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OF FARMINGTON

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Road Problems Plague Residents



ARTHUR BROMAGE

U-M Prof. To Speak Thursday

Arthur Bromage, director of the public administration department at the University of Michigan, will speak at the March 23 meeting of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee.

The session, which is open to the public, begins at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria of East Junior High School on Middlebelt between 10 and 11 Mile Rds. Bromage is appearing in Farmington under the sponsorship of the University of Michigan Extension Service.

Bromage will discuss the existing proposals in the state legislature for boundary changes as well as the past history of such proposals.

A specialist in municipal government and administration, Bromage has been at the U. of M. since 1929. Long active in the University's Institute of Public Administration, he has participated in training graduate students for city management.

Bromage was an Ann Arbor City Councilman from 1949 to 1953. He has been a charter consultant to numerous cities.

In an open letter mailed this week to citizens of the area, Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee, noted that "the group is seeking answers to questions from a study outline prepared expressly for the Farmington area by the Institute for Community Development and Service at Michigan State University."

"It should be made clear that this is a committee to study and not a pressure group to advocate any course of action on consolidation, incorporation, annexation or any of the other forms of political activity which have recently become everyday words in our Farmington Area vocabularies."

"The committee is merely gathering facts which we hope will permit the voters to make intelligent decisions on these questions when they appear on the ballot."

Arundel Sidewalk Agreement Near

Residents of the Alta Loma Subdivisions and the Woodcroft area agreed to get together Monday night to work out a solution to the hazardous conditions existing for children walking down Arundel from Gill Rd. to the Longacre School.

Mrs. Ethel Begian of 34154 Cortland presented petitions signed by 60 parents of Longacre children requesting that the City take some action in providing a sidewalk for the children.

Parents asserted that Arundel is just about impassable for both children and cars. They recounted tales of children being stuck in the mire and having to be lifted out.

In addition, they cited the unsanitary health conditions created in the school by the mud tracked in on the children's boots.

Farmington's Mayor Wilbur V. (Sandy) Brotherton pointed out that the City had made a commitment to the residents of Woodcroft that sidewalks would not be constructed unless requested by a majority of the homeowners in a block.

A resident of the block, Lee Stevens, stated that none of the residents were opposed to an asphalt walk being installed at the edge of their property lines near the street.

With this the City Council instructed Director of Public Works Ted DeBeane to consult with the residents of the area and to report back at the next meeting of the Council about what provisions could be made.

Brotherton noted that if an agreement can be arranged the walk could probably be installed this summer, and take care of the problem during the next school year.

In other business the Council:

- Authorized City Manager John Dinan to work out an agreement trading some City-owned property west of the Rouge River with the River Glen apartment management for a similar size parcel east of the River.
- Gave its approval to the use of the City Ball Park on Thursday evenings to the Women's Softball Team and on Wednesday to the Farmington Jaycees.

Schools Hold Back Contractor's Funds

Final inspections at both Bond and Middlebelt elementary school additions, which were started in the spring of 1964, have hit snags again.

In the most drastic action yet, the Board of Education has unanimously agreed to withhold \$1,500 from Hoen & Hayes, mechanical contractor on both jobs, and \$22 from Julian Wilson, general contractor at Bond.

According to Byron Oliver, administrative assistant, the school staff will do the work and back charge the contractors.

Oliver said that they have been trying to get a final inspection on both additions for the past two years and each time the same faults have been corrected. The matter, he said, has come up at about 25 different checks.

Three problems were listed at Bond and attributed to the mechanical contractor. The tiling on the floor in the furnace room was soaked with oil. Because of this it came loose and has never been replaced. The incinerator smokes and a water pipe on a library sink comes down through the outside wall and freezes from lack of proper insulation.

In other building problems, the board agreed to go ahead with specifications for new

roofs on Middlebelt, Wooddale and Bond elementary schools as well as Farmington High.

Portions of these roofs have been leaking so badly, the staff says, that ceiling and rooms have become damaged.

Seek Irish Setter

A red Irish setter must be located by March 28 in order to keep seven-year-old Christopher Ray from undergoing the painful series of rabies shots.

Christopher of 23162 Lilac, Farmington, was bitten on the hand Sunday, March 19, at the corner of Orchard Lake and Grand River. Anyone having information about this dog is requested to contact the Ray family at 476-7963.



ORCHARD LAKE ROAD



TUCK ROAD



HALSTEAD ROAD

Thaw Creates Muddy Paths

Residents of Farmington Township have been complaining vociferously about the state of their roads.

"They're impassable," they cry.

They are, but the situation is certain to get worse before it gets better.

Last week's thaw only loosened the top six inches. Once this layer of mud was penetrated the ground was still frozen solid.

Even if the road is paved, residents still aren't spared the annual suburban spring trauma.

In the Alta Loma Subdivision in the City of Farmington, the pavement has heaved from the frost and the concrete is broken. Paved roads in the Kendallwood Subdivision in Farmington Township have suffered the same fate. One thing about the frost is it's not selective. Even Farmington Rd., just north of 12 Mile has suffered.

