plan. The proposal has been in effect on a trial basis since April 12, 1966. The question is coming before the voters in November due to the fact that the next regularly scheduled county-wide election will not be held until Aug. 1968 and a special election would cost approximately \$60,000.

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Exempted from the plan are:

- Employees of the Oakland County Road Commission;
- Officers elected by popular vote;
- Officers and employees for whom the constitution directs the manner of appointment;
- Members of Boards and Commissions, officers and employees required by law to be appointed by various boards and officials;
- One deputy or assistant to each of the elective offices;
- The attorneys and investigators in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office;
- The judicial secretaries to the circuit court and probate court.

(Continued on Page 12B)

Candidates Accept Invitation

Six candidates for the posts of U. S. Congressman, State Senator and State Representative will speak at the Meet Your Man candidates night scheduled for Nov. 2 by the Farmington Jaycees.

All those invited have accepted and will be on hand to present their platforms. Each candidate will be given 15 minutes to speak and a five minute rebuttal. A question and answer period will follow.

The evening will begin at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Junior High School on Thomas St.

Candidates who will speak are: U.S. Congressman, Jack McDonald (D); State Senator, George Kuhn (R); Paul Livingston (D); and State Representative, Ray Baker (R, incumbent) and Leonard P. Baruch (D).

The candidates for the local Farmington Township offices will be introduced if present, but will not be given an opportunity to speak.

Talk on Indians Set

Lee Smith, veteran newspaperman and an authority on the American Indians, will speak at the first meeting of the Farmington Historical Society Oct. 26 at Farmington High School. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. in the school library. Smith will discuss "Dark Night on the River," a story of an Indian uprising that nearly succeeded.

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City Schedules Special Sessions for Residents

The Farmington City Council will conduct two special sessions Nov. 2 and 3 to take official action on water and sewer facilities for the areas of Farmington Township which the city hopes to annex Nov. 8.

Residents of the Woodcroft Subdivision are invited to the session Nov. 2, while those residing in the industrial parcel are being informed of a session Nov. 3. Both meetings will begin at 8 p.m. in the Farmington City Hall.

The proposal to the

Woodcroft residents is the same as set by the City Council a year ago when the City conducted its unsuccessful annexation attempt.

City Manager John Dinan places the cost of sewer facilities at \$585 as opposed to \$1,925 estimated by the Township officials. He places the cost of a water tap in at \$500 through the city facilities and \$1,013.45 if the area remains in the Township.

In a letter to the residents

Dinan places the total cost of such improvements at \$1,173,000 if the area becomes part of the City as opposed to a \$2,938.45 Township total.

Dinan points out that "These are the same prices that were confirmed by the City Council a year ago prior to the previous annexation proposal and were not subject to change for a three-year period. The City Council will live up to its previous commitment and these prices will be firm, not subject to change for the remaining two-year period."

To the other residents Dinan estimates that the City could install sewers for \$800 and water for \$500 on 100-foot lots. He places the Township costs at \$1,750 and \$1,313.45 respectively. Thus he says that the saving would be \$1,373.45.

In his letter to these residents Dinan says that "The Farmington City Council is in a position to give you a firm commitment for sewer and water installation costs and tap in fees."

He invites them to the Nov. 3 meeting and asserts that "at which time these costs will be certified and confirmed by official City Council action and will become a part of the record and not subject to change for a two-year period."

Both letters close with the request that the residents weigh the facts regarding the sewer and water installation costs and tap in fees.

In addition to setting these prices the Council is expected to adopt the land use and zoning plan for the area which was adopted recently by the City Planning Commission and to answer any specific question about City policy and services.

Dinan closes by stating that the next letter to the residents will pertain to the economic potential of these areas if they become part of the City.

Recreation Commission Calls for Assistance

The Farmington Area Recreation Commission has issued a call for some "new blood" in its ranks.

In a letter read at both the Farmington Township Board meeting and the Farmington Board of Education session Monday night M. H. Sitts, president of the commission, noted that:

During the past 10 years more or less, the interest on the part of many of the civic, fraternal, service and similar organizations as to the conduct of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission has dwindled to where this Commission consists of only two people—Mrs. Annabelle Hoeglund who functions as treasurer, and myself who functions as the president.

"At one time we were elected to these jobs but since then the electorate has vanished. In as much as it requires action on the part of both of us to distribute the organization funds, anything that would prevent either of us to function could stop all operations for a long time."

Copies of the letter were also sent to the City of Farmington and the Claranceville Board of Education who also participate in the program.

Sitts suggested that all of the organizations "appoint one of their respective groups

to be a member of a committee whose purposes will be to establish a means of insuring the continuation of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission and remove the possibility of its being suddenly stopped as does exist at present.

The Farmington Township Board agreed to take the matter under consideration and decide on who to appoint at its next session Nov. 14. The Board of Education named John M. Washburn III to represent them and directed that Jack Cotton, the school's director of athletics participate in the sessions.

Both letters close with the request that the residents weigh the facts regarding the sewer and water installation costs and tap in fees.

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Dinan closes by stating that the next letter to the residents will pertain to the economic potential of these areas if they become part of the City.



Make a Change Today!

Avoid pre-emptive car wars by reading up on a 1966 model car or one of the 1967 models advertised in today's Want Ad Section. Turn to Section 9—Michigan's Largest Suburban Automotive Center.