

# the Farmington enterprise & observer

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## Audience Divided On Merits Of Proposed Historic Area

By DAN MCCOSH

Does Farmington want an historic district?

Opinion was divided Monday among the 50 people who attended a public hearing on establishing a district in the Grand River - Shiawassee triangle which would give an historic committee the authority to review exterior alterations of the old homes in the area.

The crowd in the city council chambers was about two to one against the proposal.

Dennis Pheeny, chairman of the Historic Society that conducted the meeting, said,

"The thrust of the ordinance is to give some measure of assurance to homeowners in the area that it will remain the kind of area it is now - not to place a burden on the use of their property."

"Farmington is a unique community because it has an area of this type."

THE DISTRICT is in three sections - the old Warner mansion, a home near Powers Rd. on Shiawassee, and a triangle which is bounded roughly by Grand River, Warner and Shiawassee.

The ordinance being proposed would allow a seven-

member historic commission to rule on whether exterior changes of "historic" structures in the area, and proposed new structures, are in harmony with the area.

There are at least 18 homes in the area that have "historic value," Pheeny said. Some of these homeowners were in favor of the ordinance, and those who spoke were concerned it was not strong enough.

But one man who lives in the proposed district, frankly called his home on Grand River a "firetrap," and said he expected to be able to sell it

for an office when he bought it. Dr. Lee Halsted, who lives on Farmington Rd., said traffic and fumes made it impossible to open his front windows in the summer.

"A few years ago we were calling this a blighted area," he said, "Now we want to call it a historic district. It's hit and mist."

He was in favor of rezoning Farmington Rd. commercial.

PAUL SCHREIBER, of the historical society, said the town was first settled at called his home on Grand River, then spread through the area covered by the district.

"It covers nearly the whole area of early Farmington," he said, "People have moved in after looking the area over and decided this is the kind of area they wanted to live in."

"They would like it to remain as much as possible as it was. The teeth in the ordinance are there to protect you."

The boundaries of the district were criticized by several people who owned property located on the boundaries.

Larry Mayer, who owns a florist shop on Grand River, noted the other side of the street is outside the district.

"I don't think you can enforce this kind of thing except through civic pride," he said. "The ordinance says many of the homes in the area have historic value, whereas actually a few have. You are restricting the many for these few."

"It has so many loopholes it won't work," he continued, calling it "unconstitutional."

Mayer said the areas where historic districts have been effective - like Williamsburg, Va., worked because the government was obligated to buy property if the owner could not afford to restore it.

### Peanut Sale

The annual Farmington Kiwanis Peanut sale is about upon us. What are they going to use the money for? The organizers explain the fund-raiser on:

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### Rouge Cleanup

The Rouge River got a bath last weekend, and we were on the scene to record the work of 250 volunteers who dragged out the debris.

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### Broken Windows?

The social ramifications of vandalism are explored in a column on various kinds of rock-throwing on:

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### Books Aid Scholars

And not just when they're studying from them. An annual sale that raises scholarship funds is reported in today's Women's Section.

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### Shhhhhh!

A week ago, the Clarenceville School District negotiators made a tentative agreement with the teachers union on a new contract. But so far, neither side will reveal even the barest outlines of what it will cost the public.

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## City Water Rates Hiked 16 Per Cent

Water rates in the city of Farmington will be raised approximately 16 per cent in October.

The action was taken by the Farmington City Council Monday, raising the price per 1,000 gallons from 29 cents to 34 cents for bulk users, with a five-cent per 1,000 gallons increase across the board.

An increased charge from the Detroit Metro Water Dept. was cited as the reason for three cents of the increase, with increased costs in the Farmington department reason for the two cents of the increase, City Manager Robert Deadman told the council.

