

# Unification Vote Sought By Opperthauser

By FRED DELANO

Whether to take the initiative in asking an election on the question of incorporating the entire Farmington community into one 36-square-mile city will be discussed by the Township Board Monday night.

That petitions for such an election be executed with the endorsement of all four governing bodies now existing in the area was proposed this week by Trustees Earl C. Opperthauser, who sent identical communications to officers of Farmington Township, the City of Farmington

and the Villages of Quakerstown and Wood Creek Farms.

The reaction among city council members was less than enthusiastic, but in the township, Supervisor Curtis H. Hall promised a place on the agenda for Opperthauser's proposal at Monday night's regular Trustees' meeting.

Asked whether the Trustees can be expected to vote on an actual resolution backing the election idea, Hall said, "I wouldn't be a bit surprised."

HOWEVER, he was equally quick to emphasize that asking

for such an election would not constitute a commitment to be half of governmental unification. "In no way would it represent a statement of policy," Hall said, "but it would enable us to hold the line and forestall any interim steps toward annexation or incorporation."

The maneuver is the latest chapter in the running battle between city and township forces over what future course the framework of government in this community should take, and what the geographical alignment should be if more than one gov-

ernment is to be continued.

Only last Monday the Farmington City Council voted to place a moratorium on all annexation activities until the Future Farmington Area Development Study Committee completes its analysis of how best to meet the needs of future years.

In so doing, the City requested the Township Trustees to take a similar action "to discourage any incorporation activities until this report is completed."

THE OPPERTHAUSER proposal appears as a possible

Township answer to that City Hall bid for peaceful coexistence, although the City's formal communication also will be before the Trustees Monday.

Opperthauser, backed by Supervisor Hall, asks that the four existing governmental bodies sanction a unification election and "prevail upon the County Board of Supervisors to set the date for a consolidation vote at least six months away."

This, then, would preserve the status quo until the time of such an election.

Meanwhile, proposes Opperthauser, this would permit time

"to cooperate on a per capita basis to pay the cost of hiring a professional firm to make a detailed objective study and submit reports on the relative merits of consolidation, incorporation, or maintaining the status quo."

"It is apparent that there does not now exist an atmosphere conducive to an objective consolidated study unhindered by the threat of further annexation or incorporation attempts," said Opperthauser.

"Despite the disclaimers of officials from the various governing bodies, there still exists the ever present realistic danger that individual citizens and groups in the community can themselves start more annexation attempts."

"There is, therefore, also the

probability that township citizens will attempt to prevent these moves by another incorporation petition.

"I believe that resolutions to 'dissuade' individuals from proceeding with further annexation or incorporation attempts may be helpful, but are wholly inadequate. We need to legally preserve our individual territories and status until this objective and comprehensive study can be completed and digested."

ready have gone to sufficient lengths with last Monday's resolution, and that the governmental study should be completed before anyone petitions for another election of any type—annexation, area-wide unification, or incorporation of all or part of the existing township.

Supervisor Hall's reaction, in contrast, was couched in the phrase, "This, gives us the ball."

He expressed the view that an election on incorporating all four existing governmental territories into one city could be forced through petitions signed by one per cent of the qualified voters of the city and township. Residents of the two villages are legally considered to reside in the township.

## MSU: 'Ready To Go'

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Township Trustee Earl Opperthauser's call for the filing of incorporation petitions for the entire 36-square-mile Farmington area drew no immediate reaction from the Michigan State University Institute for Community Services.

MSU announced this week that it would submit a study proposal to the Future Farmington Area Study Committee by the first week of December. The proposal is expected to outline a study guide for the various alternatives of governmental development between the city, township and the two villages.

Dr. Robert Anderson, assistant director of the MSU Institute, told The Enterprise & Observer that "We are prepared to draft a study proposal in line with our interpretation of the wishes of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee."

Anderson defined these wishes as wanting the Institute to do "an objective study of the alternative means of government."

He noted that the Institute's contact has been with the study committee. The committee is comprised of members of the Farmington Board of Commerce, the Farmington Jaycees and the League of Women Voters.

Representatives of the city and the two villages also serve on the committee, while Township Trustee Thomas Nolan serves "in a private capacity."

Anderson said that if an agreement were signed with the committee to make a study, "and corollary events took place outside the domain of the committee I think we would be indifferent to these events."



RECALLING THE STONE AGE --- Students in Teacher Mary King's sixth grade class at William Grace School completed an unusual display this week, and then dressed accordingly when they exhibited it. In the background is the model dinosaur which they constructed, with the "cavemen" standing guard including, from left to right, Marcel Crudele, Debbie Isbell, Pat Vaughn, Judy Prince, Kathy Morski, Tom Bishop, Candy Troyer and Debbie Adams.

## MSU Institute Says It Can Do Area Study

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Michigan State University will submit a proposal for a study of the future governmental development of the Farmington area to the Future Farmington Area Study Committee.

Actual submission of the proposal will be during the first week in December, according to Dr. Robert Anderson, assistant director of the MSU Institute for Community Services.

