

Farmington Enterprise

FORTIETH YEAR—No. 48.

TWO SECTIONS

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1928

12 PAGES

5c a Copy; \$1.50 a Year

New Farmington Players' Group Being Organized

Young Men And Women Of Community Plan Dramatic Presentations

A group of young men and women of Farmington and vicinity during the past week inaugurated a movement for the presentation of dramatic productions and an organization which will be known as "The Farmington Players," is being formed. It is planned to present the first play in November, some time after the middle of the month.

A dozen young people are interested in the work thus far, and included in this number are some of proven talent on the stage. Among those who will participate in the work of the organization are Miss Dorothy Engels, public speaking teacher at Farmington High School, M. Marie Walling, Florence Ross, Eric Bandfield, Harmon Boice, Gerald Parker, Howard McCracken and Robert Cook.

Treasurer—Spends Little



Judge John J. Schulte of Farmington has the honor of being treasurer of the Oakland County Republican Committee for the coming campaign and until next fall, but he isn't burdened by lack of funds for the work. Republican candidates are considered so sure of victory that there's little work for the treasurer to do.

Paving Provision Feared Illegal; Passage Delayed

Question Raised On Amendment To Charter; Commission Postpones Action

Farmington's proposed paving program almost got on its way to the voters last Monday evening, but was temporarily delayed again when a question was brought up as to the legality of the proposed amendment to the City charter.

The amendment, which would eliminate the present provision limiting special assessments for street improvement to 25 per cent of the valuation, was filed with the City Commission by Corporation Counsel John J. Schulte. Along with this amendment was another which would eliminate the present provision requiring the City Commission, when there is only one candidate for a City office, to name another. The amendment states that the City Commission may name added candidates, whereas at present the wording is "shall."

The paving amendment would empower the City Commission when a street is paved, to designate an assessment district, and assess all property therein according to benefits derived.

Both amendments were read and discussed, and Commissioner Leo Gillemister moved that they be submitted to the people at the election on November 6. Commissioner Clarence Bicking suggested that before passing the amendment and submitting it to the people it would be best to obtain opinion as to whether such an amendment would be legal, in view of a 25 per cent provision in the Home Rule Act. The Act refers to fourth-class cities, but no mention of fifth-class cities, such as Farmington, could be found.

Twenty days' notice must be given before voting on any charter amendments, and the Commission decided there was sufficient time left to settle the question before election. No action was taken.

The suggested amendments to the charter read as follows:

RESOLVED: That the charter of the City of Farmington as adopted on the 15th day of 1926, be revised as follows:

Section 7, of Chapter 19, under "Special Assessments," which reads:

"The cost and expense of any improvement which may be defrayed by special assessment shall include the cost of construction only, and in no case shall the whole amount levied upon any lot or premises for any one improvement exceed 25 per cent of the value of such lot and as well assessed for the State and County taxation in the last preceding tax roll. Any cost exceeding the per cent which would otherwise be chargeable upon such lot or premises shall be paid from general funds of the City." shall be eliminated in its entirety and the following paragraph shall be substituted therefor:

"Section 7, of Chapter 19: Such part of the expense of improving any street, lane or alley by grading, paving, planking, graveling, curbing, or otherwise, and of repairing the same, as shall be determined, may be paid from the general street fund, or from the street district fund, or from the street district, or in part from each; or the whole of such part of the expense of such improvement as the Commissioners shall determine, may be defrayed by special assessment upon lots and premises, included in a special assessment district, and on other lands as in the opinion of the Commission may be benefited by the improvement."

VALUES EXCEPTIONAL

This week end will be a profitable one for thrifty shoppers, who read carefully the offerings of Farmington merchants advertised in this issue. Unusually early and practically every household can realize substantial savings by taking advantage of them.

Mrs. Harley Warner, P. Pauline, Head Cast

The leading parts in "Rosetime," the musical comedy to be given under the auspices of the Farmington Woman's Club next week, will be taken by P. Owen Pauline and Mrs. Harley Warner, it was announced Thursday morning.

