

# the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, May 3, 1972

15¢ a Copy

today's  
hot line

Volume 83 Number 58

what's inside

## What A Relay!

The second running of the Observer Relays lived up to all expectations. RU proved to be a "jack in the box" surprise; Stevenson made an almost bid; Franklin and Borgess just didn't have it all together; Farmington was flat; Plymouth surprised Franklin, and Garden City West roared with a squeak. For Donoghue's complete run-down along with pictures, flip to today's sport section.

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## 13 Days To Vote

There are now only 13 days remaining before Farmington Township residents vote on May 16 on the question of cityhood and to elect nine charter commissioners. This newspaper's endorsement of cityhood can be found on this page, but inside are the views of five commission candidates.

Pages 4A, 6A, 7C

## What A Ball!

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce's 1st Presidents Ball proved a success as about 185 persons filled the new Holiday Inn in Farmington to wine, dine and dance. That success is shown pictorially by the Everts inside.

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## LWV And Bussing

Members of the League of Women Voters are ready to present their stand on the thorny bussing question to all organizations that would like to listen. You can read about them in our Women's Section.

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# Land Swap OK'd To Expand Center

Land acquisition costs have been negotiated, and the City of Farmington is preparing to finalize a package which will result in additional parking spaces and retail store space in the Downtown Farmington Center area.

City Council Monday night authorized the mayor and clerk to sign contracts for the sale and purchase of properties needed to make the improvements.

In separate action, the council accepted bids for five police cars and was informed the planning commission will hold a work session tonight (Wednesday) to study proposed revisions in the city's cluster housing ordinance.

THE CITY has agreed to purchase the Dairy Maid

property on Grand River just west of Grove St. from George Checketts for \$45,000.

The building will be torn down after Sept. 1 to provide an additional 21 parking spaces on the 5,270 square feet of land the Dairy Maid now occupies.

The \$45,000 purchase price will be recouped by the city by the sale of 5,270 square feet of city-owned property in the municipal lot to the Farmington Center Co. Center merchants will pay the city \$45,000 for the land.

The land merchants are buying is the area south of and adjacent to the Farmington Center Co.'s existing building on Grand River which is parallel to Federal's Department Store. The building includes a florist shop fronting on Grand River, a

meat market and an office supply center.

The Farmington Center Co. has also agreed to construct a decorative pedestrian rest area and fountain in a triangular parcel south of the new retail store space within the downtown center parking lot.

The fountain and rest area will cost Center merchants about \$13,500. The merchants will also construct asphalt curbing along Grand River and Grove St. to divide pedestrian and vehicular traffic. A greenbelt will be located between the curbing and sidewalk on Grand River.

The 21 added parking spaces are a net increase after the retail store space, pedestrian rest area and fountain, and curbing and greenbelts have been added. Traffic will be re-

routed once the improvement is completed.

PLANNING commissioners will meet at 7 p.m. today to discuss proposed changes in the cluster housing ordinance.

It has been suggested by commissioners and councilmen that: fewer bedrooms be allowed per acre; credit toward density requirements be granted for land unsuitable for building; that the entire area, including city and township properties, be considered when studying the proposed cluster housing on Drake Rd.; and that commissioners make on-site inspections of existing cluster housing in the metropolitan area.

Commissioner Richard Tupper has stated that more

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SEEDLING SWAP -- Earth Alive sponsored a "Seedling Swap" the weekend of April 29-30 at the site of its Papermobile located every other weekend at Demery Shopping Center. Residents were able to swap one bundle of newspapers for one pine, honeysuckle or autumn olive seedling. The event was arranged to help commemorate Arbor Week in Farmington. (Fran Evert photo)

# City Budget Hearing Set

The City of Farmington will conduct a public hearing on its proposed operating budget for 1972-73 beginning 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 11.

The hearing, in council chambers at Grand River and Liberty, will be held on a budget which calls for a tax increase of 0.75 mills (75 cents per \$1,000 equalized valuation).

CITY MANAGER Robert Deadman has explained the millage increase has been made necessary because of reduced federal aid to the traffic safety program and an anticipated reduction in new construction within the city. The \$1.1 million total budget is an increase of \$21,700 (less than two per cent) over last year. Included in the budget is the second phase improvement of Drake Park at \$40,000 cost to the city.

The second year of the DPW employee's contract calls for an 8.5 per cent wage increase was possible that a federal and the city is anticipating a wage increase of 5.5 per cent for all other employees. The new millage rate, if council

approves the increase, would be 9.25 mills.

DEADMAN said Monday that additional funds from proposed federal revenue legislation will have little effect on the '72-73 budget.

The federal revenue bill will not be reported from House Ways and Means Committee until the end of May, Deadman explained, and probably won't be passed by the House until at least the end of June.

The House version is expected to be changed in the U.S. Senate, Deadman continued, which means a conference committee will have to iron out the differences with the compromised bill going back to both chambers for a second vote.

He stated the House bill provides that cities must freeze their millage levies at the 1971 rate to get the additional funds.

Deadman commented he was pessimistic that a federal revenue sharing bill would be passed and implemented in time to have any effect on the 1972-73 budget.



HAPPY SWEEPER -- The City of Farmington has a happy sweeper keeping streets cleaned within city limits. The department of

public services' street sweeper has been decked out with the happy face with the headlights used as eyes. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

# Cityhood 'YES' Vote On May 16 Is Best For Township Residents

## Editorial

question pass and a charter commission be elected.

CITYHOOD CAN BE an exciting adventure for the community because there are numerous creative provisions which can be written into a charter to make a better place to live.

The possibilities include a city manager, nine-member council with weak mayor; non-partisan elections; ward system for council; a 10-mill tax limitation; an ombudsman board to funnel complaints and act as spokesman for residents; more state funds for major road improvements; and permanent protection from any township parcels being annexed.

The last possibility is a powerful argument for voting "YES" on May 16 regardless of how many doubts a resident has about advantages of cityhood. If incorporation is defeated on May 16, the township becomes eligible for annexation to other cities beginning May 17.

The township, once an incorporation question is no longer pending, can be annexed in part or total by any of the neighboring cities.

A "YES" vote May 16 buys two years of

protection against any possible annexation attempts, which translates to two years of protecting the township's tax base.

BUT A "YES" vote also provides the opportunity to create a government with city services to replace the archaic, township form with its bulging, petty squabbling, and inability to meet the needs of people because of lack of funds, bonding ability and numerous other weaknesses.

Cities have more money to work with than townships because they receive directly gas and weight tax rebates from the state, can receive a better break on state income tax rebates, and will receive a better break on federal revenue sharing if that becomes a reality.

The bonding ability a city has is a powerful tool to provide many services without burdening taxpayers with a large tax levy. This is a tool the township needs but cannot have unless it incorporates.

In conclusion, we urge a "YES" vote on incorporation May 16 because city government can better serve the needs of people without unduly burdening taxpayers. City government was designed for people, township government for cows.

FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER



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