"We have located personnel and will draft a study proposal to submit to the committee," Anderson said. "We would be prepared to start work on the project after the first of the year, depending on the reaction of the committee," he concluded.

ACCORDING to the Institute spokesman, the study would be "similar in many respects" to the proposal submitted last spring.

That proposal called for the examination of existing data on the growth and development of

the area and the various governmental units.

The final reports would summarize the data and examine its implications to government organization and cooperation. The report, however, would not provide a conclusion as to possible governmental organization.

Cost of the study proposal was pegged at \$3,500.

MSU withdrew its proposal when the township board voted to withhold any action on the request prior to the Oct. 23 incorporation election.

THE TOWNSHIP BOARD vot-

ed Oct. 23 to support an area study and pay its share of the costs. The Farmington City Council and the Councils of the Villages of Quakerstown and Wood Creek Farms had previously voted to support the study.

One of the conditions of the study, Anderson noted, was that the people conducting it would have ready access to the existing data of the four governmental units.

"We don't intend to generate new data or to hire a staff to dig it all out," he said.

## Schools Request Funds To Keep Pace With Growth

By FRED DELANO

The issue at stake in the special Farmington School District election scheduled for Nov. 27 is more easily understood than the plethora of statistics which gave birth to the ballot request.

It is simply a request for more money.

THE BOARD of Education is asking permission to issue \$9 million in bonds to build 15th and 20th elementary schools, its fourth junior high school, its third high school and to invest in sites for still more future facilities.

Faced with rising costs of operation, the Board also is requesting permission to levy an additional annual five mills in property taxes, 1968 through 1977, to help pay the bills. That means an added tax of 35 per \$1,000 of the assessed valuation of property as finally equalized.

The only persons who will be permitted to cast ballots Nov. 27 are those registered voters who own property in the school district, for it is their

wards which the proposed funds will be taken if the measures pass.

One cannot purposefully evaluate the two ballot questions without delving into the past, or examining the present. In so doing, several cold statistics rear up and scream for attention:

In 1965, Farmington schools accommodated a total of 5,241 pupils. Today, the enrollment stands at 15,248. By 1972, it will be 20,000.

In 1965, the school operating budget was a shade under \$1.5 million. For 1967-68, it is a shade under \$8.5 million.

In 1966, there were 5,666 occupied dwellings within the 35-square-mile district. Today -- and it's likely to increase tomorrow and each tomorrow thereafter -- there are 12,038. "Statistical growth," it is inescapable.

BUT WHAT of the quality of a Farmington Education?

In 1965, the latest year for which national figures are available, 49.9 per cent of that year's graduates from Michigan high schools of enrollment comparable to Farmington and North Farmington High Schools went on to enroll in advanced education institutions.

Repeating, the Michigan average was 49.9 per cent from schools of a size comparable to those here.

Yet, of the 629 graduates of Farmington's two high schools that same year, 454 enrolled in colleges, universities, trade or vocational schools -- 72.2 per cent.

The student-teacher ratio in Farmington at the moment is 22.6 compared to the National Educational Policies Commission recommendation that the ratio of certified professional staff to students should be one to 20 or less.

THERE ARE 28 school districts in Oakland County and latest available figures show that Farmington ranks 15th in the amount of equalized tax valuation per student, which is slightly less than \$10,000. The county average is in excess of \$10,000 per student.

The present tax rate of \$32.40 per \$1,000 in assessed equalized valuation rates eighth in the county, but the debt levy of nine mills is third highest while the operational levy of 23.4 mills is 15th.

Total expenditures per pupil here amount to \$464 in the present budget, giving Farmington a county ranking of 12th, but the expenditure of \$10,973 per classroom teacher is 20th among the 28 districts.

In recent years, Farmington's enrollment has increased by more than 900 pupils each September, and no end to the growth is in sight.

To keep pace, voters approved a \$6.1 million bond

issue in 1965 which permitted construction of Forest Elementary and Power Junior High School, plus additions to the two high schools.

If they approve further expansion at the polls Nov. 27, a new elementary school supposedly would be opened in 1969 south of 12 Mile Rd. and between Inlander and Middle Bell Rds.; the third high school, Harrison High, would be ready at the same time; another elementary facility would be scheduled for 1971 opening south of 11 Mile Rd. between Halstead and Drake Rds., while the fifth junior high school would open in 1972 on a site as yet unchosen in the northeast area of the district.

Of the current operating budget, only 13.1 per cent is earmarked for teaching supplies, heat, light, insurance, building maintenance and similar categories.

Staff salaries, wages and fringe benefits eat up the other 86.9 per cent of the revenue applied through taxes and state aid, and hovering over the scene is the spectre of teacher demands for increased salaries and benefits again next year.

More students, more classrooms, more teachers and more expenses are the needs claimed by the Board of Education. Whether to provide the money to meet those needs by voluntarily increasing their own taxes is the decision property owners have been asked to make.

## Strasser Heads Field

Ninety-nine of the Village of Quakerstown's 22 registered voters went to the polls this week, and although all six candidates for local office were unopposed not a single one got all 99 votes.