The play will be presented on Friday and Saturday evenings, October 12 and 13, in the Farmington Town Hall.

School District Loans City \$9000

'Deal' Saves City Interest On Engine—Money Goes Back In Same Pocket

An unusual but highly commended "deal" between the City of Farmington and the School District was completed last Monday evening at the meeting of the City Commission, when the City borrowed \$9,000 from the School District, for five years.

The financial arrangement had been contemplated for some time, but doubt was expressed whether the School District could loan money. The District has a large sum on hand obtained from a bond issue for the purchase of property, which was never acquired.

When the City purchased its new fire engine recently, on yearly payment plan, it was suggested that the School District might well loan part of its surplus to the City and enable the municipality to obtain a discount and also save interest. As soon as the legality of the proceedings was determined, arrangements were completed.

The School District loans the money to the City at five per cent as compared with six per cent which the City was paying on its contract. In addition, the manufacturer offered a discount of two per cent for cash.

Under the resolution passed by the City Commission, a sinking fund is established with which to retire the loan, and it is said that four per cent can be obtained by the City on deposits made into the sinking fund.

Best of all, the officials point out, is "keeping the interest here at home," or rather, since the City and School District are practically identical, "what is taken out of one pocket is put right in the other."

Treasurer Arthur Lamb represented the Board of Education at the City Commission meeting.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIFTED BEYOND MOTOR TRUCKS

Above the hazards of traffic now is the "stop-and-go" signal at Grand River and Division street. The oft-battered light was raised this week by the Detroit Edison Company, and it is now beyond reach of the high trucks.

To raise the signal, it was necessary to run a guy-wire over the Lee building to a pole in the alley behind.

City's Return To Township Believed To Be Impossible

Attorney's Opinion Expected Soon On Change Back To Former Status; Movement Favored By Many But Legality Is Problem

Rumors current for several months that a move might be made to make the City of Farmington again a part of Farmington Township are expected to be settled soon, and, it is said, with a decision to the effect that it "cannot be done." An opinion as to the legality of such a proceeding is anticipated within a few days.

The attorney's opinion is not the result of any official action, but is being prepared, it is understood, at the request of a citizen.

Many residents of the City have expressed a favorable attitude toward the suggestion. Of the several benefits advanced, among the most favored is that the reunification of the City and Township would settle the perplexing Town Hall question. Many state that this alone is sufficient to convince them of the advantage in reunifying the two units of government.

Howard Warner, who, according to reports, was prominent in the movement, stated that he had not been particularly active, but that he had communicated a request for an opinion on the matter to Clinton McGee, of Eaton and McGee. The request, Mr. Warner said, came from Amos Otis.

Mr. Otis, on being interviewed, said that he had asked the opinion in the belief that many citizens of the City would favor returning to the Township.

Mr. McGee said that he has been unable to go very deeply into the question thus far, but that he hoped to have an opinion soon. He said that his first examination of the law relating to such matters revealed much material on villages becoming cities, but nothing on cities returning to the village form of government. He indicated that he hoped to have an opinion completed in a short time.

Other benefits besides settling the Town Hall question are cited for the change back to the old status, among them the belief of some that government could be carried on to the better advantage of both City and Township under one body. Another point adduced is that under single governing body with the Town Hall in Farmington as the center of government, a closer feeling of relationship would prevail between residents in and outside the town.

No opposition to the suggested change seems to have come forth, and the general opinion appears to be that if such a proposal could be voted on, it would carry.

Offer Township Five-Acre Park

Playground Association Proposes To Develop And Maintain Site Near Orchard Lake Road

An offer to provide a five-acre park in Farmington Township, located east of Orchard Lake avenue near 13-Mile road, was received by the Farmington Township Board at its meeting Tuesday night. The offer came from the "Playground and Recreation Association of America."

It is understood that under the terms of the offer, the five acres would be deeded to the Township by the owner, whose inducement would consist in the added value of surrounding land. Upon the giving of a deed to the Township, it is understood, the Association would expend \$2,000 in improving and developing the site. The Association would also, it is said, agree to provide a certain sum each year for maintenance.