DETROIT increased its charge to the city by 23 cents per thousand cubic feet recently. The increase to Farmington users is 37.5 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

A portion of Farmington city water is purchased from

Oakland County. Deadman reported. It recently raised its rates to reflect the Detroit increase, and added an additional seven cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

Oakland County supplies 10 per cent of the water to the city, and accounts for 20 per cent of the cost, because of its higher rates, Deadman said.

The City of Farmington became obligated to use the Oakland County water system when it annexed land from Farmington Township.

THE DETROIT rate hike was justified by Detroit because of "rising costs" - mainly the construction of the Lake Huron intake system.

In a related move, the city council adopted a resolution to join the cities of Bloomfield Hills, Grosse Pointe and Hazel Park in asking for the Metro Detroit water system be placed under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Public Service Commission.



### Class Reunion

THE CLASS OF '20 Farmington High, had a pretty good basketball team, preserved pictorially below. At a class reunion recently, Mrs. Ora Goers Joy, Miss Marguerite Moore, Mrs. Treena Catherman Quinn and Mrs. Edna Praeger Vivier,

who still live in Farmington, re-posed a portion of the portrait. Can you pick them from the players? The program would have listed them second, third, fifth and sixth from right in the team picture. Story is on 1C. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

## WW I Veterans To Raise Funds

Downtown Farmington will be "covered with apple blossoms Sept. 22," say the organizers of the annual apple blossom sale.

The Farmington Barracks 1152 Veterans of World War I will hold the sale to assist veterans or widows who are in hospitals, rest homes or household in their own homes.

## Monroe Yoder Dies At 72

Monroe Yoder, father of and Mrs. Sadie Steiner of Bad Farmington, Councilman Axe; three brothers, Ralph Yoder, died Sept. 16 at Maynard, Andrew, and the age of 72. He lived at 22600 Middle Belt, Farmington, and was a 33-year resident of the area.

He was a member of Calvary Missionary Church and last worked with the Freeman Trucking Co. Services were held Sept. 19 in the Thayer Funeral Home. Officiating was the Rev. Don Crocker of Calvary Missionary Church. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

Survivors are: his wife, Edith; two sons, Ralph and Clayton of Farmington; two daughters, Mrs. Annabel Griffith of Farmington and Mrs. Gladys Wallace of Florida; three sisters, Mrs. Cora Swartzendruber and Mrs. Eva Troyer of Indiana,

### Local Man Arrested

For the second time in three months, Redford police Wednesday night conducted a drug raid at 1999 Seminole, this time arresting two persons and confiscating a small quantity of drugs.

Appearing for arraignment Thursday before District Judge Robert Brang were William D. Bradley, 24, of the Seminole address, and Barbara Donnelly, 22, of Farmington who were charged with possession of amphetamines.



## No Complaints From Election

Oakland County Elections were reported in 1970 and again this election. Altman, who also supervised the recount demanded by Teeple after his defeat by 91 votes, added, "I can't see how we wouldn't have received any complaints if there were problems. Hundreds of people used the machines."

Farmington Township Supervisor Earl Teeple, announcing his campaign as a write-in candidate following his defeat in the Republican primary, said "a number of malfunctioning machines

were reported in 1970 and again this election."

Teeple questioned the machines immediately on the 1970 election, which

following his defeat, and again after he announced his write-in candidacy.

Teeple said the machines in Farmington Township and the City of Farmington Township were found to be improperly set up. Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said the township board and the board of canvassers had received a report second this spring.

He said the machines were all operating properly during the primary, pointing out Teeple had not questioned them when he ran for charter commissioner and placed second this spring.

### IT'S THE SELLING SEASON!



It was a fun-filled vacation this summer...camping at the lake and in the mountains! But now it's all over and it's time to put the camper away for the winter. Next year you're planning an even more extensive trip. If you're also planning to buy a larger camper, perhaps now is the time to sell this one instead of going to the trouble and expense of storing it. It's easy to do this time of the year by placing an inexpensive Classified Ad in the Observer. Just call 522-0900 and let us help you word your ad.