The road problem will probably be the worst in five years this spring. The large amount of snow dumped on the area this winter is compounding the drainage problem.

This problem is not peculiar to Farmington. The entire southern part of Oakland County is an old lake bed. The resulting high water table in the area plus the clay soil creates drainage problems.

Paul Van Rookel, highway engineer for the Oakland County Road Commission, says that in Farmington Township a "high percentage of the streets were built 10 to 15 years ago. At that time the high specifications and requirements we have today were not necessary."

"Roads were built at this time," he continues, "under inferior types of specifications and development. The result is poor roads. People are putting a great deal of money into water and sewer facilities now and one of these days they are going to have to put money into the roads too."

The Oakland County Road Commission is charged with maintaining the roads in Farmington Township. Its current

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Eye F'ton Rd. Route

The route of Farmington Rd. north of Grand River came under discussion at last week's meeting of the City Planning Commission. Commissioner James Platt suggested, as a part of the City's long term planning, that the possibility of building up the river valley and swinging west of the Twin Valley Subdivision and across the valley floor, up the hill and tie up with northbound Farmington Rd., be explored.

The consensus of the Planning Commission was that City Manager John Dinan should "informally" contact the Oakland County Road Commission to determine whether or not any thought had been given to this particular proposal.

Platt noted that the county planned for the widening of Farmington Rd. an additional 120 feet and asserted that this would take many of the homes presently located on Farmington Rd. just south of 10 Mile.

He noted that his proposal would involve the Baptist Church and about two homes in the river valley and stated that this idea might be more economically feasible and of less harm to the residents of the subdivision than moving the current route of Farmington Rd.

Jaycees Invite Kids to Egg Hunt

The Farmington Jaycees will stage the 11th annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 25, in the Farmington City Park at Shawwassee and Powers. The event begins at 10 a.m. All children eight years of age and under are invited. Prizes will be awarded to the best hunters in three different age groups.

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1958-1966, Only the Time Has Changed

EDITOR'S NOTE. With all the current talk about annexation, incorporation and consolidation of the township, The Observer decided to do some research into the 1958 battle in Farmington about incorporation and annexation. The past three weeks we have examined just what did happen in 1958. This week we will merely point out some of the similarities between what happened in 1958 and what has happened over the past two years in this area.

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Incorporation attempts in Farmington Township seem to be tied to annexation moves by the City of Farmington.

During the 1966 incorporation battle, the Committee for the Preservation of Farmington Township sponsored a talk by Joseph A. Parisi, executive director of the Michigan Townships Association.

Parisi asserted at that time that most incorporations of townships had come about because of fear of annexation.

Under state law, townships are especially vulnerable to annexation attempts by neighboring cities and the truth of Parisi's statement is proven by the events in Farmington.

In 1958 the City of Farmington filed petitions to annex a portion of the Township. Township residents didn't even want to discover the outcome of the election, but filed incorporation petitions.

One of the primary reasons they cited for the action was to protect their boundaries.

In 1965 the City of Farmington again tried to annex a part of the Township. The move was defeated by the residents of the affected area and within a few weeks the Township officials were on the steps of the courthouse to file incorporation petitions.

The officials "cited the need of the Township to protect its boundaries."

After a long and heated campaign that was highlighted by charges and countercharges and seemed to result simply in confusing the voter,

the incorporation move was turned down in June, 1966.

It was only a matter of time before the City, which needs additional room for expansion, filed petitions to annex the Township's industrial park. A few weeks later, the City filed another petition trying again for the Woodcroft Subdivision, which

was the piece it went after in 1965.

This time the City was successful in annexing the Woodcroft area, but it lost the prime piece it wanted—the fast developing Township industrial park.

Within a few months residents of the Township filed incorporation petitions. This time the Township officials stayed out of the movement and the proponents of incorporation and the officials term the action as "a grass roots" one.

Again the residents cited the need to protect the Township's boundaries.

HEY KIDS!

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there is no doubt that as individuals they are in support of a yes vote on incorporation.

Another similarity between the incorporation moves in 1958 and 1967 is the fact that both were spearheaded by residents working through township subdivision associations.

"The subdivisions seem to be the cohesive factor in the Township. Nine times out of 10 a resident will say that he lives in a particular subdivision rather than in Farmington Township."

A striking difference between the two sets of events is the fact that this time the Farmington Jaycees, the Farmington Board of Commerce and the Farmington chapter of the League of Women Voters have taken the initiative to band together to try to obtain factual information on what is the most orderly development of the 36-square-mile area known as the Farmington Community.

This group is hard at work gathering all types of statistics and projected figures on the area. It has taken no stand, and is trying hard, to keep out of the current incorporation talk in the Township. Last summer it adopted the same policy about the City's annexation move.

Dr. John Richardson, chairman of the group, emphasizes that no position has been adopted by the committee on incorporation, annexation or consolidation. "We are merely gathering facts that will permit the voters to make intelligent decisions," he asserts.

The opposition in incorporation

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