The proposed site is near the Glen Oaks golf club. It is said that the organization, which is proposing the park, had its inception in a legacy from a wealthy New York man who left the fortune for the establishment and development of playgrounds throughout the country.

The Township Board referred the matter to Arthur Coe and Ward Eagle as a committee to investigate the report. Under the plan the land will be removed from Township tax rolls.

300 ATTEND DINNER

About three hundred persons were gathered Wednesday evening at the supper given by Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Clareville. A dance is being planned for next Wednesday evening in the Town Hall by the Church.

Farmington 'Al Smith Club' Collapses

When Power Denies He's 'President'

Farmington's ephemeral "Al Smith for President Club" collapsed like a house made of cards Wednesday noon, and apparently nothing remains but memories and now and then a reminiscence chuckle. The club went to swift oblivion when its supposed "president," City Clerk N. H. Power, not only denied all rumors that he was actually head of the club, but also declared so emphatically that he had been unable to locate any such organization.

The debacle of the association reputed to be supporting the candidacy of the New York Governor, occurred when Mr. Power arose to introduce Dr. H. A. Leeson, Mr. Power said that before he introduced Dr. Leeson, he wished to "settle another matter, that of the Al Smith Club," and, "being the president of the club," he said "Governor Smith is an exceptional man," said Mr. Power. "He has made an able Governor of New York State, and is one of the

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City Hindered By Lack Of Funds

Hiring Fireman, Grading Down Of Street Prevented By Money Shortage

Lack of funds Monday night prevented the taking of two steps favored by the Farmington City Commission, one a matter of considerable importance and the other a relatively small one.

To take full advantage of the new fire truck, and assure the people of fire protection which the new apparatus makes possible, the Commission would like to employ a full-time fireman, who would be thoroughly familiar with driving, operation, and care of the machine, and who would be on duty through the time of greatest hazard, night. But no appropriation was made for this purpose in the budget.

The Commissioners feel, too, that the upper floor of the fire-hall should be put in shape as living quarters for firemen, but no funds are available for this work.

Particularly is there dissatisfaction with the prospect of leaving the \$10,500 truck without expert attention and continuous maintenance work, as is believed apparatus of this type should have.

Fire Commissioner Olin Russell strongly urged Monday night the engaging of a man who would remain on duty at the fire hall nights. "We never have had trouble during the day," said Commissioner Russell. "The danger is always greatest at night. Someone should be here all the time, every night, to be ready in case of fire." Commissioner Harrison Johnson supported this opinion and suggested hiring a fireman at once.

Fire Chief Harvey Bloss has been working at or close to the fire hall continuously for the past two weeks. The arrangement is temporary, however.

Another matter on which the Commissioners were inclined to take action, but were balked by lack of funds, was the grading of Brookdale drive, at the south end. The suggestion by property-owners, that the top of the street, which is high, be cut down and used for fill in the driveway to the south, was approved by the Commissioners, and Commissioner Clarence Bicking moved that work be authorized, when agreements signed by the property-owners, who offered to pay for the new sidewalks, necessary, should be received. The motion as not put to vote, however, when it was pointed out that there is no money remaining in the street fund. It was estimated that the work would cost about \$950.

The Commissioners agreed, as pointed out by P. De Vre Fleming, that the fill should be made this fall, to take advantage of acting through the winter, as two years would probably be required after the fill for paving. Leaving the work until next summer would mean the loss of a year, the Commissioners agreed, but no work on this financial dilemma was found.

Mayor Never Forgets—Cleanup Days Named

Others who love their town may allow memory to slip, occasionally, in the matter of cleanliness, but not Mayor Wells D. Butterfield. As surely as Fall and Spring come around, Mayor Butterfield remembers that clean streets and yards make a pleasant place to live.

And so October 13 and 19, ere on Monday night designated by Mayor Butterfield, as annual "Cleanup Days." Cleanup days are not a new thing, and have been observed in Farmington for two weeks.

Another customer occupied Mr. Lee's attention for a moment, and when he stepped out into the street to see if she was entering any other business place, the woman had vanished.

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