Clark M. Strasser, seeking his third term, led the ticket with 95 votes in Tuesday's balloting.

In contrast, F.J. Orland, running for the office of village president as an successor to Charles Stevenson, polled 84 and trailed the field.

Other totals included: Councilmen Robert D. Alban, 85, and Frank G. Lockhart, 89; Treasurer William L. Cogdill, 94; Assessor William R. Amperse, 94.

Cogdill will be serving his fifth term and Lockhart his second. Alban and Amperse were elected to first terms. All six officials will serve two years, and will be sworn in at a meeting to be scheduled later this month.

## County Slates One New Road Project

Except for the widening of Farmington Road to four lanes between Eight and Nine Mile Roads, only one primary construction project has been slated in this area for 1968 by the Oakland County Road Commission.

That one is the widening and resurfacing of all four legs of the intersection of 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads. Cost of this job is estimated at \$225,000.

Depending upon the availability of funds, four major projects have been tentatively included on the Road Commission's construction calendar for the two following years, 1969 and 1970.

THESE INCLUDE:

Widening of Eight Mile Road to five lanes from Farmington Road to Orchard Lake Road. Estimated cost, \$700,000.

Widening of 12 Mile Road to 22 feet for the two and a half miles between Orchard Lake Road and Northwestern Highway. Estimated cost, \$40,000.

Surfacing of 14 Mile Road for the nine-tenths of a mile between Northwestern Highway and Middle Bell Road. Estimated cost, \$150,000.

Surfacing of Haggerty Road for the two miles from 10 Mile to 12 Mile Road. Estimated cost, \$300,000.

THESE FOUR projects are among 30 which the County Road Commission hopes to finish before the end of 1970 at a total estimated cost of \$7,440,000. All the rest are in other areas of the county.

The schedule puts off until after 1970 any further improvement of 14 Mile Road east of Middle Bell, or the surfacing of interior roads in the western reaches of the township.

Francis W. Stamm, chairman of the Road Commission, told the Board of Supervisors recently:

"The principal reason for a road problem in Oakland County is the rapid increase in population and vehicles owned by our residents."

"Vehicle registration in Oakland County has gone up from 162,000 in 1950 to 385,000 in 1965 and is expected to exceed 480,000 by 1970. If that many vehicles were placed and to tend it would make a traffic jam more than 1,600 miles long."

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## Youth Guidance IV:

# Rehabilitation Is Case Worker Role

EDITOR'S NOTE: What is the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee? Who are its members and how is it supported? What is its function? These and other questions about the citizen-based youth group are examined and answered in a series by Observer Staff Writer Elizabeth Wassman. This is the fourth of a series examining the Youth Guidance Committee.

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

To accomplish its primary goal of prevention of delinquency and neglect, the Farmington Youth Guidance Committee (YGCC) proceeds through two processes.

In the area of prevention--the community organization is employed.

In the area of rehabilitation--the case work process is used through work with Larry Carps, trained caseworker appointed by the Protective Service Program of the Oakland County Probate Court.

An examination of the case work process reveals a number of elements.

TAKE THE hypothetical case of Bill referred to the YGC by the school.

(The YGC through its case study sub-committee, headed

by Dr. Sanford Bloomberg, provides a case study and treatment plan for referred clients.)

The first step Carps took in working with Bill was to explain the voluntary nature of the service offered to him and his family.

The reason for the referral in Bill's case was found to be school truancy and school incorrigibility.

THE CASWORKER obtained this information about Bill.

He was obnoxious in classes, causing classroom disturbances, was often absent

from school, he was associated with undesirable within his peer group; he lacked motivation.

At home, Bill suffered from sibling rivalry; he lacked initiative in regard to household chores; although healthy, he was unkempt and had low self-esteem.

Other information indicated he had poor parental supervision, there was family disorganization and poor financial ability.

Without reference to family name, the information about Bill was analyzed by the case

study committee which made the diagnosis that he suffered from emotional deprivation.

A THREE-PART treatment plan was developed--additional emotional and educational tests; changes in home and school environment; support of Bill in developing a better self-image.

To bring this about a number of community resources were utilized: A.D.C., school and private agencies.

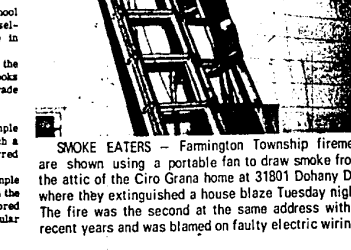
In working out the difficulty, the family became involved in family counseling, the boy was

transferred to another school in addition to receiving counseling, progress was made in terms of family relations.

Bill became interested in the field of mechanics and looks forward to attending a trade school.

THIS IS ONLY one example of the many ways in which a boy or girl may be referred to the YGC.

It is also only one example of the many ways in which the necessary services are tailored to fit a family's particular needs.



SMOKE EATERS --- Farmington Township firemen are shown using a portable fan to draw smoke from the attic of the Cirro Grana home at 31801 Dohany Dr. where they extinguished a house blaze Tuesday night. The fire was the second at the same address within recent years and was blamed on faulty electric wiring.